

District Council Report (September)

3rd Sudbury Scouts

Sudbury Scout group is celebrating after raising thousands of pounds to build a new climbing wall, a project which has been speculated for more than 10 years.

The 3rd Sudbury Scouts group had been seeking to source a replacement after the previous one came to the end of its useful life. It had been in place for around 40 years and leaders had been exploring the possibility of it getting replaced for the last 10, but was only kick-started in the last two years.

"Every time we looked at the price we got scared and didn't do it," said chair Graham Toy.

"It has been exciting and fun. It is a key activity - when we had our current headquarters built 40 years ago they decided 'why don't we have a climbing frame installed?' "That worked well for a while but it soon became obsolete. We looked at it and thought we did not know if this is safe any more."

The group has raised around £74,000 to help install the new climbing wall.

This has included donations from members both past and present, as well as one anonymous donation which totalled more than £3,000.

A £48,000 grant from the National Lottery, as well as £10,000 from **Babergh District Council**, has helped to supplement the project. The wall has now been installed, with an official opening set to take place in October.

Mr Toy added: "Not only does it give us in-house climbing facilities, it enhances the whole young person experience. "It is a real wow factor. It has given us additional capabilities.

A call for more Police funding

A senior Suffolk councillor has echoed the police federation's calls for calls for increased funding for more officers in the county. 14:01:03 The federation, which represents rank and file officers, said the force is one of the lowest funded in the country. Sarah Mount Saul, who is a green councillor for **Mid Suffolk** and chairs the Suffolk Police and Crime Panel, says there should be an increase from central funding. I think we should have more money from the central government and if that means that taxes have got to rise, then, um, you know, uh, income tax is a far fairer way of, uh, collecting money off the population and council tax. Police in Lowestoft are appealing for witnesses to what they say is a hate attack on a woman. It happened last Thursday near the town's Lloyds Bank branch. The victim was verbally abused and spat at. Police are looking for a white man, aged in his 40s, who's around six feet tall and was wearing a navy long sleeved top with a red stripe on the arm, jeans and a navy cap.

Plans for New Homes at Semer

Plans have been submitted for four homes to be built following the demolition of a farm building in a small Suffolk village. **Babergh District Council** has received an application from LCF Arthey & Sons Ltd for four new homes at Semer Gate Farm in Semer. Previous permission has been granted for homes on the site, dating back to 1990. This time round, the applicants want to build "four high-quality houses, reflecting a contemporary farmstead typology" alongside the removal of the dilapidated roadside barn. Each house will have a double garage with access to the site which is located on the A1141 with a gravel courtyard in the middle.

Visibility will also be improved around what is currently a "dangerous corner" according to the plans. The site is situated between a cluster of ponds, but there is a minimal risk of surface water flooding. **Babergh** District Council will make their decision in due course.

Hundreds of prizes up for grabs at Suffolk Big Weekend

The Suffolk Big Weekend free prize draw has now opened, offering residents the chance to win unforgettable days out and experiences.

The event, which takes place on 18 and 19 October, is a celebration of Suffolk's varied tourism offering, with businesses and attractions donating prizes that showcase the very best of what they do. Now, these prizes are up for grabs and residents are able to enter the free ballot until 29 September.

The Big Weekend originally launched in Babergh and Mid Suffolk last year, but following its success, has now expanded to include the entire county, in partnership with East Suffolk Council, West Suffolk Council and Ipswich Borough Council.

Prizes up for grabs include everything from afternoon teas and brewery tours, to animal experiences and overnight stays.

Some of the county's most established institutions are also getting involved, such as the Food Museum, the New Wolsey Theatre, Seckford Hall Hotel and Spa, the National Horseracing Museum, Jimmy's Farm, and much more.

Cllr Derek Davis, **Babergh District Council** cabinet member for sustainable economy, said: *"Thanks to the incredible support of our districts' businesses and attractions, we've got an incredible lineup of experiences to give away.*

"I'd urge everyone in the county to enter the free ballot and get involved – you never know what hidden gems you might uncover."

To enter the ballot and see the full list of prizes, visit www.suffolkbigweekend.co.uk