



## AGENDA

### EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

**MONDAY, 18TH OCTOBER 2021 – 4.00 PM**

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Members of the Council are summoned to an Extraordinary meeting of the Mid Suffolk District Council at the King Edmund Chamber, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich on Monday, 18th October 2021 at 4.00 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arthur Charvonja'.

Arthur Charvonja  
Chief Executive

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	<b>EXTRAORDINARY MSDC COUNCIL</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>MONDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2021 4.00 PM</b>
<b>VENUE:</b>	<b>KING EDMUND CHAMBER, ENDEAVOUR HOUSE, 8 RUSSELL ROAD, IPSWICH</b>

This meeting will be broadcast live to YouTube and will be capable of repeated viewing. The entirety of the meeting will be filmed except for confidential or exempt items. If you attend the meeting in person you will be deemed to have consented to being filmed and to the possible use of the images and sound recordings for webcasting/ training purposes.

The Council, members of the public and the press may record/film/photograph or broadcast this meeting when the public and the press are not lawfully excluded.

**PART 1  
MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PRESS AND PUBLIC PRESENT**

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- 1        **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2        **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY COUNCILLORS**
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COUNCILLOR PRATT**

Introduction:

Mid Suffolk recognises that street-lighting is a significant aspect of our climate change and biodiversity action plans, and that lighting can be adapted and controlled to reduce energy use and impacts on human health and wildlife – particularly bats and nocturnal insect populations which are declining<sup>[1]</sup>, <sup>[2]</sup>. Council also notes that many communities and campaign groups are calling on local councils to protect dark skies.

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<sup>[1]</sup> BBC News: Light pollution from streetlamps linked to insect loss [https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-58333233?at\\_medium=RSS&at\\_campaign=KARANGA](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-58333233?at_medium=RSS&at_campaign=KARANGA)

<sup>[2]</sup> CPRE Dark Skies: <https://www.cpre.org.uk/what-we-care-about/nature-and-landscapes/dark-skies/>

**Motion:**

**The Council recognises that light pollution is increasing and that it causes harm to wildlife and insects and can increase health risks in people. The Council therefore will seek to reduce the intensity and extent of outdoor lighting within its own public realm and housing assets and other lighting schemes where it has influence, to the extent practical. The Council will also include guidance in its Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document to protect and enhance dark skies for the benefit of wildlife and human health and wellbeing.**

**Proposer: Cllr Pratt**

**Seconder: Cllr Fleming**

**Objectives:**

To achieve these objectives the Council will include lighting control within the Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which it has committed to preparing, and work with the planning team and partner organisations such as Suffolk County Council and its suppliers to reduce light pollution to the extent practical. The Council recognises the sometimes conflicting roles that artificial lighting plays both positively in making people feel safer and signage, but also negatively in terms of harm to biodiversity, health and wellbeing, and visual resources. In line with current standards and evidence the Council will ensure that new or replacement artificial lighting whether in the form of street lighting, commercial and residential lighting or advertising signage is installed to meet the lowest possible level of intensity and visual intrusion.

**Notes:**

- Streetlighting using LED lamps emit a brighter, whiter light with higher levels in the blue region of visible light (400-480 nm) than their traditional counterparts. This shift in the emitted spectral composition towards blue light has well-known impacts on the biological rhythms and functions in both humans and animals, particularly in nocturnal insect species and bats.
- Some estimates predict that 1 million species, or 40% of all insects, will become extinct over the next few decades. Artificial lighting at night is recognised as an important contributing factor to the decline in insect populations.

- Illumination, particularly in short wavelength (ultraviolet and blue light) can cause disorientation in insects and affect their patterns of movement, foraging and reproduction with catastrophic implications for insect populations. By contrast, long-wavelength light (e.g. amber, and red) tends to have a lower impact on nocturnal insects.
- LEDs can be engineered to emit light of any desired spectral range, their brightness can be controlled, and their usage can be limited to appropriate timeframes. Lighting can be triggered to come for shorter periods using motion sensor technology, be progressively dimmed. Lighting can be fixed at full cut-off to reduce skyglow and shielding (e.g. back baffles) installed to reduce light intrusion through windows.
- Colour filters can be used to reduce or remove the harmful wavelengths. True-amber LED have a narrow bandwidth but result in low efficacy (low lumen output per watt usage). Phosphor-converted amber (PCA) have a higher efficacy. However, such alternatives may be challenging to source within UK markets. The use of warmer colour temperature LEDs (3000K or less) reduces blue light levels.

[1] BBC News: Light pollution from streetlamps linked to insect loss  
[https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-58333233?at\\_medium=RSS&at\\_campaign=KARANGA](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-58333233?at_medium=RSS&at_campaign=KARANGA)

[1] CPRE Dark Skies: <https://www.cpre.org.uk/what-we-care-about/nature-and-landscapes/dark-skies/>

3b **TO CONSIDER THE MOTION ON NOTICE RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLOR MELLEN**

This Council notes:

Councils are responsible for organising all elections in England.

The government is currently proposing an Elections Bill to require people to show identification including a photograph in order to vote in a General Election.

Allegations of electoral registration or voter fraud are very rare in Mid Suffolk.

This Council believes:

Voting at elections is the cornerstone of democracy at both local and national level.

Participation in elections should be encouraged in all those who are qualified regardless of age, ethnicity or income.

Unnecessary barriers to voting are likely to reduce voter participation in elections, proper representation of all parts of the community and so legitimacy of those elected to office.

Voter ID is a solution without a problem and as such insinuates barriers to voting which should be of great concern to anyone who supports an open and effective democratic system of government.

**This Council Resolves:**

**To oppose the introduction of photo ID as a requirement to vote at polling stations.**

**To request the Leader to write to the relevant minister indicating this opposition and the reasons why and requesting this measure should be excluded from the Elections Bill.**

**That should mandatory photo ID be passed into law, this council will investigate low-cost and no-cost options for residents, bearing in mind the barriers outlined and focus efforts to promote the ID to those who are most likely to need it.**

**Proposer: Cllr Mellen  
Secunder: Cllr Scarff**

**Date and Time of next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 25 November 2021 at 5.30 pm.

**Webcasting/ Live Streaming**

The Webcast of the meeting will be available to view on the Councils YouTube page:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSWf\\_0D13zmegAf5Qv\\_aZSg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSWf_0D13zmegAf5Qv_aZSg)

For more information about this meeting, including access arrangements and facilities for people with disabilities, please contact the Committee Officer, Committee Services on: 01473 296472 or Email: [Committees@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Committees@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk)

### **Introduction to Public Meetings**

Babergh/Mid Suffolk District Councils are committed to Open Government. The proceedings of this meeting are open to the public, apart from any confidential or exempt items which may have to be considered in the absence of the press and public.

### **Domestic Arrangements:**

- Toilets are situated opposite the meeting room.
- Cold water is also available outside opposite the room.
- Please switch off all mobile phones or turn them to silent.

### **Evacuating the building in an emergency: Information for Visitors:**

If you hear the alarm:

1. Leave the building immediately via a Fire Exit and make your way to the Assembly Point (Ipswich Town Football Ground).
2. Follow the signs directing you to the Fire Exits at each end of the floor.
3. Do not enter the Atrium (Ground Floor area and walkways). If you are in the Atrium at the time of the Alarm, follow the signs to the nearest Fire Exit.
4. Use the stairs, not the lifts.
5. Do not re-enter the building until told it is safe to do so.

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