

District Councillor Report: Elmswell Parish Council

December 2019

General Election December 12	Due to the General Election being called for Thursday 12 December, all MSDC Council and Cabinet meetings will be cancelled, as will Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings. Next meetings will be in January. Planning and regulatory committees will continue to be held as normal. In addition, all member briefings have also been cancelled during the run-up to the election. There will be an extension of time for the allocation of locality grants. Postal voting forms have now been sent out.
Suffolk Coast ecology	The Suffolk Coast Recreational Disturbance and Habitat Strategy was adopted by Cabinet at the beginning of November. The strategy is a means by which new residential growth can be delivered, alongside the protection of Suffolk's coastal, estuarine and heathland European wildlife sites, which is a legal requirement for all councils.
Citizens Advice Bureau AGM	Mid Suffolk CAB recently held their AGM. During the last year they addressed nearly 10,000 issues and helped 3,400 clients. So far their client numbers are up 17% on last year. In 2018/19 the CAB helped clients in Mid Suffolk achieve over £1.4 million in financial gains through benefit claims, employment negotiations, consumer refunds and charitable support. The work done by the 45 volunteers has been officially valued at more than £380,000.
Budget and Council Tax	The parish precept forms have been sent out to all parishes across the district. The MSDC draft budget for both HRA and general fund, will now be discussed at the January cabinet meeting, before going to Full Council in February.
Joint Local Plan	Officers are currently working through the submissions made to the Preferred Options (Regulation 18) Consultation. All submissions can be viewed on the MSDC website. The timescale for further steps in the process to adoption of a Joint Local Plan have not yet been confirmed.
Grants for home adaptations	If you know anyone who needs adaptations to their home due to disability or long-term health condition, MSDC offer grants of between £1,000 to £5,000. This scheme is open to all homeowners, private tenants and council property tenants. For more information see the website https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/housing/disabled-adaptations-grants/ or call 0300 123 4000.
Infrastructure funding	All developers pay a community infrastructure levy (CIL). Larger developments also have to draw up a legal agreement (S106) for funding affordable housing, highway improvements, etc. As an example for a average sized 4 bedroomed house the CIL amounts to about £30k. 15% of this goes directly to the parish council, and the remainder (apart from some admin charges) is retained by MSDC and infrastructure providers have to bid for funding. Details of all moneys collected from developers is now publicly available on a website http://pfm.exacom.co.uk/midsuffolkbabergh/index.php It is good to see this information provided openly and transparently.
Thedwastre Close Housing	Following monitoring of the spilt hydrocarbons at the Thedwastre Close housing units, it is now believed to be at a safe level, and MSDC are currently working with SCC on a project to provide some supported housing units for a partner client.

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