

District Councillor Report to Parish Councils

Elmswell, Norton and Tostock
Prepared by District Cllr John Levantis

5th January 2019

The following points of interest were extracted from the reports to Council at its meeting on the 19th December

Removal of HRA Borrowing Cap

The removal of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) borrowing cap delivers a game changing opportunity for many councils to deliver much needed homes. The LGA has recently contacted MSDC to offer the opportunity to access additional skills to develop a sector-led offer that can enable the delivery of the new homes that our communities need. The opportunity to access grant of up to £50,000 to support this has been created.

1. **Community Strategy** – a couple of stakeholder events have now been carried out and a cross-party Member event was held on the 5 December. It is envisaged that draft paper will go to Cabinet on 7 January, followed by a consultation period before it goes to Council for adoption in March 2019.
2. **Annual Canvas – New Electoral Register**
3. The annual canvas achieved a 96.6% return rate with 46.4% being electronic. The new Electoral Registers will be re-published in February once the final announcement of ward changes is confirmed.

Social Prescribing:

4. **Social Prescribing** is a person-centred approach that connects people to sources of support, often provided by the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector. A dedicated 'community connector' has the time to get to know individuals and help them to access practical, emotional and community support to improve their health and wellbeing

At the recent Public Sector Leader meeting, a bid of £183,260 was approved to put in place a full one-year social prescribing model testing the approach across Babergh, Mid Suffolk and Suffolk Coastal Districts. The bid is part of a multi-sector and multi-agency bid which has already secured £549,507 from the Ipswich and East Suffolk CCG Transformation Award. The CCG has also agreed a separate investment of £250,000 for social prescribing across the two INT areas in Ipswich.

5. The money would enable partners to establish and embed **social prescribing** across the whole area covered by the CCG and to demonstrate the outcomes that can be achieved – for individuals, communities, VCSE organisations and the public sector. The longest running social prescribing pilot in Suffolk, Lowestoft Solutions, has seen reductions of 44% in GP appointments and 21% in A and E visits across the first cohort of 100 patients (comparing the 6 months prior to and after intervention).

The ultimate aim of **Social Prescribing** is to ensure better outcomes for individuals and more appropriate use of NHS and social care resources. This releases capacity across the system to enable those who require specialist/clinical support to access it sooner. This proposal is part of a wider transformation programme to streamline patient flows, build a more diverse and responsive local provider base and tackle local demographic challenges e.g. the ageing population and hidden needs (including loneliness and social isolation).

6. No Casino's in Mid Suffolk ?

7. The Council in adopting the amended "Statement of Principles" under the Gambling Act 2005, decided against exercising its option under section 166 of the act to pass a 'no casino resolution'. The preferred option being to consider any such individual application on its merits.

8. The Council's Treasury Investment portfolio at 30 September 2018

CCLA Curches Charities and LA Property Fund	46.8%
UBS Multi Asset Income Fund (UK)- a pooled fund	18.7%
Banks	11.8%
Schroder	18.7%
Funding Circle	4%

And finally I am pleased to report that the Combined locality grants of Sarah and Myself have been allocated. Further details to follow once they are finally approved.

John Levantis

Vice Chairman

Mid Suffolk District Council

Joint Ward Member

Elmswell, Norton and Tostock

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