

District Councillor Report: Elmswell Parish Council

15/01/19

Citizens Advice Bureau	Suffolk County Council currently have a public consultation about the future funding of the CAB. It can be found as http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/consultations-petitions-and-elections/consultations/local-citizens-advice-cab-consultation/ and runs until 22 nd January.
General Fund draft budget	MSDC Cabinet discussed the draft general fund budget at last week's meeting. A 2% increase in Council Tax has been proposed and will need to be agreed by the full council. The Cabinet agreed to borrow a further £25M to invest with CIFCO.
Housing Revenue Account	With the removal of the debt cap for HRA borrowing in October 2018, MSDC Cabinet have discussed the revised budget and medium term plan for the HRA. The mandatory 1% decrease in rents will be implemented. Both garage rents and sheltered housing service charges will remain the same, but a 5% increase in sheltered housing utility charges is being proposed.
Joint Communities Strategy	There will be a public consultation on the draft Joint Communities Strategy. This will cover the way the district councils will work together with other organisation to ensure that the communities remain healthy, sustainable and pleasant places to live and work in the 21 st century.
Management of Council Owned trees	A joint procedure for the management of all council owned trees across both districts is to be adopted by Cabinet at today's meeting. There are in excess of 20,000 council owned trees across the districts and this new procedure hopes to ensure that trees are replaced and cared for and there will be consultation with local communities.

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