

District Councillor Report: Elmswell Parish Council

June 2019

Annual Council meeting 20 th May	The recent election created 'no-overall control' at MSDC. At the first Council meeting held on 20 th May, Cllr Lavinia Hadingham was elected chair. She then had to use her Chair's casting vote in order to elect the Leader and the Committee Chairs. All these posts except the Chair and Vice Chair of Overview and Scrutiny went to Conservative councillors. The Conservative and Independent group, who had gained 41% of the vote in the elections, now have 100% of the power at MSDC.
Leader and Cabinet	The new leader at MSDC is Cllr Suzie Morley, with Cllr Gerard Brewster as deputy leader. She announced her cabinet of 7 portfolio holders and one member without portfolio, all of whom are from the Conservative and Independent group. The Green group and the Liberal Democrats tried to collaborate with the Conservative and Independent group who no longer have a majority, but the new Leader was unwilling to offer any portfolios to member from the other two groups.
Draft Joint Local Plan	The agreement of the Regulation 18 Draft Joint Local Plan is due at the June Council meeting. This draft will set out the preferred strategic policies, development management policies and site allocations to guide and support development in the two districts. A cross-party working group of councillors from both districts has been set up to work on the final draft with officers. Once this draft is agreed it will go out for public consultation.
Neighbourhood plans	Three Neighbourhood plans in Mid Suffolk are progressing towards a referendum. Thurston Neighbourhood Plan is due to be agreed at the June Cabinet meeting, and both Haughley and Botesdale will be discussed in July.
Crucial Crew	The Crucial Crew programme for primary school children to learn about personal safety is running at The Mix in Stowmarket from 17 th to 24 th June. Over 1000 Year 6 pupils from 48 primary schools across the district are expected to attend.

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