

District Councillor Report: Elmswell Parish Council

October 2019

Trees in the district.	The Green group proposed a motion for the Council to pledge to increase tree cover across the district, to work with communities to encourage the development of community woods and orchards and promote parish tree wardens. The Administration of the council voted against the proposal so it was not agreed.
Planning Policy	The consultation period for the Joint Local Plan ended on 30 th and officers will now be collating all the comments and considering how to amend the plan accordingly. Rickinghall and Botesdale's Neighbourhood Plan has been through the inspector and is now recommended, with some minor amendments, to go forward to a local referendum.
Treasury Management Report	Full council discussed the Half Year Treasury Management Report at last month's meeting. To March 2019 CIFCO Ltd made a loss of £4.6M (split evenly across both councils). This is mainly due to the downward valuation of the company's investment properties. MSDC also made a loss of £1.5 on the Gateway 14 project as this is still in the early stages of development and has yet to start generating income.
Housing	Babergh and Mid Suffolk Building services are looking into creating a joint venture business case with Flagship Housing in order to improve the services for tenants.
Waste collection	The changes to the Waste collection rounds were discussed by the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee in September. The main comments were made about moving personnel from one location to another, and the ability of the control room staff to handle calls efficiently. Hopefully lessons have been learnt and the Waste Collection rounds now seem to back to normal regarding the number of missed bins.
Needham Lake Visitor Facilities development	MSDC has plans to create new visitor centre at Needham Lakes. There was a public consultation event at Needham Market Community Centre on 10 th October. It is hoped that the new facility will encourage more visitor to the Lake, and the council are seeking tenders for the management of the facility. Details can be found at https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/features/needham-lake-visitor-centre-plans-go-on-display/
BREXIT preparations	MSDC is working with the rest of the Suffolk local authorities to prepare for the implications of Brexit at the end of October, to form some sort of resilience plan. This was discussed by the Public Sector Leaders Group last week.

Cllr Sarah Mansel
sarah.mansel@midsuffolk.gov.uk
07860 829517

Cllr Helen Geake
helen.geake@midsuffolk.gov.uk
01359 241318