

District Councillor Report: Elmswell Parish Council

July 2020

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| Full Council meeting | Our first virtual Council meeting will be held online on 23 rd July. All council meeting are now held via Teams and are available to watch live on Youtube. |
| Easing lockdown | From 4 th July, village halls and community buildings will be able to reopen. Guidance on the safe re-opening of community facilities is available on the Community Action Suffolk website. https://www.communityactionsuffolk.org.uk/organisation-support/village-halls-and-community-buildings/covid-19-information/ |
| Reopening of public toilets and play areas | All the MSDC public toilets have been tested for legionella and we are awaiting the results before making any decision about opening the facilities. The Public Realm team are working towards re-opening play areas in line with Government guidelines from 4 th July. Within all public facilities, social distancing and hand washing are strongly encouraged to reduce the threat of COVID-19 spreading. |
| Climate Change | A report from the Environment and Climate Change task group went before a simultaneous Cabinet meeting on 6 th July. The task group has proposed a draft Carbon Reduction Management Plan with the aim of becoming Carbon Neutral by 2030. The report proposes the Cabinet members for Environment and Finance are delegated to determine the business case for the suggested schemes. A fund of £500,000 has already been allocated in the budget for these schemes. The Council declared a Climate Emergency last July so it has taken a year to get this far. |
| CIFCO | A recent revaluation of the portfolio shows a loss in the last 12 months of around £3 million; with fees of some £500,000. In recent months only 50% or so of the rental due to CIFCO has been paid. A recent scrutiny of the CIFCO Business Plan for 2020/2021 raised many concerns which need to be considered before full Council is asked to approve the Business Plan at the meeting on 23 July. |
| Hackney Carriage Fares | Following a statutory consultation on a revised fare structure for Hackney Carriages, MSDC Cabinet agreed a new fare structure at the meeting on 6 th July. |
| Locality Awards | A reminder that Locality Awards have been launched for 2020/21. If you know of a community group in need of some funding please put them in touch with us. |
| Planning | The reserved matters application for 106 houses adjacent to White House Barns was granted by delegated powers this week. In addition to the standard conditions both ward members discussed the application with planning officers who have been able to negotiate some extra conditions regarding hedgehog friendly fencing, landscaping, access to the play area. The scheme includes It is also hoped that the footpath link to the Blackbourne will be widened to enable it to be used safely by cyclists. |

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