

District Councillor Report: Elmswell Parish Council

October 2020

Annual Council meeting	The annual meeting was held on 24 th September. Cllr Barry Humpheys was elected as Chair and Cllr Paul Ekpenyong as Vice Chair. The Committees and Chairs were all agreed, with the Chairperson using his casting vote to elect all the chairs from the Conservative and Independent Group except for Overview and Scrutiny which is traditionally chaired by a member of the opposition group. Cllr Keith Welham continues to chair this committee with Cllr Keith Scarff as Vice Chair.
Government consultations on planning	There are two consultations about the future of the national planning system. The Council's response to the first of these, about the proposed changes to the planning system was discussed at the September Council meeting. The response is to be amended by the Corporate Director in consultation with the portfolio holder for planning and the opposition spokesperson for planning before being submitted. The Council is also preparing a response to the planning white paper. This will be discussed by a cross party working group of members before being submitted.
Public Realm	Cabinet discussed a review of the management of the public realm in September and decided to continue with an in-house team. The review occurred because Babergh's contract with a provided is due to end in October 2021. Both Council's Public Realm will now be managed in the same way.
Woolpit Neighbourhood Plan	At the Cabinet meeting on 5 th October, Woolpit Neighbourhood Plan's examination report was discussed. Subject to some changes this will now proceed to the referendum stage at some point next year.
Homelessness	Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils have been awarded a grant of £100,000 to help cover the cost of temporary accommodation for homeless people over the winter. In Mid Suffolk there are currently only a couple of people sleeping rough. Many others became officially homeless at the start of lockdown and have been accommodated in hotels. This will need to continue for some months at least.
Stowmarket Leisure Centre/High School site	Officers are working together with representatives from Stowmarket High School to develop the school and leisure centre site to improve leisure facilities. Stakeholders from local sports clubs will be consulted in order to fully assess what is needed.
Gateway 14	A public consultation on proposals for Gateway 14, which now includes land up to A14, was launched on Monday 14 th September and continues until 31 st October – to comment or just to see the scale of the development, go to G14yoursay.co.uk .
Hedgerows, Grove Lane planning application DC/19/01876	The planning application for 2 further bungalows at Hedgerows, Grove Lane was approved by committee on Wed 14 th Oct. This application had previously been a delegated decision, which had been quashed by judicial review for a procedural error.

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