

## District Councillor Report: Elmswell Parish Council

September 2020

Annual Council meeting	The annual Council meeting will be held online on 24 <sup>th</sup> September. All council meeting are now held via Teams and are available to watch live on Youtube.
Affordable Homes	Plans have been approved to transform the former Stowmarket middle school into 'affordable homes' for Stowmarket. There will be a mix of tenure. Planning permission has also been granted to redevelop a former care home in Eye into 16 affordable homes. These developments are part of a multi-million-pound investment by the council in social housing across the district.
MSDC to install solar carport	Both Babergh and Mid Suffolk have been awarded £800,000 grant to cover 50% pf the budget for the installation of solar carports in Sudbury and Stowmarket. These will generate and store electricity and provide electric vehicle charging points. The detailed feasibility study is scheduled for Nov 2020 and aim to be complete by March 2021.
Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre	A new 2.2million upgrade and extension to Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre in Stowmarket including a new gym, poolside features and changing rooms, is now underway forming a key part of the Council's plan to invest in and upgrade their leisure provision in the district. The works carried out by Callix Leisure Ltd are expected to be completed by Winter 2020. For more information visit: <a href="https://www.everyoneactive.com/reopeningmeasures/">https://www.everyoneactive.com/reopeningmeasures/</a>
Planning	During the current regime of 'virtual' planning committees, there is a limit to the number of planning applications which can be discussed at each meeting. In order for MSDC to comply with the statutory determination deadlines the delegation given to the Chief Planning Officer in April 2020 has been extended until 30 September 2020, with this ceasing earlier if face to face meetings can resume before this date.
Major Planning applications in the Ward	The decision notice for outline permission for 300 homes and land for a new primary school in Woolpit was issued last month. The proposed new school is to serve children from new developments in both Woolpit and Elmswell, and there will also be a small contribution towards the cost of providing a cycle and pedestrian route between the two villages. Permission was granted for the reserved matters application for 106 homes on Ashfield Road, Elmswell. The outline application for 86 homes to extend the Bacon Factory development in Elmswell was discussed by Development Control Committee B in August, but the decision has been deferred for the planning department to carry out a risk assessment about the impact on the local infrastructure.
Public Realm Review	The Councils have carried out a review of the delivery of the public realm service which includes maintenance of open spaces, litter picking, public toilets and tree maintenance. Currently the service is provided by MSDC staff in Mid Suffolk, whereas in Babergh that work is contracted out. The aim is to have a common service delivery across both districts. Decisions on the preferred method of service delivery will be taken in the next few weeks and changes implemented in summer 2021.
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.

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