

District Councillor Report: Elmswell Parish Council

April 2021

COVID update	We have now passed the first anniversary of the initial COVID lockdown. The deadline for the application for COVID business grants was extended to 31 st March. Since November the Councils have paid out grants worth almost £16M to businesses across both districts.
CIL expenditure framework	The Council adopted the revised CIL Expenditure Framework and the revised communications strategy at the meeting on 25 th March. A joint member panel is in place to review the framework at periodic intervals. The main amendments relate to collaborative bids for infrastructure outside our district. The limit of funding available to parish or community groups is to be £75,000 or 75% of the total project cost, unless it is for sporting or recreation infrastructure. The next bid round is due to start on 1 st May. Any group wishing to apply for CIL funding should first approach the Infrastructure team at BMSDC to discuss their options.
Consultation on the future of New Homes Bonus	Both Councils are to form a cross-party working group to discuss the joint response to the Future of the New Homes Bonus Consultation. This group will make a recommendation to the Assistant Director for Corporate Resources to formally submit the consultation response.
Solar Carport	MSDC Cabinet has agreed to proceed with the installation of a solar carport with battery storage at the Gainsborough Road site in Stowmarket by March 2022. This is to include five 22kW fast charge points and one 50kW rapid charge point. There will be scope to increase provision of charging points if there is demand in future.
Council of the Year competition	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are joint finalists in a national competition to find the 'Council of the Year'. In addition, BMSDC have also been identified as finalists in two other categories – Customer Focus and Asset Management. The overall winners will not be announced until 8 th September.
Carbon saving technology at leisure centres	BMSDC are to install PV panels and air source heat pumps at their leisure centres, including Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre. This is to be partly funded by a £1.4M carbon-saving grant from Government.
Strengthening Biodiversity	Parishes should have received an email from Will Burchnall, seeking proposals for tree planting on public or private land, and areas of grass suitable for meadow management to enhance wild-flower and plant diversity.

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

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