

District Councillor Report: Elmswell Parish Council

January 2021

COVID-19	The whole of Suffolk moved into Tier 4 on Boxing Day. This means we should all remain at home apart from essential activities. The Home but not Alone service was operational over the Christmas period and will continue to be available for those who need help. The phone number is 0800 876 6926
Garden Waste collections	Babetgh and Mid Suffolk have decided to suspend the Garden Waste service from week commencing 11 th Jan to enable the staff to concentrate on the collection of household waste and recycling during this lockdown period.
Draft Budget and Housing Revenue account 2021/22	<p>The draft budget and housing revenue account for the coming year will be discussed by Cabinet in early January. The proposals include a 1.66% increase in Council Tax. The HRA proposals suggest that Council house rents are likely to increase by 1.5%. Sheltered housing service charges look set to increase by £1 per week, and both garage rents and sheltered housing utility charges are to remain at the same level.</p> <p>The Green and Liberal Democrat group will be discussing their alternative budget arrangement with officers over the next few weeks.</p>
Christmas Tree Recycling	All Brown bin customers can leave their real Christmas Tree next to their brown bin for collection in January. For those residents who don't have brown bin collections there are a number of drop-off recycling points across the district. Christmas trees can be dropped off at the Blackbourne Centre, Elmswell up until 20 th January. Please ensure that all decorations have been removed.
Waste fleet	The Cabinets of both councils are to discuss the use of hydrogenated vegetable oil (HVO) as a fuel for the waste fleet. If this is agreed, it will mean up to 90% reduction in carbon emissions as it is using a waste product. Conversion of the tankers to use the new fuel is expected to be about £50k, but it should result in lower maintenance costs in the longer term, as well as helping the environment.
Locality Budget	The deadline for applications for grants from the Member Locality Budget scheme has been extended to Friday 26 th February 2021. Please contact one of us for further details and an application form if your group would like to apply for funding. https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/communities/grants-and-funding/locality-awards-2020-21/
Housing numbers	The Minister for Housing and Communities issued a statement about housing numbers just before Christmas. It is confirmed that the number of new houses in Mid Suffolk will not be changed, so that the basis on which the JLP was written remains unchanged.

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