

District Councillor Report: Elmswell Parish Council

February 2022

MSDC Annual Monitoring Report 2020/21	<p>This report gives details of housing completions and outstanding permissions and other data related to housing development in Mid Suffolk.</p> <p>672 new dwellings were built in the district in 2020/21 - 131% of the current annual target (513 dwellings) set by the national standard methodology. 29% of these were affordable homes.</p> <p>There are 7,444 outstanding planning permissions (as at 01/04/21) which are either not started or under construction.</p> <p>£1,017,746.36 CIL payments were made to town and parish councils.</p> <p>29% of all residential completions were delivered on previously developed land, against a target of 50%.</p>
Joint Local Plan	<p>We are still waiting for confirmation of timings for the new process for the Joint Local Plan. At present, the Inspector has stated that, with regards to housing, the Council should revert to the current plans which include the Core Strategy (2008), the Core Strategy Focused Review (2012), the Stowmarket Area Action Plan (2013) and Haughley's Neighbourhood Plan (2019) with any decision taking into account the most recent National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2021).</p>
Mid Suffolk District Council Budget	<p>The draft 2022/23 budget was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in January and is due to be considered at full Council in February.</p> <p>Current indications are that the net budget is expected to be nearly £9 million. There are no proposals for council tax yet however the amount raised will increase by £285,000 (to £6.96 million) due to increases in households paying the tax. Currently the draft budget forecasts a surplus of nearly £6 million which includes projected £4.8 million from the current financial year.</p>
Fees and charges	<p>An updated list of fees and charges for 2022/23 has been agreed by Mid Suffolk District Council. The majority of these are unchanged with no increase. There is a 3-4% increase for garden waste bin collections and for bulky waste items collection.</p>
Business Grants to help recovery after COVID.	<p>Businesses Mid Suffolk who have been severely impacted by Omicron can now apply for a one-off grant payment through one of two Covid-19 support grants.</p> <p>The Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant (OHLG) is open to businesses with a rateable value in hospitality, leisure and accommodation premises who offer in-person services.</p> <p>The Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) is discretionary grant open to hospitality, leisure and accommodation businesses who are excluded from the OHLG scheme, as well as personal care businesses and wholesale businesses who supply over 51% of their goods to the hospitality, leisure and accommodation sectors. Details of both schemes can be found on the MSDC website https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/features/our-covid-19-response/businesses/.</p>
Funding for neighbourhood planning	<p>Babergh and Mid Suffolk have been named as part of a pilot scheme to allow residents an easier way to shape and influence development in their area. The councils have been awarded £45,000 of Government funding to go towards a new post designed to encourage more people in both districts to engage with the planning system.</p>
MSDC Waste and Recycling Site, Stowmarket	<p>The household waste and recycling site in Stowmarket is to be closed for re-surfacing works for 2 weeks commencing on 28th Feb. During that time waste can be taken to either Ipswich or Bury St Edmunds waste and recycling sites.</p>
Elmswell Primary School expansion	<p>The works to expand Elmswell Primary School will soon begin on site – 21st February to coincide with half term. Ipswich based building contractor Brooks & Wood has been appointed to deliver the project, working with Concertus building and design consultants. The work includes an extension to the existing standalone teaching block, smaller extensions to the main school building along with external works.</p>

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