

District Councillor Report: Elmswell Parish Council

July 2022

Mid Suffolk Council finances	<p>For 2021/22, Mid Suffolk District Council has announced an underspend of £1.2 million against budget with net expenditure on services down by £1.6 million against a budget of £12.7 million.</p> <p>Total reserves stand at just over £24 million up nearly £4 million on the previous financial year.</p> <p>Capital expenditure was £13.3 million against a budget of £30 million. Recent capital expenditure includes £756,000 on the solar carport at the Stowmarket Leisure Centre (not yet operational due to issues with obtaining inverters), £666,000 on the Needham Lake café and £4.5 million on Gateway 14.</p>
HRA business plan	<p>At last month's Council meeting the HRA business plan was agreed. It sets out the long term priorities and plans for the future of council housing in the district. The main priorities include tackling climate change, developing new council housing, involving tenants and improving the neighbourhoods.</p>
Gateway 14	<p>The Range has announced a £200 million investment to base a major distribution centre at Gateway 14 creating 1,650 jobs (across three shifts). Once a reserved matters planning application has been approved, work is expected to start in January 2023 and occupation of the new distribution centre in Autumn 2023.</p>
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	<p>This Fund has been set up by Government as a replacement for EU funding (although with less funds available) and in order to access it Councils must submit an investment plan. Funding is expected to be approximately £140,000 for the rest of this year, £280,000 next year and £780,000 the year after.</p>
Grants for carbon reduction	<p>A new fund for community-based carbon-reduction projects is now open. Projects could include promoting cycling/walking, improving energy efficiency and raising awareness of climate change. Applications can be made via the Green Suffolk website.</p>
Local planning matters	<p>The reserved matters application for 86 homes and a pre-school on School Road was approved at planning committee in June. The developer is soon to start work on the highway improvements along School Road including a shared use cycle path. This will form part of the Woolpit-Elmswell community path. There are ongoing discussions with both MSDC and SCC officers regarding the route for this path.</p>
Locality funding	<p>We would welcome applications from any local club or organisation in need of funding towards the cost of a local project.</p>

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