

District Councillor Report: Elmswell Parish Council

June 2022

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| Annual Council meeting | The Annual Council meeting was held on 26 th May. The Conservative and Independent has the majority vote on all the decisions. The newly elected Chair is Cllr James Caston, with Cllr Ekpenyong as Vice-Chair. There were few changes to the committee positions for this final year of this administration. |
| Needham Lake Visitor Centre | The new visitor centre and café at Needham Lake, The Duck and Teapot opened officially on 17 th May and were rather surprised at the number of visitors over the first weekend. They have now taken steps to manage larger numbers. |
| Cost of Living crisis | MSDC Cabinet are considering a 5 point action plan to try to help residents through the cost of living crisis. The aim of the plan is to try to ensure that those in need are able to access Government help and other organisations, and to maintain good physical and mental health, |
| Stowmarket Health, Education and Leisure Hub. | Plans for a new hub in Stowmarket are to be discussed by Cabinet this week. The master plan incorporates two parcels of land at Chilton Fields and Stowmarket High School. Two all weather pitches, a mini running track and a new sports pavilion are included in the proposal. |
| Residents' survey | Babergh and Mid Suffolk are carrying out their annual survey of residents. Hopefully this will enable the Councils to understand more about residents' and communities resilience and to help improve customer service. Up to 8,000 households from districts will be randomly selected and invited to take part. |
| Large scale energy and infrastructure projects | Babergh and Mid Suffolk communities are currently seeing an unprecedented level of proposed large scale energy infrastructure. There was an information session for town and parish councils. MSDC cabinet are discussing the Council's official response to the public consultation on the Anglia Green overhead power cables to Bramford. Any member of the public or group is also able to respond to the consultation. https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/east-anglia-green-our-proposals-mid-suffolk-and-babergh-north-substation |
| Locality Grant scheme 2022/23 | The next round of Locality Grants is now open. Although the deadline is not until March 2023, we welcome applications from community groups in Woolpit and Elmswell. Details are available on the website https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/communities/grants-and-funding/locality-awards-guidance/ . Please contact one of us in the first instance. We have already used some of the funding to support the Jubilee Celebrations in both villages. |

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

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