

District Councillor Report: Elmswell Parish Council

November 2022

Exemplar Housing scheme proposal for Elmswell	Cabinet agreed to go forward with a plan for a development of up to 50 environmentally friendly low carbon homes on a plot of Council owned land adjacent to School Road in Elmswell. There is a public engagement drop-in session on Thursday 17 th November at The Wesley Centre 2pm – 7.30pm. The Green and Liberal Democrat Group have ‘called-in’ this decision as not all the options and information were made available to the Cabinet members.
CIL expenditure	At last week’s Cabinet meeting, members agreed the next round of CIL expenditure. This included almost £1.8M of funding for expansion of Thurston Community College. This is part of a £2M project, with the remaining funds being sourced from West Suffolk S106 contributions. Almost £24k of the MSDC CIL funds have come from the Elmswell Ringfenced pot, with another 6 villages also contributing in this way. The remaining £567k has been sourced from the strategic pot.
CIFCO	The Councils’ CIFCO investments continue to provide revenue for both councils – amounting to about £1.7M for MSDC in 2021/22. The financial report and 2023 business plan were discussed by MSDC on 27 th October. It was cited that the diversity within the portfolio helped weather the impact of COVID.
Winter Warmth Funding	A Winter Warmth Support Grant fund was launched on 21 st October for organisations to apply for grants of £250 - £5000 to help with the increased energy, rent and food costs to enable community activities and warm spaces to remain open and available during the winter without having increase fees for residents. The grant application window is due to close on 31 st October, and depending on demand they may repeat the scheme at a later date.
New waste tankers	Babergh and Mid Suffolk are investing £2M for 22 new HVO-fuelled waste tankers. This is the biggest upgrade to the Waste fleet in about 10 years. A competition has been launched for members of the public to submit names for the new tankers on the website http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/binlorrycompetition and the competition closes on 13 th November.
Tree for Life	A reminder for any family living in the district who has welcomed a new baby (either by birth or adoption) this year to apply for a tree to be planted this winter. The scheme is also open to families who have lost a child during the same period. Details of the scheme is available on the website https://www.babergh.gov.uk/environment/planting-schemes/tree-for-life/ .
Innovation Awards 2022	The winners of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Innovation Awards were announced at a ceremony held at Wherstead Park on 20 th October. Details of the 22 finalists can be found on the website https://www.babergh.gov.uk/news/winners-announced-for-the-babergh-and-mid-suffolk-innovation-awards-2022/
Councillor Remuneration 2023.	Following recommendations by an Independent Remuneration Panel, Mid Suffolk Councillors agreed the remuneration to be made to the incoming councillors next May. The basic allowance is to go up to just over £6k and there are several special responsibility allowances as well.
Locality Funding	We still have funds available and would welcome applications from any local club or organisation in need of funding towards the cost of a local project.

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