

District Councillor Report: Elmswell Parish Council

April 2024

Council of the Year Award	The councils of Mid Suffolk, with a Green Party administration, and Babergh, that is Independently led, have just been jointly awarded <i>Council of the Year</i> for their collaboration and focus on their communities. This was awarded by the iESE, a not-for-profit organisation created by local authorities as a shared resource to transform public services and retain experience within the sector.
Homelessness strategy	Full Council adopted the new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping strategy 2024 and the associated delivery plan. Together with Babergh the councils want to aspire to go beyond the minimum required provision, and hope to provide a bespoke person-centred and proactive service.
CIL expenditure framework	Full council recommended approval of the amendments proposed to the Community Infrastructure Levy Expenditure Framework following the sixth review. The main changes include allowing applications for District CIL from sports clubs and community shops and cafes with provisos to ensure that any profit made by such businesses goes back to the community, and allowing more flexibility for community project costs.
Suffolk Devolution deal consultation	The County Council has now opened the consultation of the proposed Level 3 devolution deal for the county. MSDC councillors debated this issue at last week's Council meeting, but are not involved in the SCC decision. The deal would mean the county council would have more local power alongside a fund of £480M over a 30 year period. This is a small proportion of the total SCC budget. There would also be a directly elected leader of the County Council. More information and public consultation can be found here: https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/devolution .
Nationally significant Solar Farm proposal	A 2000MW solar farm proposal near Mendlesham has been proposed. This is a large nationally significant energy application which will be determined by the Planning Inspectorate. MSDC are just a consultee, but have requested more clarity about certain aspects of the application.
Councillor drop-in sessions	Jen and Sarah hold monthly drop-in sessions, alternating between Woolpit Teacups and Wesley Café in Elmswell. The next two sessions are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thursday 25th April 10-12 Teacups Café.• Tuesday 21st May 10-12 Wesley Café.

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