

District Councillor Report: Elmswell Parish Council

November 2024

New bus service	<p>This innovative new transport service, 'The Mid Suffolk Taxi Bus', has now launched and is being delivered by Swift Taxi Cabs, with funding from a Mid Suffolk District Council Rural Transport Grant.</p> <p>The 'Stowmarket Circular service via Thurston' runs on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, three times a day, calling at two Elmswell pickup/drop-off points (School Rd/New Rd & Wetherden Rd adjacent to Jubilee Road), as well as several other local villages including Woolpit, Rattlesden, and Haughley.</p> <p>More information on times, routes, prices, and pick-up points, can be found online at suffolktaxibus.com. Seats are bookable via the website or call 01449 866 866.</p>
Empty Homes Renovation Loan	<p>Mid Suffolk's 'Empty Homes Renovation Loan' scheme remains open for application via the website. It can provide an interest free loan of up to £20,000 to bring homes back into use. Applications can be made by the owner of a property that must have been empty for more than six months and is in need of renovation work to return it to a habitable state. Repairs include, for example, damp proofing, provision of sanitary facilities, re-roofing, and repair or replacement of windows and doors. The scheme is designed to help owners of empty properties return them to use and make them available for renting – thereby helping to reduce the level of empty homes in the area and provide more, much-needed affordable homes for rent. More details available online: https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/empty-homes-renovation-loan</p>
Stowmarket Town Centre revitalisation	<p>At October's cabinet meeting, funding was agreed for a list of new measures to help revitalise Stowmarket Town Centre, funded from profits from Gateway 14. Measures discussed included a £400k grant scheme to assist with existing retailers, £100k to increase sustainability from the Wayfinding project, and £16k for developing overnight accommodation within the town.</p>
Locality Budgets 2024/25	<p>Reminder that we are still welcoming Locality Budget applications from local community groups. Do get in touch with either of us to discuss options. Information and application forms are available on the website: https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/web/mid-suffolk/w/locality-awards</p>
Councillor drop-in sessions	<p>Jen and Sarah hold monthly drop-in sessions, alternating between Teacups Cafe in Woolpit and Wesley Café in Elmswell. We are not meeting in December. The next sessions is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday 26th November 10-12 at the Wesley Café

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