

District Councillor Report: Elmswell Parish Council

October 2024

Council meeting	Last month's meeting of full council took place on the 26 th September, and included discussions over the simpler recycling scheme (see below), the appointment of a Biodiversity Working Group, and a motion passed pushing for Government action to end the council housing funding crisis. The next meeting will take place on 31 st October.
Simpler Recycling	MSDC have now agreed how they will adapt their waste collection service in line with the new Government regulations. From 2025 there will be weekly kerbside food waste collections – each household will receive a food waste bin for collection as well as a caddy to use in the kitchen. This will reduce the amount of waste in the black bins, so from 2026 we will move to a twin-stream recycling where each household will have 2 recycling bins (one for card and paper, the other for plastic, glass and cartons) and a black bin. These will be collected on a 3-week basis. This model has already been adopted across the country by various councils of all political parties, with significant success.
Shaping our Economic Strategy	BMSDC officers are seeking the expertise and insights of key local stakeholders including business leaders, council partners, voluntary services, policymakers, academics and beyond, to help develop a new forward-thinking Economic Strategy. A series of well-attended economic development workshops have been held across the district, and there is an online form - to be completed by 31 st October - for anyone still wishing to participate (www.midsuffolk.gov.uk – search for 'new economic strategy').
Survey of residents	The deadline for the Mid Suffolk Council survey of community need has been extended to 31 st October. This is an informal survey, so if you or others you know have any ideas, please get in touch with Cllr Overett or visit the website at: https://baberghandmidsuffolk.govocal.com/en-GB/projects/tell-us-mid-suffolk
Abandonment of Suffolk Devolution Deal	The original plans for the Suffolk Devolution (including the directly elected leader of Suffolk County Council) have been abandoned by national Government. Further talks are ongoing about a potential replacement.
Thurston By-Election	The by-election for Thurston took place on Tuesday 24th September, and was won by Harry Richardson, a Conservative, who has served on the district council in the past.
Woolpit – Elmswell Community Path	Plans have now been drawn up for the route of the proposed path behind Elmswell Church, down to the A1088 roundabout and over the A14. The county council is still on schedule to apply for funding in the October CIL bid round and is also looking at other sources of funding. Another progress meeting will be scheduled for November.
Taxi Bus	An innovative new transport service “The Mid Suffolk Taxi Bus” – will be launched at the end of October. It will be delivered by Swift Taxi Cabs, with funding from a Mid Suffolk District Council Rural Transport Grant. The service will link various villages, including Haughley, Wetherden, Elmswell and Woolpit, with Stowmarket. There will be a drop-in launch event to give more information about it on Tuesday 29th October from 1pm to 6pm at the John Peel Centre in Stowmarket.

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Councillor drop-in sessions	Jen and Sarah hold monthly drop-in sessions, alternating between Teacups Cafe in Woolpit and Wesley Café in Elmswell. The next two sessions are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday 22nd October 10-12 Wesley Café• Tuesday 26th November 10-12 Wesley Café
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