

District Councillor Report: Elmswell Parish Council

12/11/18

Community Infrastructure Levy	£156k of funds from the CIL have now been allocated from the first round of funding. Six bids were successful and funds went to projects including bus stop improvements in Stowmarket and Laxfield and enhancements to the village hall and sports club. A second round of bids for CIL funding closed on 28 th October.
Local Investments	MSDC have acquired the former Aldi building in Stowmarket, including the carpark on Gipping Way. This is all part of the Stowmarket Vision for Prosperity action plan. This is completely separate from the CIFCO investment project.
Business Rate Retention	Some of the funds retained by the council from local Business Rates have been earmarked for the development of a visitor centre and café at Needham Lake, and towards the Stowmarket Town Centre improvements.
Joint Local Plan	Officers are still busy working on the draft Joint Local Plan in light of the recent changes to the NPPF. There is a new methodology for calculating projected housing need. The number for MSDC is currently 590 new homes per annum. This will be a challenge as the current average number of completions is only about 58% of this figure. The draft plan should be ready for the next Council meeting in November, and it is still hoped to be adopted in early 2020.
Housing consultations	The draft Joint Housing Strategy is now out for an 8 week consultation. Following the consultation, it is hoped that the final version will be ready for adoption in early 2019. The Homelessness Reduction Strategy is also out for a 6 week consultation period.
Tree for Life Scheme	This was an initiative suggested by the Green Group at MSDC, and has finally begun. A fruit tree is to be gifted to every new born child in Mid Suffolk. Parents need to apply for their tree, and will be provided with planting and aftercare guidance. If they do not have space to plant the tree at home, the Council will provide information as to where trees may be planted on public spaces in their locality.
Bin emptying	The cost of emptying both litter bins and dog waste bins is currently different in Babergh and Mid Suffolk. It looks likely that the cost of emptying both types of bin will increase in 2019/20 by approximately £5 per bin in Mid Suffolk.
Councillor Locality Budget	John and I have allocated some of our locality funds to the following Elmswell projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blackbourne Grounds maintenance scarifier £1190• Over 55's transport costs £588• Bike trailer for village warden £348• Gardening club planters for the station £1993

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