

ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk's Report to the Ordinary Council Meeting 15th October 2018

- 1 At the recent MSDC liaison meeting it was confirmed that a recent Planning Inspectorate ruling had, with reference to the recent NPPF revisions, effectively annulled MSDC's claim to having identified a 5 year housing land supply. The imposition of more stringent tests as to what is, 'deliverable', have brought the figure back down to 3.4 years. The calculations are queried by MSDC officers and the meeting was told, in response to my question, that the status quo will be achieved within 4 weeks and that this will be tested at the next major relevant Appeal hearing in December. Policy in this regard is relevant to one of the Applications on the October agenda and I will advise on the night.
- 2 My thanks to Cllr Wiley who took on the job of stewarding the Council's website some years ago and who will, in May, cease to be an Elmswell Councillor when it would be appropriate to hand the job on. This coincides with a deterioration in the service provided by CAS who now host the site and I have taken the opportunity to go across to Suffolk Cloud which has excellent provenance and the principles of which set us up in the first place many years ago. The site is now much more manageable and we have taken the site management back in-house as the support under the new regime is so much better there is very little extra work load at this end. The new address is elmswell.suffolk.cloud
- 3 The Wesley T&FWP met on 8th October with Alan Wilkinson, the architect steering the refurbishment programme. The external design concept is very acceptable and the internal layout has all of the requisite spaces which now await sizing and shaping towards the practical requirements of present and future users. Councillors have brought new elements to the brief originally drafted by the BWMA towards the creation of an adaptable community hub providing quality facilities which accommodate current use, tie into and extend that offered at Blackbourne and stand ready for the pressures to come from the expanded population. The next meeting towards the end of this month will have firmed-up on the proposals to a stage where they can be brought to Council for appraisal. The topographical survey which is seeking authorisation at this meeting is the first stage towards drawing-up plans of sufficient detail to enable a pre-application consultation with Mid Suffolk towards ironing out any technical issues which might stand in the way of approval when a full application is made.
- 4 I was party to the whirlwind of emails and complaints regarding the recent road closure at Church Hill. The protocols surrounding this process are clearly inadequate and the lack of local knowledge an obvious factor in the chaos. I will continue to press for T&PC involvement at the strategic planning stage of works requiring road closure, particularly with regard to fuller, more helpful, text on signage and the reduction of the constraints to the bare minimum required by the actual works taking place. The promised review at SCC might provide an opportunity for as hint of common sense to be introduced.