

# District Councillor Report: Elmswell Parish Council

12/03/19

General Fund Budget 2019/20	Full Council agreed the budget for 2019/20 at the last meeting. There is to be a 2% increase in Council Tax. A further £25M is to be invested into the CIFCO project. A discretionary Care Leavers Council Tax discount of up to 100% is to be introduced.
Housing Revenue Account	The mandatory Council Rent reduction of 1% will be implemented. Garage rents and Sheltered Housing Service Charges are to stay the same level as this year. Sheltered Housing Utility charges are to be increased by 5%. Any Right to Buy receipts are to be retained to enable continued development and acquisition of new properties.
Plans for visitor centre at Needham Lake	MSDC Cabinet have agreed to allocate up to £600,000 to develop a visitor centre at Needham Lake. The preferred option is to offer a 'design and build' contract for a café and visitor centre to an operator.
CIL expenditure.	The CIL expenditure framework has been reviewed following discussions with stakeholders and a joint member panel. Most of the amendments are for clarification purposes and some new forms are to be used. This is to be agreed at the next Council meeting.
Planning and pre applications charging schedule	MSDC Cabinet have agreed proposals to change the charges for pre application advice. Most of the fees are to increase apart from written advice for small (less than 4 dwellings). This follows some engagement with stakeholders and aims to improve the advice service given.
Needham Market developments.	Planning permission for the development of 94 dwellings and a retail space on the derelict office site in Needham Market was agreed by the Planning Referrals committee in February. This development will only provide 10% affordable housing. However, planning permission for a further 41 affordable homes on the old Needham Market Middle School site was also agreed. If these two developments are taken together, they meet the policy requirement of 35% affordables.
New Joint Local Plan	A Council meeting has been arranged to consider the draft Joint Local Plan in June. Both Debenham and Stradbroke Neighbourhood Plans are ready to be adopted by MSDC at the Council meeting on Monday.
Community Strategy	Following consultation, the New Joint Communities Strategy is to be approved by Full Council on Monday. If approved a summary version will be published to make it more accessible to local communities. The full version is available on <a href="https://baberghmidsuffolk.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s14274/Appendix%20A.pdf">https://baberghmidsuffolk.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s14274/Appendix%20A.pdf</a>

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