

District Councillor Report: Elmswell Parish Council

October 2021

September Council meeting	Having not been able to have a meeting since May, the agenda for September's Council meeting was too full. There was insufficient time to complete the agenda and two motions from the Green and Liberal Democrat Group were unresolved. These were to do with Biodiversity Friendly lighting and Voter ID. These two items will be added to an agenda of another meeting which will be on 18 th October.
Wellbeing Strategy	The Council have adopted a new Wellbeing Strategy. The Strategy focusses on trying to ensure that families lead active, healthy, safe and independent lives and are able to manage their own wellbeing. It promotes sustainable and inclusive places and spaces and go some way to reduce health inequalities across the district.
CIFCO	The Council discussed the 2020/21 report and business plan 2021/22 for CIFCO Capital Ltd. All the funds have now been invested. The total income CIFCO has produced is about £2.5M but there is still a net loss in equity of about £12.5M. There is always interesting debate about CIFCO as the Green and Liberal Democrat group vote against the plan.
Neighbourhood plan process	It was also agreed to streamline the Neighbourhood Plan process. Neighbourhood Plans can now automatically proceed to the referendum after examination by inspectors, rather than having to seek approval from the Council. Also that post-referendum Neighbourhood Plans with an majority 'yes' vote can be formally adopted by the Chief Executive instead of having to be approved by Cabinet.
No Casinos in Mid Suffolk	Mid Suffolk Council adopted a 'No Casino' resolution. None of our bordering council have such a resolution and there is currently no provision for a new casino anywhere in England and Wales.
Pay Policy Review	There was a proposal to increase the salary scales for the senior management team of Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils, but this was deferred because Babergh District Council had voted against the proposal.
Joint Local Plan examination	The public hearing for the draft Joint Local Plan has re-started and all sessions are online via Microsoft Teams. Once complete, a report from the Planning Inspectors will then be provided to the Council for Mid Suffolk to act on.
HVO fuel for Council vehicles	In September Babergh and Mid Suffolk became the first rural UK councils to switch their fleet of waste tankers to HVO. All 35 waste tankers are not fuelled by HVO and the smaller public realm and housing service vehicles will also be switching to the new fuel in the near future. This will help to reduce the Council's carbon emissions.
Elmswell Primary School expansion	SCC voted to approve the controversial planning application to enlarge Elmswell Community Primary School to 420 places. This development will be the subject of a CIL funding bid and the decision will be made by MSDC Cabinet on 1 st November.
Locality Awards	There is still funding from the annual locality awards. Amounts of £250 or more are available to local community groups and organisations. Please encourage groups in the village to contact us for an application form or telephone for further information and help in applying.

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