

District Councillor Report: Elmswell Parish Council

September 2022

The death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II	MSDC undertook many of the required duties during the period of mourning, including the Proclamation of the Accession of King Charles III to residents in Eye, Needham Market and Stowmarket. Books of condolence were available in the Town Council offices as well as an online book of condolence.
	The Council meeting which was scheduled for Thurs 22 nd September had to be cancelled due to the mourning period and a new date has yet to be agreed. The development control meeting on 14 th September was also cancelled by the Chair of the committee and has been rescheduled for Thurs 29 th September.
Tree Canopy Survey	As part of the biodiversity action plan, MSDC has been working with specialists to identify and map existing tree cover and habitat networks across the district. BMSDC were the first rural councils to commission such a survey. Mid Suffolk's tree cover sits at an average of just over 8% ranging from 6% in the Stow Thorney ward to 12.8% in the Claydon and Barham ward. It is hoped that this survey will enable the council to apply for funding to increase a new tree planting strategy, the report and findings will be published in due course.
Cost of Living crisis	Targeted support packages to help with the cost of living, energy bills and council tax are all available through Mid Suffolk District Councils, residents should check they are receiving any support that they are entitled to.
Become a Councillor event 29 th Sept.	Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils are holding an information event to raise awareness of the role of district and parish councillors. It hopes to attract a more diverse group of candidates for next year's local elections. This will be on Thursday 29 th September 4.00 – 6.30 pm. To register for this event please email committees@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk .
What's next for Stowmarket	There will be a 'pop-up' exhibition to showcase a range of projects and proposals for Stowmarket on 22 nd – 24 th September at the John Peel Centre. Included will be the Gateway 14 project, the Health and Wellbeing Hub proposal for Chilton area, and the Stowmarket Culture Group.
Former Nat West building, Stowmarket	On Friday 16 th September, MSDC sent the final draft lease for the former Nat West building (11 Market Place), Stowmarket to the directors of the John Peel Centre and it has now been signed. This has been a long drawn out process, after being agreed about 2 years ago.
Waste	Suffolk Waste partnership is backing a national campaign about the safe disposal of batteries. If batteries are put into general waste, they contaminate the waste stream and can even start fires within the waste freighter or in landfill. West Suffolk and Babergh Mid Suffolk have received £60k of funding from chewing gum manufacturers to help clean the streets and pavements of used gum.

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