

District Councillor Report: Elmswell Parish Council

January 2023

Waste fleet	The new fleet of 22 waste tankers are now in service. There were over 400 names submitted in the competition to name the waste tankers. Details of the winning names can be found on the website here https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/news/revealed-winning-names-for-babergh-and-mid-suffolks-new-environmentally-friendly-bin-lorries/ . The new tankers are fuelled by hydrogenated vegetable oil which is produced from waste cooking oil.
Solar Carport at Stowmarket Leisure Centre	The 70 solar carport spaces are now up and running, producing almost a quarter of the Leisure Centre's annual electricity demand. The system also includes battery storage so excess energy produced during sunnier periods can be saved for later.
New Tenancy Policy	Mid Suffolk Cabinet discussed and agreed a new tenancy policy. The policy sets out a clear explanation of the range of tenancies that the councils offers and how and they are managed. The policy reinforces the councils' recognition of and the importance of all residents having a safe and sustainable place to call home, alongside the need for high-quality social and affordable housing.
Fees and charges	Cabinet also discussed future fees and charges for council services. Fees and charges are a vital revenue stream for the Council, but they pledge to keep any increases fair and will continue to support families in need. Some of the increases in charges are statutory – such as building control and licencing. An increase in charges for garden waste collection will be proposed.
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	It is likely that there will be up to 100% Council Tax reduction for those families with the lowest income, and some form of transitional protection scheme to ensure that no-one will be worse off under any of the proposed changes.
Locality Funding	We still have funds available and would welcome applications from any local club or organisation in need of funding towards the cost of a local project.

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