

District Councillor Report: Elmswell Parish Council

June 2023

Annual Council meeting	At the Annual Council Meeting held on 22 nd May, the 24 Green Party councillors officially became the administration at Mid Suffolk. Andy Mellen, as leader outlined our initial priorities to lead and work with other bodies to address the challenges faced by our communities, cost of living, affordable homes, local services, public transport and climate change. There will be initially a cabinet of 6 councillors. Cllr Rowland Warboys was elected as Chair of the Council, with Cllr Dan Pratt as Vice-chair.
Cabinet	Cllr Mellen has appointed a Cabinet of 6 members. As well as Leader of the Council, Cllr Mellen's role on the cabinet will be Performance and Resilience. The other Cabinet members are Cllr Teresa Davis (Thriving Towns and Rural Communities), Cllr Rachel Eburne (Finance and Resources), Cllr Andrew Stringer (Heritage, Planning and Infrastructure), Cllr Tim Weller (Environment, Culture and Wellbeing) and Cllr Richard Winch (Housing and Property)
Charity support	The outgoing Chair, Cllr James Caston raised over £4k for his chosen charity – Stowmarket ASD Saturday clubs during the past year. Cllr Warboys' chosen charities for this year will be The Forge Workshops in Thornham Magna and 'Beyond the Wall', a charity based in the Walled Garden at Thornham Estates.
Half Term activities	A number of activities for children and young people were organised for half term. These include family cooking sessions, fencing and dance classes, kids clubs. Children who receive free school meals will be able to swim for free at Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre. Details of all the activities are available on the website https://www.babergh.gov.uk/communities/whats-on/holiday-activities-fund/
Woolpit – Elmswell community path update	Bloor Homes have now completed the section of cycle path alongside School Road in Elmswell from their development to the church. SCC are now working on detailed design of the wider scheme, focussing initially on the section from St John's church to A1088. The next steps are surveys for underground utilities. A CIL bid is to be submitted to MSDC by the end of May.
Planning committee	Cllr Mansel is to be the Chair of planning committee and there is to be a change to the schedule of planning committees. The first daytime planning committee will be held on Wed 21 st June and then every 4 weeks. In between those main meetings provisional meetings will be scheduled for 17:30 on the intermediate fortnightly Wednesdays.

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