

District Councillor Report: Elmswell Parish Council

May 2023

Elections 2023	In Mid Suffolk, 34 councillors were elected, with 24 seats for the Green Party, six seats for Local Conservatives, and four for the Liberal Democrats. The first meeting of the newly elected council will be the Annual Council Meeting held on Monday 22 nd May. Councillors will elect their leader and chair and the cabinet will then be appointed by the council leader.
Electoral Commission and Voter ID	These were the first set of elections in England where voters had to show a specific form of photographic identification before being issued with a ballot paper in the polling station. This requirement was introduced in The Elections Act 2022. We acknowledge there were a number of voters across Mid Suffolk who were unable to vote due to not having one of the specific forms of identification. MSDC will submit all necessary data regarding the impact of the new legislation to the Electoral Commission.
Cost of Living support	MSDC is continuing to provide support for those who are struggling with the ongoing rise in the cost of living. Further information can be found online: https://www.babergh.gov.uk/benefits/cost-of-living-support/
Composting	Mid Suffolk supported International Compost Awareness week (6 th -14 th May), by offering free compost at Needham Lake and Eye Community Centre. On average, more than a third of the contents of Suffolk's rubbish bins could easily be composted at home. Each household in Suffolk could compost 150kg of organic material a year, turning this waste into free soil improver. The Suffolk Waste partnership is continuing its successful compost bin promotion. For more information visit https://suffolkrecycling.org.uk/news/compost-awareness-week-competition
Community Grants	Several grants are available from MSDC Capital grants are aimed at community groups to make repairs and improvements to village halls, play areas etc. Up to £10,000 can be awarded to cover up to 100% of the project cost. Community development grants of up to £20,000 can be used for both capital and revenue costs needed for the provision of local initiatives and activities. Applications need to be made by June. The Councillor locality grant scheme will be launched in the next few weeks.

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