

**Mid Suffolk District Councillors' Annual Report (2022/23)
For the Elmswell Annual Parish Council Meeting on Monday 15th May 2023**

- **Climate Change and Biodiversity**

Following the adoption of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure plan the community path between Woolpit and Elmswell has been identified as a pilot project. SCC and MSDC officers are working together, and it is hoped that a bid for funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy will be made in the next couple of months. A route from Elmswell Church to the A1088 roundabout has been surveyed.

Mid Suffolk and Babergh became the first rural authorities to commission a full tree canopy survey, as part of the Biodiversity Action Plan

The solar carport at Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre is now produced electricity for the leisure centre. The Duck and Teapot Café at Needham Lake opened in Spring 2022 and is a great asset to the popular visitor attraction.

The 'Tree for Life' project continues annually to plant a tree for every new child in the district.

- **Housing**

MSDC and Babergh Councils launched Central Suffolk Lettings to increase access to good housing across the districts. The Council continues to help households with Disabled Facilities grants and as well as enabling homeless people to access suitable housing.

- **Planning**

The technical consultation period about the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local plan part 1, following the recommendations of the inspector closed at the beginning of May. MSDC currently has over 109 years housing land supply.

No MSDC planning decision have been overturned at appeal during the past 2 years.

Locally the planning application for a fuel station and drive through restaurants at the A1088 roundabout was refused. Applications for further development at the Stag Cafe and Lawn Farm Business park have been approved, despite objections related to traffic issues in the vicinity. The School Road development is now well underway and the so-called road improvements, including the shared/cycle path have been completed – and are now awaiting the Stage 3 safety audit.

- **Cost of Living**

The Council adopted a 5-point action plan in May 2022 to ensure that residents get the help that they are entitled. Over 34,000 households were helped using the Government's Council Tax Energy Rebate, and several 'Warm Space' projects were supported. Several one-off grants were awarded to community organisations to keep buildings open without passing on increased energy costs to users.

- **Economy**

The virtual high street continues to help retail businesses in Needham Market, Stowmarket and Eye. The council also put on Careeriosity fairs for school pupils in the district.

Gateway 14 development is well underway. A large part of the site is now being constructed for The Range logistics hub, which hopes to bring in over 1,600 jobs to the district. The whole site should benefit from good walking and cycling connections and green corridors.

The Innovation Awards project rewarded some local small businesses including Natural Building Systems Ltd based in Palgrave, Modeca Architects and Virtually There Studios, both based in Stowmarket,

- Communities

We were pleased to be able to allocate all of our locality budget to community groups in both villages. The Elmswell based projects included:

- Elmswell Parish Council for the Jubilee Celebrations in June 2022
- Elmswell Parish Council for improvements to the Allotments
- Elmswell Pools Land Charity for some media costs
- Elmswell Parish Council to help set up the Foodbank
- Elmswell SEND Toddler Group for resources to help families with special needs
- Elmswell to purchase equipment for community activities
- Elmswell amenities association to help with the refurbishment costs at the Grove Lane facility.

Following the election of the new councillors in May 2023 the next round of Locality Funding will be announced shortly.

Mid Suffolk District Council information is available via www.midsuffolk.gov.uk or by phone **0300 123 4000**

The end of term report can be found here: <https://bmsdchosting.net/End-of-Term-Report/Mid-Suffolk-District-Council-2019-2022/>

We would like to thank the Parish Council for all their work done throughout the year.

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