

District Councillor Report: Elmswell Parish Council

December 2024

Council meeting	A full council meeting took place on the 21 st November, which included discussion of the council's treasury management. The Green administration also introduced a motion urging the government to rethink the decision to cut the Winter Fuel Allowance for most pensioners. After debate, this was agreed and a letter will be written to the chancellor.
Fees and Charges updates	Updates to Fees and Charges across the district were approved in this month's cabinet meeting and will take effect on 1 st April 2025. A full list of alterations are available on the council's website – most charges are being raised by only 1.7% and some fees are coming down.
Community Funding	Mid Suffolk's website now has a new community funding page, which aims to make it much easier for local community groups to understand and apply for grants and funding. So if you are in need of some funding for a project, it's worth going to the www.midsuffolk.gov.uk home page and clicking the 'Access community funding' button.
Summary of Waste Recycling over Christmas & New Year	There are a few alterations to the recycling schedule over Christmas, including a scheme to recycle Christmas Trees. The information can be found on Mid Suffolk's website, using the following link: Christmas waste collections - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk
Potential new Local Government reform	There has been national press speculation over a change in local government structure across Suffolk. The White Paper has yet to be published, being scheduled to be published in December, although there has been speculation over the district and county councils being abolished and replaced with a unitary authority (with combined powers of a district and county council) covering all of Suffolk. More information will be available in the future.
Tackling Social Housing Stigma	Mid Suffolk council, along with their partners in Babergh council, signed up to a new campaign to stop social housing stigma. This was done in the form of a council workshop, which looked at the best methods to tackle social housing inequality and negative stereotypes associated with it across the district.
Car Park behind Woolpit Health Centre	MSDC have confirmed responsibility for the maintenance of the new car park behind the surgery. Soft landscaping will be planted this season and work is ongoing to provide EV charging points in the allocated spaces. Road signage has been ordered and SCC will erect the signs in due course.
Planning Enforcement	Planning enforcement officers were contacted regarding both the path between the Ashfield Gardens development and Blackbourne and the path between Long Gilberts Road and Station Road. The planning condition regarding the path between Blackbourne and Ashfield Gardens was signed off by SCC Highways Officers, but in our opinion this is not fit for purpose. SCC Portfolio Holder for highways has been contacted about this matter. We are still awaiting a response about the other path.
Locality Budgets 2024/25	Reminder that we are still welcoming Locality Budget applications from local community groups. Do get in touch with either of us to discuss options. Information and application forms are available on the website: https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/web/mid-suffolk/w/locality-awards
Councillor drop-in sessions	Jen and Sarah hold regular drop-in sessions, at either Teacups Café, Woolpit or Wesley Café, Elmswell. We are not meeting in December. The next sessions are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 7th January 10 –12 at the Wesley Café • Thursday 13th February 10 – 12 at Teacups Café

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