

Walsham Le Willows Parish Council Meeting 14 Jan 20 - District Councillor's Report

Mid Suffolk Councillors Consider Budget For 2020/21

The first draft of Mid Suffolk District Council's budget for 2020/21 is set to be considered by councillors later this month, including a 1.66% increase in its share of council tax, adding £2.76 a year to the bill of a Band D Property. The final budget is due to be debated by the full Council meeting to be held on 27 Feb 20

Councils To Consider Move To Clamp Down On Council Tax Fraud

Penalties may be introduced in Babergh and Mid Suffolk to tackle council tax fraud, alongside a new Citizens Advice council tax protocol to help those in genuine need, following cabinet discussions this month.

Needham Lake Visitor Centre And Café Agreed

Plans for a £600,000 visitor centre/cafe at Needham Lake have been approved and a local operator selected to run it – supporting local youth work and boosting tourism to the town.

1000 Endangered Animals

Over Christmas the Suffolk Waste Partnership's celebration of recycling took on a theme of endangered animals. The artwork created by schools across Suffolk will be on display at Ipswich Town Hall café Gallery until 11 Jan, and The Apex , Bury St Edmunds until March 2020.

More Than £791k Funding Boost For Communities

Communities across Babergh and Mid Suffolk received a funding boost totalling £791,000, for local projects including a new car park and bus shelter. Areas that received funding during this spending round, from CIL monies collected between 1 April to 30 September 2019, include Stowupland, Elmswell, Capel St Mary and Lavenham. Two parish areas that are governed by a parish meeting also received funds to spend in their areas. Projects include a community gallery at Gainsborough's House in Sudbury, a new roof and car park for Long Melford Village Hall, and a new bus shelter in Thurston, among others.

Planning Enforcement Service Update

Planning Enforcement are currently undertaking a review of their processes and procedures. Their intention is to make the way they respond to and investigate allegations reported to them swifter, more efficient and transparent.

Whilst undertaking this review they may take a little longer time than usual to respond to, acknowledge reports received and provide updates. They will nevertheless continue to prioritise cases in line with the published policy guidelines and will ensure that they pursue their investigations in a timely way. Their aim is to have this work completed, with revised processes and procedures in place, by the end of March 2020.

Councils' £420k Three-Year Guarantee To Support Citizens Advice

At cabinet meetings this week, councillors at Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils gave the go ahead to support Citizens Advice (CA) with more than £420k. Recognising the value of Citizens Advice which is estimated to have saved £8.1m across Suffolk, and with growing numbers turning to them for help - both councils have agreed a more sustainable funding approach with two three-year funding agreements. Mid Suffolk District Council's cabinet has granted Mid Suffolk Citizens Advice a minimum of £260,100, £86,700 a year, over a three year period starting in 2020/2021.

MSSDC has also agreed to continue to work with the Suffolk Cross Authority Citizens Advice Task and Finish Group - made up of councillors from Ipswich, Babergh, Mid Suffolk and West Suffolk councils with input from Suffolk County Council – which aims to provide a more consistent scrutiny approach to CA services across Suffolk.

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