

## **Walsham Le Willows Parish Council Meeting 10 Mar 2020 - District Councillor's Report**

### **Budget approval**

On Thursday 27 February Mid Suffolk District Council approved its budget for 2020/21, including an increase in council tax that will see £2.76 a year added to the bill of a Band D property. A major highlights within the budget is the allocation of £0.5m to support MSDC's climate change initiatives with further resources available if required.

### **Planning for the future – Councils receive national recognition**

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Planning officers are in the running for a national award. The Development Management team, which looks after planning matters for both councils, has been shortlisted in the Best Use of Digital and Technology category at the annual iESE – Public Sector Transformation Awards 2020. They have been recognised for their innovative use of digital tools and technology to improve services for residents.

### **Needham Market on track for bright future**

Needham Market railway station is set to receive £380,000 in government funding to improve accessibility. The funding from the Department of Transport's new Access for All programme gives a further boost to the council's plans to regenerate the town, working in partnership with other organisations and the local community.

### **Helping ratepayers high on the agenda**

Proposals to enable the Council to provide discretionary discounts to ratepayers as quickly as possible was agreed at Mid Suffolk's cabinet meeting last month, and will be implemented as soon as the Government provides full details of the discretionary retail discount, local newspaper discount and pub discount schemes.

### **Ipswich Town Football Club teams up with Active Schools**

Ipswich Town Football Club has joined the drive to get more youngsters active. The Club has become the first ambassador of the £80,000 three-year Active Schools project. The Project was launched in July last year by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, in partnership with NHS West Suffolk and NHS Ipswich and East Suffolk clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) and supported by Active Suffolk; the three-year Active Schools project aims to increase the number of people taking part in sport and physical activity.

### **Services provided at leisure centre are named as some of the country's best**

Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre and Stradbroke Swim and Fitness Centre have recently been named as some of the country's best, following a national industry assessment. Following their GP exercise referral scheme assessment by Quest both schemes were awarded the status of 'excellent'.

### **Refilling your weekly shop without unnecessary plastic is getting easier in Suffolk.**

A number of shops in Suffolk are offering refills for a host of household items in a bid to cut down on the amount of plastic and packaging we use. Please support the Council's commitment to reduce our Carbon footprint.

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