

## District Councillor Report: Walsham Le Willows Parish Council

June 2023

General summary	The main focus over the past month has been setting up the new administration, reviewing existing Mid Suffolk District Council plans and starting to define the detailed priorities for the next few months.
Annual Council meeting	<p>At the Annual Council Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, the 24 Green Party councillors officially became the administration at Mid Suffolk.</p> <p>Andy Mellen, as leader, outlined the initial priorities::</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● put environmental and social responsibilities at the heart of all we do</li> <li>● provide a high quality, cost effective, service to all residents and businesses</li> <li>● listen and respond to all citizens, consulting them on key decisions</li> <li>● collaborate with all sectors across Suffolk</li> <li>● do this in an open and honest way</li> </ul> <p>Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Easier access to the Council</li> <li>● Sustainable rural transport</li> <li>● Creating thriving communities</li> <li>● Addressing housing need including warmer, low carbon homes</li> <li>● Improving accountability and performance for environmental and social wellbeing</li> </ul> <p>Cllr Winch is a Cabinet member with responsibility for Housing and Property.</p>
District Clean Up	As a visible demonstration of improvement to the environment, the District Council is planning a clean up programme (such as more litter-picking, road sign cleaning, graffiti removal). This will involve MSDC teams, perhaps with a small grant to Parish/Town Councils with community involvement encouraged. Details to follow.
Insulation programme	A £2 million insulation programme was agreed at the end of the last administration. The details of how this will be implemented are currently being reviewed.
Shepherd's Grove development	<p>Equation Properties have indicated they plan to bring forward proposals to redevelop Shepherd's Grove Industrial Estate. This plan is in addition to the Jaynic / Copart development.</p> <p>Cllr Winch has discussed the planned development with Mid Suffolk Chief Planning Officer Philip Isbell with a view to getting a coordinated response from Mid Suffolk. Dan Cameron from Mid Suffolk will be dealing with this. Of particular concern is the routing of traffic routing through Walsham Le Willows, Badwell Ash, Great Ashfield and Hunston especially as there is currently a 7.5T structural weight restriction on the A1088.</p> <p>Cllr Winch has also contacted District Cllrs Thorndyke (Stanton) and Bull (Barningham / Hepworth) and County Cllrs Flemming and Spicer to see if we can agree some common ground re: plans going forward. Discussion is planned for a couple of weeks' time. This will need to focus on residents' concerns as Cllrs Thorndyke and Bull are members of West Suffolk Development Control Committee.</p>

Planned additional social housing in Walsham	The current focus is on dealing with site constraints mainly negotiating with statutory bodies for the relocation of power cables across the site. Likely to be programmed for delivery in 2-3 years time.
Planned footpath schemes	Palmer Street and Summer Road are being discussed with the Rights of Way team. As of yet there are no timescales.

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