

District Councillor Report to Cotton Parish Council - November 2019

Planning concerns	Councillor Stringer and myself have had a meeting with Philip Isbell, head of the planning department, to discuss the mis-handling of application DC/19/03309
New Corporate Plan	The Joint Strategic Plan (2016 – 2020) has been refreshed by the Cabinet members of both Councils. The new corporate plan includes both a vision and a mission statement and is summarised with a graphic representation. This was discussed at the October Council meeting, where the Green Group proposed an amendment to include an all-encompassing theme of environmental sustainability which should underpin all activity within the Council. This was rejected by the administration.
Environment Task Group	A cross party group of councillors from Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils has now formed and agreed a programme of meetings to address the Climate Emergency and hopefully come up with some strategies for the Councils to adopt in due course. (I am a member of this group)
Housing	Mid Suffolk are planning to deliver two completely affordable housing developments on the middle school sites in Needham Market and Stowmarket. Both developments will include homes for affordable rent, social rent and shared ownership. Over the last 4 years Mid Suffolk have built and acquired enough homes to just about keep pace with the loss of properties through Right to Buy.
Neighbourhood Plans	Both Thurston and Haughley Neighbourhood Plans have now been adopted by Mid Suffolk and form part of the District's planning policy.
General Election – December 12	The issue of the Notice of Election on Friday 8 th November starts a pre-election "purdah" period which restricts some activities and decision making. All MSDC Council and Cabinet meetings will be cancelled, as will Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings. Next meetings will be in January. Planning and licencing meetings will continue.
More free swimming for youngsters	MSDC will be running free swims over the Christmas holidays, from 20 December to 5 January inclusive, at Stowmarket and Stradbroke to help promote healthier and active lifestyles in the district.
Fly-tipper guilty of dumping waste in Stowupland	Mr Andrew Wall, who was living in Needham Market at the time of his offence, dumped 12 sacks of household waste in November 2018 in Stonebridge Lane, Stowupland. Following a guilty plea, the court fined Mr Wall £1,000, along with costs of £477.41 and a victim surcharge of £100.
Free recycling talks for residents	Suffolk's Recycling Centres offer free 'Reduce, Reuse and Recycle - not a Waste of time!' sessions to interested parties to learn more about ways to reduce waste and recycling. To book a visit from their Information and Education Manager any interested parties can email Sharon Lockhart: Sharon.lockhart@fccenvironment.co.uk . Further information is available on the Suffolk Recycling website

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