

**Report to Cotton Parish Council  
November 2018**

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**Planning**

Since the inspectors report into the msdc claimed 6.5 year land supply ruled that the figure judged against the updated NPPF was nearer 3.5 years, the issue of how many houses are being built within the borders of msdc become even more important,

Mid Suffolk has always had far more planning approvals than needed in the supply, it has just consistently failed to build the requisite amount per year, this does mean that knowing what the market is up to and what sites have started etc is vital.

To this end for over five years our group has called on msdc to have a member of staff within the council whose sole responsibility is to find out what is likely to be built where.

In the last budget finally it was agreed to recruit such a position, because the position was only offered for one year no one came forward to fulfil the role, consequently msdc have outsourced this work to a consultant and are using some of the existing planning officers to help fulfil this role.

Despite all this work msdc after being questioned are still falling back on government statistics to forecast future build out rates.

It is an interesting move that msdc officers are now beginning to quote Mendlesham Neighbourhood Plan policies in some decisions.

I am keeping a close eye on Brockford road applications and have requested these applications should go to a committee if the officers feel they recommend approval.

**Community Infrastructure levy**

We are now past the second round of CIL 123 list requests being looked at and allocated within msdc, as predicted a number of communities have benefitted from being “shovel ready” for their schemes and have been successful. One interesting area is how we make sure the schools buildings can fit in with a grant system that requires planning permissions to be in place before funds are available, in the past section 106 payments did not have this threshold.

**Shop front grant scheme**, mid Suffolk have just launched a scheme were shop owners can apply for a grant to improve their shopfronts in Stowmarket, this scheme is inspired by much of the work carried out by the Mary Portas review, we have successfully lobbied for the same level of grant to be offered to rural shops as well.

Andrew Stringer  
Mid Suffolk District Councillor – Mendlesham Ward  
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