**September 2019 District Councillor Report: Cotton Parish Council**

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| Bin collection day change | Thank you to everyone for their patience while we transitioned to our new collection rounds. I had a couple of calls from Cotton residents with missed bins, but hopefully things have settled down.  The changes were made to make the routes more fuel efficient and ensure there is capacity to meet future growth. Crews are bedding into their new routes with the support of the officer team.  If you have any questions about the changes, please visit the [FAQs on the MSDC website](https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/waste-services/bin-day-changes-faqs). |
| MSDC Finances | Mid Suffolk District Council’s first quarter finances show that the Council has a surplus of £180,000. This is caused primarily by a large increase in planning income, of £521,000, which is offset by increases in IT costs of £176,000, CIFCO and Gateway 14 expenses of £98,000 and a reduction in income of £169,000 from the PV panels. |
| Gateway 14 expansion | Mid Suffolk District Council’s subsidiary company Gateway 14 Ltd has completed the purchase of the Stowmarket East site adjacent to the Gateway 14 site. This means that the Council owns a block of land between A14 and the railway line to the east of A1120. |
| Draft Joint Local Plan Consultation | A number of public events have been held across the District to discuss the draft Joint Local Plan with residents, with 9 more planned this month before the consultation ends on 30 September. This included a drop-in event in Bacton Village Hall on 9 September from 2.30 to 6.30. which I hope some from Cotton attended.  The draft Joint Local Plan proposes a set of planning policies that will be used to inform decisions on planning applications and appeals over the next 18 years, up to 2036. Residents can take part online, or by visiting one of the remaining public consultation events. |
| Ipswich northern bypass consultation | It is well worth responding to this consultation even though the road (if built) would come nowhere near Mid-Suffolk – however some of the 10-15,000 new homes required to support the financing of the project could. |
| Locality Budget | This fund is available through me for local projects run by the Parish Council or other local groups, or for new projects. I have already agreed a grant towards the village hall repairs.  If any community group has a project which will be of value to the community, and needs some funds, please contact me for an application form or to have an informal discussion. |

Councillor Andy Mellen

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