

**Report to Cotton Parish Council
For Parish Council Meeting of Wednesday 27th September 2017**

Mid Suffolk On the Move :

Mid Suffolk was about to migrate the majority of its service provision to Endeavour house Ipswich, leaving a presence in Stowmarket as a publically accessible office in Mid Suffolk, as well as a “touch down point” in Eye, the proposed points in Bramford and Tostock did not get approval from the recent application for planning permission. There is obvious concern at this move from the public as well as the staff, especially as MSDC has changed the terms and conditions of all existing contracts, to cover the issue of travel and car parking. This change lead to stories in the press, relating to staff being handed out redundancy notices. To date the elected members have had a couple of emails from senior management and our full council and cabinet meetings cancelled due to lack of business.

Local Plan

The District council is now at the public consultation stage of the new Local Plan, this plan will “allocate” housing sites for the next 20 years, the adoption of the new plan will trigger the resetting of the lack of five year supply, as well as potentially distribute 1000’s of new homes. It is envisaged that the new plan will distribute these dwellings not just in the key settlements, although the towns look set to take up at least 1/3 rd of these houses. There will be an expectation that smaller countryside villages will also have an opportunity to have their settlement boundaries redrawn and be asked if some new small scale development would be possible.

Boundary Review

The review of boundaries triggered by Mid Suffolk is now in the hands of the Boundary Commission, an official suggested map has been sent by the council to the commission, our group from the Council has also sent in its own ideas for the new warding pattern, both submissions to date keep Wickham Skeith, Mendlesham and Cotton together, and alternate including either Wetheringsett or Finningham.