


Mid Suffolk District Councillor's Report – Palgrave Parish Council, December 2023

	<p>Mid Suffolk District Council's new <i>Cosy Homes</i> initiative was launched on 15th November. This scheme will invest £2m in helping households in the District to improve their insulation and energy efficiency - keeping homes warmer and reducing energy bills.</p> <p>The scheme is open to homeowners, private tenants and to landlords with fewer than five properties, who meet the eligibility requirements. For further details and to apply, see: https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/mid-suffolk-cosy-homes</p>
<p>Flood recovery</p>	<p>Reporting: Households or businesses that have not yet reported any flooding experienced during Storm Babet are encouraged to do so as soon as possible, via Suffolk County Council's reporting tool: https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/</p> <p>(To make a report: select 'Drainage and Flooding', and then 'Flooding inside a residential property' or 'Flooding inside a commercial business'.)</p> <p>Funding: The Government has announced financial support for eligible flooded homes and businesses, including a £500 grant to help with immediate costs, plus reductions on Council Tax or business rates. Mid Suffolk District Council is working with Suffolk County Council to distribute funds. For details see: https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/storm-babet-information</p>
<p>Planning: Adoption of Joint Local Plan Part 1</p>	<p>On November 20th Mid Suffolk District Council voted to adopt the new Joint Local Plan (JLP) Part 1. The JLP sets out a planning framework to guide development in the districts over the period to 2037. The JLP Part 1 provides a set of strategic and local development management policies against which planning applications and appeals will be assessed.</p> <p>At the same meeting, a revised 'Local Development Scheme' was also approved. This scheme sets out the planned timetable for the Joint Local Plan Part 2, and for a range of Supplementary Planning Documents (which will provide additional guidance on a number of issues, including biodiversity and renewable energy).</p> <p>Both the Joint Local Plan Part 1, and the Local Development Scheme schedule, can be found at: https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/joint-local-plan</p>
<p>Bike maintenance stand in Eye</p>	<p>MSDC is installing a new bike maintenance stand in Cross Street in Eye, alongside a new electric bike charging point. The stand provides a range of tools for bike repair and maintenance. It is hoped this will be a useful resource for both resident and visiting cyclists. Similar stands have already been installed in Debenham, Needham Market and Stowmarket, and have been well received and utilised.</p>
<p>Cycle path upgrades</p>	<p>Mid Suffolk District Council is seeking to increase the number of safe bike routes in the District, helping to link communities together and encourage more active travel. As part of this, MSDC is keen to identify paths such as bridle ways that could, potentially, be upgraded to allow use by cyclists. Any suggestions for suitable paths would be very welcome: please email Tim.</p>
<p>Locality Award</p>	<p>The Locality Award assigned to your District Councillor, closes for applications for the current financial year on 24 March 2024. If you have future projects benefitting the community which could be funded/part-funded by a grant please contact the Parish Council in the first instance.</p>
<p>Solar Farm Planning Applications</p>	<p>In response to communication from the Parish Council's Chair, District Cllr Andrew Stringer, Cabinet Member for Heritage, Planning and Infrastructure at Mid Suffolk District Council has offered to meet with Palgrave Parish Council to discuss concerns arising from these controversial applications. It is my understanding an invitation in the New Year is pending.</p>

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