


# District Councillor Report: Palgrave Parish Council

October 2023

<b>State of the District Report</b>	This is the first State of the District report produced by Mid Suffolk District Council. It tells the story of our district through data and insight across a range of themes spanning the economy, the environment, resident health and wellbeing, community issues and housing. See attached PDF document.
 <b>YOUR Community Your SAY!</b>	Mid Suffolk District Council has launched a consultation process to get residents' feedback on the planned priorities for the District. We are hoping to engage with as wide a section of the district as possible, including some groups which seldom get involved, as well as businesses and Town and Parish Councils. There is an online survey gives you the opportunity to have your say about our initial ideas - see PDF document and link below. Consultation ends 15 November 2023.  <a href="https://baberghandmidsuffolk.citizenlab.co/en-GB/projects/setting-the-future-direction-of-your-councils">https://baberghandmidsuffolk.citizenlab.co/en-GB/projects/setting-the-future-direction-of-your-councils</a>
<b>BMSDC Joint Local Plan</b>	The Planning Inspectorate have completed the inspection of the Joint Local Plan part 1 and reported that it is 'sound', so it now needs to be formally adopted by Full Council. Planning policy officers are now able to focus on Part 2 of the plan which will include the housing allocations. All the documentation is available on the website. The details of this may all seem rather dull but they are vital for our ability to better control the planning process.  <a href="http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/jointlocalplan">http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/jointlocalplan</a>
<b>Help for older residents</b>	MSDC is supporting Silver Sunday Campaigns to help tackle loneliness for older residents. Events are being held in Eye, Stowmarket and Needham Market over the next few weeks to bring young people into care homes – but involving the wider community - for sing-alongs, games and social activities.
<b>Ready Steady Rent</b>	Dozens of people in temporary accommodation Mid Suffolk will be helped to break the cycle of homelessness thanks to a new training scheme. This will involve interactive learning sessions to potential tenants, helping to build their confidence and skills around basic domestic maintenance, budgeting and the everyday responsibilities of a home.
<b>Rural transport</b>	MSDC has released a ringfenced £820k budget for rural bus services. The plan is to implement a 'grant' scheme for existing transport operators to enhance existing rural transport provision with set routes and use more sustainable transport options where appropriate.
<b>Brome Recycling Facility</b>	Further to a request from the Parish Council at its September meeting, I have had productive discussions with the Waste Services Manager at MSDC and the operator of the Recycling Facility. We discussed operating hours, pricing structure, other existing arrangements and constraints and future development potentials. I will update the Parish Council at the November meeting after further discussions with officers.
<b>Palgrave Arts Festival</b>	I was delighted to join MSDC Chair Cllr Roland Warboys at the launch of Palgrave's inaugural Arts Festival on Saturday 7 October. I've taken the opportunity to see the super artwork produced especially for the Festival by children at Palgrave Primary School, participate in the bell ringing experience on 11 October and attended a lunchtime acoustic set by Sadie Catton in the church on 12 October. All events have been well attended and are a credit to the PAF Committee, exhibitors and performers.
<b>PACE Solar Development</b>	I attended the re-convened Planning Committee considering this application on 12 October to support objectors to the scheme. The Committee's decision to accept the

	<p>Planning Officers recommendation to approve will come as a huge disappointment to many residents. It is of note that conditions imposed in the planning consent make longer lasting (for the duration of the scheme) mitigation for nesting skylarks, preserve in perpetuity the planting regimens imposed to provide screening etc. and provision has been made to compel the developer to reduce the upper height of all panels to 2.5m (from 3m). Discussions between the developer and community (via a Parish Liaison Scheme) may now take place to refine other arrangements for impact mitigation.</p>
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Cllr Tim Weller [tim.weller@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:tim.weller@midsuffolk.gov.uk)