

## Mid Suffolk District Councillor's Report – Palgrave Parish Council

MSDC update	<p>Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC) held its Annual Meeting in Ipswich on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. A new administration was formed, with a cabinet of 6 Councillors.</p> <p>Cllr Andy Mellen was appointed as the Leader of the Council, with Cllr Rachel Eburne as Deputy Leader; Cllr Rowland Warboys was appointed as Chair, with Cllr Dan Pratt as Vice-chair.</p> <p>Cllr Mellen outlined key priorities – helping communities with the cost of living, a focus on affordable homes, and the need for services to keep pace with new development. He also highlighted the need to put the climate crisis at the heart of the Council's decision making.</p>
NP Funding Update	<p>The government's grant scheme for Neighbourhood Planning work closed in March 2023.</p> <p><b>For 2023/24 year:</b> It is 'highly likely' that the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) will announce new funding for Neighbourhood Planning work for this 2023/24 financial year, but there is no news as yet. For updates see: <a href="https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/">https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/</a></p> <p>Applications can still be made for grants for technical support packages e.g. for housing needs assessments – but decisions on these have been paused until the new funding is announced.</p> <p><b>2024 onwards:</b> Details of any funding for Neighbourhood Planning work are not known yet.</p> <p><b>Other Options:</b> Depending on what the Parish would like to achieve, there may be other approaches to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MSDC's 'People and Place' pilot project: this project is trialling a lighter-touch version of neighbourhood plans. These can be 'stand alone', but they don't prevent developing a full Neighbourhood Plan later on if wanted: <a href="https://www.babergh.gov.uk/planning/people-and-place-team/">https://www.babergh.gov.uk/planning/people-and-place-team/</a></li> <li>- Other approaches might solve particular needs (eg if affordable housing is a priority – options include applications for a 'rural exception' site, or Community Land Trusts.)</li> </ul>
MSDC Grants	<p>There are some upcoming deadlines for MSDC's community grants programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Community development grants</b> of up to £20,000 can be used for both capital and revenue costs for local initiatives and activities, where gaps have been identified. Applications for the next round close <u>23rd June 2023</u>.</li> <li>○ <b>Capital grants</b> to help community groups to make repairs and improvements to village halls, play areas etc. Awards are up to £10,000, covering up to 100% of the project cost. The next window for applications is: <u>31st July to 29th September 2023</u>.</li> <li>○ <b>The Locality fund</b> – details and application process to be announced soon.</li> </ul> <p>Grant Officers can provide information and advice to groups wishing to apply for these funds. Details of these and other funds can be found here: <a href="https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/communities/grants-and-funding/babergh-and-mid-suffolk-district-council-funding/">https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/communities/grants-and-funding/babergh-and-mid-suffolk-district-council-funding/</a></p>
Planning	<p>There is a new schedule for MSDC planning committees: The first daytime planning committee will be held on Wed 21<sup>st</sup> June and then every 4 weeks. In between those main meetings provisional meetings will be scheduled for 17:30 on the intermediate Wednesdays.</p>

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