

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

Mid Suffolk District Council update	The July MSDC Full Council meeting was held in the Blackbourne Centre in Elmswell. Council Leader Andy Mellen spoke about short term plans. These included holding more Council meetings in the District (to make meetings more accessible to residents), making homes more energy efficient, and working to improve rural transport.
Solar farms	Leader Andy Mellen gave a keynote address at the Local Government Association conference at Bournemouth in July. Cllr Mellen suggested the Government should provide a clear National Framework for the development of solar farms – one that balances delivering renewable energy, alongside food production and protecting our valuable landscape.
National Grid pylons	National Grid has launched its latest public consultation on plans for the Norfolk to Tilbury high power line, which spans Mid Suffolk District. At the July MSDC Full Council meeting, it was agreed that the Council would write to the Government to object to the scheme, due to its impact on local landscapes and communities.
Pride In Your Place awards launched	The cabinet member for Environment, Culture & Wellbeing (me) has launched the Pride In Your Place awards, to support improvements in litter-picking, sign cleaning, graffiti removal, and the maintenance/enhancement of open public spaces. These projects will complement routine grounds and maintenance work already carried out by the Council and partner authorities. For further details see: www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/communities/grants-and-funding/babergh-and-mid-suffolk-district-council-funding/
Holiday activities	A range of activities for children and young people were funded by MSDC during the summer holidays. These included the Fun Day in Eye on July 25 th .
MSDC Community Grants	MSDC has a rolling grants programme to fund activity by community organisations. Forthcoming deadlines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Capital grants – Up to £10,000 for repairs and improvements to community buildings, play areas etc. Closing date <u>Sep 29th 2023</u>. ○ Pride In Your Place – Closing date <u>Oct 31st 2023</u> ○ Community development grants – Up to £20,000 for both capital and revenue costs for local initiatives and activities. Closing date <u>Oct 31st 2023</u>. For full details see: www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/communities/grants-and-funding/babergh-and-mid-suffolk-district-council-funding/
Diss & District Neighbourhood Plan	Progress on the D&DNP has moved to Local Referendum stage with the public referendum being held on Thursday 28 September 2023. The question on the ballot paper will be binary: <i>"Do you want South Norfolk Council and Mid-Suffolk District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Diss and District to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"</i> . Details of the referendum and the D&DNP itself are available on both Mid Suffolk and South Norfolk District Council's websites.

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