

District Councillor Report: Elmswell Parish Council

October 2025

Local Government Review	At last month's council meeting the business case for the district and borough's proposal for 3 unitary authorities across Suffolk was agreed. A full website on the 3-unitary model, including the proposed map effecting these changes, is available here: Welcome – Three Councils For Suffolk . There was an interesting debate from both sides of the Council Chamber. The business case was submitted to the Government who will be reviewing both this submission and the County Council's. The Government proposal should be published in January ready for public consultation. In the meantime, district council officers will continue to work on LGR.
Care Home Appeal decision	The planning appeal for the Care Home development on School Road has been dismissed. The Inspector's report focussing mainly on the heritage issues relating to the setting of St John's Church and the Almshouses as viewed from Parnell Lane. Also policies from Elmswell Neighbourhood Plan were instrumental.
Grants and funding for community organisations	The Council's grants and funding team are hosting summits in both districts in November. These are designed to help voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise organisation access the funding they need. The Mid Suffolk summit will be held at the Blackbourne Centre, Elmswell 9am till 2.30 pm. Anyone wishing to attend must book a place in advance https://cas.aidecrm.co.uk/booking/conference-booking-form?event_id=3743
School Green Skills Summit	The second Schools Green Skills Summit will be held on 10 th October. Around 90 students from across 11 schools in Babergh and Mid Suffolk will be involved in a COP-style event to encourage a better understanding of how climate change can be addressed. More details can be found online. https://www.babergh.gov.uk/w/babergh-and-mid-suffolk-councils-schools-green-skills-summit
Upcoming changes to bin collections	Suffolk Recycles is currently running a social media campaign to prepare residents for the upcoming changes to bin collections in the area. It is important for us all to ensure that people get the correct information so please direct them to the website https://www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk/recycling-composting/recycling-at-home/better-recycling where the facts are clearly laid out.
32,000 solar panels as part of Solar Together Suffolk Project	The Solar Together Suffolk scheme is now open for free 2025 registrations. The group-buying programme enables Suffolk residents to buy solar panels and battery storage, helping to save money on their energy bills and cut carbon emissions. More information can be found on Mid Suffolk District Council's website: 32,000 solar panels and counting for Solar Together Suffolk project - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk
Reintroduction of Living Well in Winter grant	Funding from Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils has been granted for a third consecutive year of the Living Well in Winter grant, with grants of up to £2,000 being able to be applied for. More information can be found here: Grant returns to tackle winter loneliness - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk
Councillor drop-in sessions	Jen and Sarah are regularly available for residents to come to meet for a chat. Next sessions are as follows. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 4th Nov 10:00 – 12:00 at Wesley Café, Elmswell • Wednesday 10th Dec 10:00 – 12:00 at Green Wolf Café, Woolpit

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