

District Councillor Report: Elmswell Parish Council

February 2026

Devolution and local government reform – election cancellation	<p>The County Council elections planned for May 2026 have been cancelled and we can assume there will never be any further County Council elections.</p> <p>So as predicted we have ended up in a position where the biggest change in local government in a generation will all be implemented with virtually no public involvement and with all elections over the period cancelled.</p>
Support for Ipswich' bid for City of Culture 2029.	<p>Mid Suffolk Councillors unanimously agreed to support to Ipswich becoming the City of Culture in 2029 . The status is a competition run by the Government's Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) every four years, with a £ 10 million prize.</p> <p>The government's Department for Culture, Media and Sport will then longlist up to eight bids, awarding each a grant of £60,000 to support them with developing and strengthening their full application over a three-to-four-month period from February until May/June 2026.</p>
Community Nature Recovery Grants	<p>The New Community Nature recovery grants were launched earlier this month. Community groups are able to apply for grants up to £50,000 for projects such as expanding wildlife corridors, tree planting, creating wildflower meadow and other environmental initiatives to safeguard natural spaces for future generations. More details of the grants can be found on the website https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/boosting-biodiversity-by-funding-nature-in-your-neighbourhood</p>
Planning application for housing on Warren Lane, Elmswell	<p>The planning application for 27 homes accessed from Warren Lane, Elmswell was determined by planning committee on 11th February. The application was approved with a Grampian condition to ensure that the footpath/cycle path connection to Cresmedow Way, is guaranteed.</p>
Better Recycling update.	<p>A leaflet explaining the changed to waste collection has been delivered to all homes in Mid Suffolk. More items such as tetra-pak, plastic bags and film will be able to be recycled and there will be a weekly food waste collection too. Residents will begin to receive their new bins over the coming months ready for the new collections to start in June 2026.</p>
Locality Funding	<p>We were delighted to award all the funds in our locality budget 2025/26. The following projects in Woolpit were supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New scoring system for Harry Huson bridge club • Contribution towards the surfacing of the path between Ashfield Gardens and the Blackbourne. • Venue hire for Elmswell Over 55s. • New kit for Elmswell Carpet Bowls club. • Art display boards for Elmswell Art Club • Advertising and magnifiers for the launch of the Repair Café/ <p>2026-27 locality funding budget will be launched in the spring.</p>
Councillor drop-in sessions	<p>Jen and Sarah are regularly available for residents to come to meet for a chat. Next sessions are as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 1st April 10:00 – 12:00 at Wesley Café, Elmswell • Tuesday 28th April 10:00 – 12:00 at Wesley Café, Elmswell

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