

District Councillor Report: Elmswell Parish Council

June 2026

<p>Better Recycling – new bin collections.</p>	<p>The new bin collections began last week. There are still a few ongoing issues but work is ongoing to ensure that all households have their new bins by the end of next week. The new operatives are still learning the job and the rounds, and there has been some weekend working to ensure that all food bins have been collected.</p> <p>There have been several calls to the customer service desk and they too have got new staff. Telephone waiting times have now reduced from over 30 mins to about 10 mins.</p> <p>It is a big change for everyone and on the whole good progress is being made.</p>
<p>Local Government Reorganisation</p>	<p>A new website has very recently gone live, called <i>Future Suffolk</i>. This has been jointly created by Suffolk’s county, district and borough councils and provides clear information and updates about LGR in Suffolk - www.suffolk grhub.gov.uk. Content includes an interactive map of provisional ward boundaries, timeline, and details about the 2027 shadow authority elections. This is a temporary website that aims to communicate the changes ahead in a clear and transparent way. It provides a single point of contact for residents to submit questions and comments via completion of the Contact Us form - Contact - Future Suffolk. All the districts and boroughs have now agreed to form voluntary joint committees who will work together preparing for the new unitary authorities. The new Reform County Council are fighting the Government decision to go ahead with the reorganisation via Judicial Review, but officers continue working towards LGR until we hear otherwise.</p>
<p>Pride in your place grants reopened</p>	<p>Applications for Mid Suffolk District Council’s Pride in Your Place grant have reopened, offering funding to projects that enable community groups to enhance their local area and environment, explore local identity and heritage, and engage in activities such as community clean ups.</p>
<p>Joint Local Plan</p>	<p>Both Babergh and Mid Suffolk have approved that formal notice to commence preparation of a new joint local plan. This will be published before the end of May and will include a timetable, and that the statutory Scoping Consultation will commence in June 2026 and run for a period of 8 weeks.</p>
<p>Stowmarket Innovation Gateway</p>	<p>Construction work on a ‘transformational’ state-of-the-art skills and innovation centre at Gateway 14 in Stowmarket is complete – and it is ready to open its doors this summer. The project has also been delivered in partnership with Universities of Suffolk and Essex, West Suffolk College, Suffolk New College and Colchester Institute who will be delivering a programme of professional development courses to address the region’s skills gap.</p>
<p>Mid Suffolk Youth Council</p>	<p>The Mid Suffolk Youth Council is taking shape following the election of its first members. Students at Debenham High School took part in a mock election to elect three of their peers.</p>
<p>Locality budget</p>	<p>The 2026-27 Locality budgets have now been launched so we would love to receive applications for funding from any community group in Woolpit and Elmswell. Details can be found on the website https://midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/locality-awards . It is usually a good idea to contact one of us to discuss your application before submitting in.</p>
<p>Councillor drop-in sessions</p>	<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"> • Thursday 18th June 10:00 – 12:00 at Green Wolf Café, Woolpit • Thursday 9th July 10:00 – 12:00 at Green Wolf Café, Woolpit • Thursday 13th August 10:00 – 12:00 at Green Wolf Café, Woolpit

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