

# District Councillor Report: Elmswell Parish Council

## March 2026

<p><b>Devolution and local government reform.</b></p>	<p>There has been a Government U-turn and the County Council elections are now going ahead on 7<sup>th</sup> May. The pre-election moratorium period will begin on 27<sup>th</sup> March. During that time Councillors are advised not to publicly report their views on controversial issues. Scheduled district council meetings will still be going ahead as MSDC takes a ‘business as usual’ approach but controversial issues are likely to be withdrawn from any meeting agenda.</p>
<p><b>Council budget 2026-27</b></p>	<p>On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February Full Council will meet to discuss and agree the budget for 2026-27. The proposal is to raise Council Tax by 2.99%. The budget assumes a gross expenditure of almost £40M (up about 15% from the current year) and gross income of £43M (up about 16% from current year). For the Housing Revenue account there is a proposal for a 4.8% (CPI + 1%) increase in social rents, and a 4.5% increase in garage rents. Utility charges and service charges in sheltered accommodation is continuing to increase to reach full recovery over 4 years.</p>
<p><b>Site assessments for Joint Local Plan</b></p>	<p>The Councils published a <b>map</b> of all sites submitted during these Call for Sites exercises. Friday <a href="https://www.babergh.gov.uk/web/babergh/w/call-for-sites">https://www.babergh.gov.uk/web/babergh/w/call-for-sites</a> and <a href="https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/web/babergh/w/call-for-sites">https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/web/babergh/w/call-for-sites</a> This is <b>not</b> a list of preferred development locations. Planning policy officers will begin work to assess all these sites for their suitability for development and inclusion in the joint local plan.</p>
<p><b>Better Recycling update.</b></p>	<p>The new bins are now arriving in parts of the district. Every home across Mid Suffolk will be receiving a new blue lidded bin and a smaller food waste bin during the next 2-months. The blue-lidded bin will be for glass bottles, jars, tetra pak, plastic bags, cans and plastic bottles. Paper and card will go in the existing green-lidded bin. The new bins will not be collected until June.</p>
<p><b>Armed Forces Day, Stowmarket 27<sup>th</sup> June</b></p>	<p>Plans are beginning to take shape for Armed Forces Day, which will be held in Stowmarket on 27<sup>th</sup> June, supported by both Mid Suffolk District Council and Stowmarket Town Council. Armed Forces Day is a chance to show your support for the men and women who make up the Armed Forces community. There will be a number of attractions such as climbing wall, assault course, and hopefully a helicopter from Wattisham. It is shaping up to be a great family day out. Please support if you can.</p>
<p><b>Councillor drop-in sessions</b></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"> <li>• Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 10:00 – 12:00 at Wesley Café, Elmswell</li> <li>• Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 10:00 – 12:00 at Wesley Café, Elmswell</li> </ul>

Cllr Sarah Mansel  
[sarah.mansel@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.mansel@midsuffolk.gov.uk)  
 07860 829517

Cllr Jen Overett  
[jen.overett@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:jen.overett@midsuffolk.gov.uk)  
 07928 512591