District Councillor Report: Elmswell Parish Council

September 2026

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)	The Secretary of State has recently announced that the process of reorganising Suffolk's four districts, one borough & one county council into three Unitary councils is on indefinite 'hold' and will now be subject to further review. Huge amounts of work and investment have been involved in meeting Government's detailed requirements and tight deadlines in preparing for these changes. The result is a period of uncertainty ahead for all of us as residents, and disappointment and frustration for council staff and elected councillors. Unitary elections, due in May '27, are now on hold, but district elections (which Govt had delayed to May '28) are now brought forward, once again, to next year. As far as we know, parish elections will go ahead as planned. There may well be further changes we are not yet aware of, but as always Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC) will remain focused on service delivery, and on support to communities and businesses across the district.
A14 clean up on-going	The team from contractor Triplex recently collected 250 bags of waste (weighing 2.3 tonnes) during a four-night clean-up operation along a 20-mile stretch of the A14 (between junctions 51 and 52). This was timed to take advantage of planned National Highways road closures, to minimise disruption and avoid additional lane closure costs. Further clean-ups are planned.
Local housing for local people	MSDC Cabinet agreed to introduce a Parish Connection Priority for new affordable and social rented homes secured through S106 agreements.
Gateway 14 news	The Innovation Centre café is now open to the public from 9am - 4pm. Room hire and hot-desking are also available. The building is well-worth a look and has generous parking facilities https://stowmarketinnovationgateway.com/cafe/
New sports facilities at Chilton Fields	The new 3G sports pitch and athletic track at Stowmarket High School were completed recently as part of the SHELF project. This received funding from the FA, Premier League and Football Foundation as well as MSDC. Everyone Active will be managing bookings from residents across the district (outside of school hours) from October onwards.
Financial assistance for heat pumps	Grants of up £9,000 are available for households to convert older oil or gas heating systems to Heat Pumps. Suffolk residents can check their eligibility and register their interest on the Switch Together website.
Pride in your place grants	MSDC's Pride in Your Place grants remain open for applications. Funding is on offer to projects that bolster community pride and celebrate the heritage of towns and villages across the district.

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Sustainable Communities Food Fund	This is a £50K fund, open till 31st March '27 (or until funds run out). It aims to back community-based food and drink businesses and projects, in particular small-scale and start-up primary food producers - such as fruit and vegetable growers, bakers and artisanal producers – and also cultural venues, pubs, and food banks. Grants range from £250 to £5,000. More information on this and other Mid Suffolk grants are available at https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/community-funding.
New Council Housing	The keys have been handed over to MSDC for 67 new affordable properties in Bramford, built by developer Bellway as part of their Section 106 contribution. The homes include a mix of one- and two-bedroom flats, two-bedroom bungalows, and three-bedroom family houses, available for both rent and shared ownership.
Locality budget	We continue to welcome applications for funding from local community groups (generally between £250 and £2K). Contact us to discuss and/or for an application form. Further details at: https://midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/locality-awards
Monthly councillor drop-in sessions	Residents are always very welcome to come and meet us to discuss concerns, or just for a chat. Next sessions are: • Tuesday 29th September 10 – 12 Wesley Café, Elmswell • Tuesday 27th October 10 – 12 Wesley Café, Elmswell • Tuesday 24th November 10 – 12 Wesley Café, Elmswell • Thursday 10th December 10 – 12 Green Wolf Cafe, Woolpit

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