District Councillor Report: Elmswell Parish Council
October 2026

Planning reforms	The new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) came into force in September. There remains a presumption in favour of sustainable development, as the Government are hoping to promote housing growth. There seems to be a greater emphasis on climate change and sustainability but 'settlement boundaries' have disappeared and the new policies just refers to settlements. There is also a new National Scheme of delegation which restricts Local Planning Authorities as to which applications can be determined by committee. MSDC has created their own scheme of delegation to comply with this new National Scheme. This will be brought next week's Council for formal adoption. At the September meeting of MSDC it was agreed that the Leader write to the Government outlining its concerns over some of the changes.
MUGA at Stowmarket High School	Plans for a new multi-use games area at Stowmarket High School have been given the go-ahead after Mid Suffolk District Council agreed to fund the stalled project. This is part of the SHELF project to improve sporting facilities in Stowmarket.
Woolpit – Elmswell community path	At the September Cabinet meeting it was agreed to extend the time limit for the CIL funding for the Woolpit – Elmswell Community path The £3M funds had been agreed previously but SCC have not made sufficient progress to date, but now the team do seem to be moving this project forwards. Further CIL funds were also agreed for other projects across the district. More information can be found on the website. Community projects receive cash boost - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk
Eezybike scheme receives national recognition	A partnership between Mid Suffolk District Council and e-bike provider Eezybike has been shortlisted for two national awards, recognising the innovative work done in the districts to create active and sustainable travel options. Councils' e-bike partnership receives national recognition - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk
Locality budget	The 2026-27 Locality budgets are now available 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.
Councillor drop-in sessions	Jen and Sarah are regularly available for residents to come to meet for a chat. Next sessions are as follows. • Tues 27th October 10:00 – 12:00 at Wesley Café, Elmswell • Tues 24th November 10:00 – 12:00 at Wesley Café, Elmswell • Thues 10th December 10:00 – 12:00 Green Wolf Café, Woolpit

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