**Parish Report – July 2023**

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**Strategic Housing Team**

Looking at deployment of affordable Community led Housing, picking up some previous work undertaken in Felsham

**Joint Local Plan Update**

Mid Suffolk / Babergh have submitted their final report to the Inspectors, this followed a round of consultation following updating after initial comments back from the Inspectors. The plan does NOT include specific allocations of land for housing or employment these will form part 2 of the plan.

It is anticipated the inspectors report will be available between 2 – 4 months and then will come to full council to be formally adopted (November?)

Work will then commence on the detail of land allocation to undertake needs assessment for Employment, Gypsy and Traveller and housing to form part of 2 – It is not anticipated there will any considerable in Mid Suffolk.

Once part 1 of the plan is adopted then it will place strength to restrict development to within settlement boundaries.

I raised the concern that adequate affordable housing was revisited from the initial draft plan.

**Norwich to Tilbury Update**

Pre submission non-statuary consultation stage of the plan, this is a second consultation now has more technical detail on it consultation live until 21 August 2023. The council will provide a response that will be passed by the Cabinet.

Public meeting taking place in Elmswell, and online meetings available.

A motion is being put to both council that they are opposed to the proposed plans and they feel that the Strategic Offshore options have not been fully explored.

There is an obligation to engage with the developer in order to receive the best outcomes if the overland option does materialise.

Discussion is in place regarding the compensation and the form this takes alongside possible additional funds for community projects.

Councillor Mellon put forward a motion to write to the minster in respect to the Norwich to Tilbury pylons

**Building Services and Compliance Update:**

The regulations regarding social housings have changed considerably following Grenfell in 2021 production a large number of safety orders and regulations. This also heralds an IDA (an in depth assessment) to ensure compliance). The team meet frequently with the Regulator (monthly) following initial breach of 2 of the 5 areas that assessed. Home Standards – noncompliance with Decent Home Standard. Action has been taken to address this with securing new contractors and greater monitoring of progress.

The other area was Tenant Satisfaction measures this was implemented in the past 12 months – currently at 68% for Q1 (combined figure for Babergh and Mid Suffolk) Looking to spend capital funds in consultation with local community for improvements, and other activities.

**Corporate Plan Update:**

Looking to refresh corporate plan to reflect current challenges (last plan 2019) a number of channels feed into this ‘Annual Residents’ Survey live 20th July 2023. Community / Staff and Stakeholder engagement workshops.

State of the District Report available in September, draft updated plan stating clear priorities of the District.

**Feedback from full council meeting 19 July**

Leader of the Council set out some initial actions that they wanted put in place.

Clean up litter – MSDC staff to be involved in this and encourage parish and town councils to undertake this **‘Pride in your Place’** launch next month

Closer to the Community – undertaking meetings in the District – the Cabinet met at the John Peel Centre and Council meeting took place in Elmswell’s Backbourne Centre

Improved access to the Council- Updated website and Improvements to the telephony

Improvements to homes for energy efficiency - £2M set aside – subside home insulation in greatest need – hope to launch letter this year

Tackle rural Isolation, looking at public transport options – Electric buses and other forms of transport

More Say in what we do – participation by residents in spending and shaping options – more public forums

More Solar farms in the District – awaiting clarity from National

Water Summit

Take serious action on carbon reduction – review existing plans

Town Centre – initiatives – way finding strategy

Public reporting performance to the public – objects – improve response to reporting damage

Engage with young people – work with council officers

There was a feedback on the review of the delivery of the recent Parish and District Council elections’, it was recognised there were a number of errors made and recommendations have been put forward to address these.

**Thursday 7th September Tour of Britain cycle race through some areas in the DIstrict.**