

## **1. 2015/16 budget**

The budget for 2015/16 was approved at last week's meeting of Mid Suffolk District Council. The main features are as follows:

- Government funding (Revenue Support Grant + Baseline Business Rates) reducing by £0.7m
- Further New Homes Bonus (NHB) allocation of £2.2m for 2015/16, and an estimated £0.5m Government S31 grant (relating to business rates).
- £0.3m will be used towards Programme Development resources, i.e. to design and implement projects in the Strategic Plan, and £0.2m will be transferred to the Business Rates Equalisation Reserve to protect against future uncertainties/losses
- An estimated balance from NHB/business rates grant of £2m will be transferred to the Transformation Fund for new projects/investment strategy, i.e. with a view to investing provided it can be done so to earn a sufficient return
- There will be a minimal increase in Council Tax (equivalent to 5p per week for a Band D property) to support the Council's overall financial position

## **2. Recycling bring sites**

Following a tender, the Suffolk Waste Partnership has awarded the contract for the servicing of all recycling bring sites across the county to Indigo Waste Services, which will start this summer. Indigo already has contracts with Norfolk Civic Amenity sites, and individual parish councils across Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. The contract will replace what up to now have only been local agreements, so should provide an enhanced service across the whole county. Improvements and investments will be made to all bring sites in the county, and a communications campaign will be launched in the coming months.

## **3. Litter**

We have experienced one of the worst winters for roadside litter. The cleansing team have been concentrating on the A140 and will start shortly on the A143. The A14 team will be bolstered by additional staff. On a more positive note, there has been a reduction in requests to remove flytipped waste and dog fouling (219 incidents compared with 292 the previous year).

## **4. 2015 Friends Life Women's Cycle Tour, June 17-21**

Suffolk is to host the first stage, from Bury St Edmunds to Aldeburgh, with the route passing through several villages in Mid Suffolk. The race will involve 100 of the world's top women cyclists, and it is expected that it will attract a considerable number of visitors (as did the final stage of last year's race), which should provide a welcome boost to the local economy and highlight the attractions Suffolk has to offer.