

## District Councillors' Report for Parish Councils – June 2021

Annual Meeting	<p>The Annual Meeting of the District Council took place, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May, this was the first face to face meeting of the Council for over a year.</p> <p>It had to be held at Wherstead Park, as this was the only venue that could accommodate this amount of people at Social Distances.</p> <p>The meeting elected the Chairman of the Council and Committees for the next year, and almost all decisions went through on the Chairman's casting vote as the council is technically "hung" with 17 councillor's (12 green 5 libDem) in one group and 17 in another (16 conservative 1 independent) the conservatives refuse to work together as they will not amend their policy on outside investments and having an office back in Mid Suffolk.</p>
Enforcement & Heritage service review	<p>Mid Suffolk are working through a review of how we conduct our Heritage and Enforcement service, this move should lead to no obvious changes from the public front of house perspective, but should lead to a faster, and more informal approach, leading to a greater understanding of the process with more realistic outcomes for all.</p>
Budget Underspend Workshops	<p>The District Council has for many years had consistent underspends on its circa £9000,000.00 annual budget, this has led to a £4000,000.00 reserve that the Council's administration has decided to parcel up into £1000,000.00 pots and look at how this should be spent.</p> <p>Workshops have been organised to ask elected members for ideas on areas that could be funded. I have my own views on this policy, but if you have any ideas that you would like sent in please let me know.</p>
Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan	<p>The Mid Suffolk &amp; Babergh Joint Local Plan has now been formally passed to the Inspector for examination. This is another step towards having an up-to-date Local Plan, The appointed inspector has now set out the timetable for inspection and this is happening later this month, a lot earlier than expected.</p> <p>On the one hand this is good news as the plan could be "made" earlier than hoped, the downside is all 1400 objections need their replies to be written up and put before the inspector, within the next two weeks.</p>

Councillor Andrew Stringer

[andrew.stringer@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.stringer@midsuffolk.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01449 780339