

District Councillors' Parish Report: - October 2021

<p>MSDC Council meeting</p>	<p>The full Council meeting was on 23rd September with a very full agenda due to the cancellation of the July meeting. Items included: a No Casino motion, senior staff pay review, CIFCO business plan, changes to Neighbourhood Plan procedures, wellbeing strategy, wildlife friendly streetlighting motion and a motion on proposed voter ID. The meeting adjourned after 4.5 hours meaning the last two items were not heard.</p> <p>The senior staff pay review was withdrawn after Babergh District Council voted against it two days earlier. The proposal was to significantly increase senior staff pay without a review of a majority of staff.</p> <p>The Wellbeing Strategy is very welcome and received unanimous approval.</p>
<p>Council: No Casino policy</p>	<p>At the meeting, Councillors defeated the Administration motion which was asking <i>not</i> to have a "No Casino" policy. The majority wanted to have a No Casino policy meaning we do not welcome casinos in Mid Suffolk, giving certainty to developers and residents.</p>
<p>Council: CIFCO</p>	<p>The business plan for CIFCO, the Council's investment arm, was discussed. The commercial property portfolio is from an investment of £100 million by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils in which each council had £5 million equity. This equity is now at zero although expected to improve over the next 10 years. There is currently a book value of £83 million on this portfolio. The business plan was approved by a margin of six votes.</p>
<p>Council: Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>A review the health provision in and around Stowmarket – particularly regarding the current shortage of GPs and lack of dental services.</p> <p>The Scrutiny Committee is currently reviewing rural transport such as access to bus services.</p>
<p>Joint Local Plan examination</p>	<p>The public hearing for the draft Joint Local Plan has re-started and all sessions are online via Microsoft Teams. For details on how to take part, go to www.midsuffolk.gov.uk and search for Joint Local Plan.</p> <p>Various witnesses have been contributing to this including Myself – notably on housing and environment issues.</p> <p>Once complete, a report from the Planning Inspectors will then be provided to the Council for Mid Suffolk to act on.</p>
<p>Planning updates</p>	<p>The planning appeal for the 8 plots in Brockford road that have appealed against their enforcement action are due to be heard beginning on October the 12 and are due to run for four days.</p> <p>The neighbourhood plan process has now been slightly simplified, the council has withdrawn the need for the cabinet and council needing to vote on these plans, this will mean the once plans pass inspection they can proceed directly to referendum, and if a referendum is a majority yes, then the chief executive can simply approve.</p>