

District Councillors' Report: Thorndon Parish Council - May 2022

Cycling and Walking	Mid Suffolk has created a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) to encourage active travel and help reduce the effects of climate change. It sets out the council's approach to improving and developing the local cycling and walking network across the district over the next ten years, to support residents in shifting towards more sustainable transport – making cycling and walking more attractive for short journeys.
Support for Ukraine	At the March meeting of Mid Suffolk District Council, there was unanimous condemnation of the unprovoked Russian invasion of Ukraine. Council agreed to stand ready to provide support to those affected by the war and to open their arms to people displaced and affected as well as to work with, and support, the efforts of local communities to provide and comfort to those in need.
Neighbourhood Plans	At the same meeting a motion proposed by our Group was agreed asking the Council to allocate resources to actively promote and encourage the process of developing Neighbourhood Plans and contact all core villages without a Plan.
Net Zero Carbon Buildings Toolkit	Our group also proposed a motion, which was agreed, to adopt the Net Zero Carbon Toolkit as technical guidance for developers and homeowners to help reduce the carbon footprint in new and existing buildings. It was developed by three district councils in Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire with the Local Government Association and is available as an open resource for all Councils in England. The Council will promote the toolkit to applicants at all stages of the planning and building control process.
Remote and Hybrid Meetings	Council has written to Government to urge a change in the law to allow councils the flexibility to hold remote and hybrid meetings when appropriate.
Community Governance Review	Mid Suffolk is undertaking a Community Governance Review across the whole district. This type of review looks at issues such as merging parishes, changing boundaries, naming of parishes and grouping of parishes. Submissions can be made until 27 th May.
Freeport East	Gateway 14 in Stowmarket, along with Felixstowe and Harwich, form Freeport East, a company limited by guarantee of which MSDC is a partner. There will be huge tax and other advantages for companies moving to Gateway 14. Our group is concerned about the clear financial advantages for companies moving into Gateway 14, especially as preference is being given to attracting multinational companies rather than encouraging local companies onto the development.
Wildflower meadow	An online meeting was held with Bellway regarding the open space for the wildflower meadow. The Bellway representative requested that the Parish Council agree the area they potentially wish to take on and Bellway legal team will then review this. From beginning of May Mid Suffolk have a new post of biodiversity officer who will be able to support parishes in this type of initiative.

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