

## District Councillor Report: Thurston Ward

November 2021

Extraordinary Council meeting	An extraordinary council meeting was held on Monday the 18 <sup>th</sup> of October to discuss two motions proposed by the Green and Liberal Democrat group carried over from the previous meeting. Firstly, a motion to reduce light pollution by putting policies in place to control new street lighting was passed with only one vote against. Secondly a motion to object to the Government's proposal to introduce voter photo ID requirements at polling stations, was also passed but only by a very narrow margin.
Joint Local Plan	The Inspectors have paused the examination for the Joint Local Plan for 6 months. This is to allow officers to re consult and further clarify the spatial strategy and review part of the evidence base. There are some concerns about the housing allocations.
Tree for life scheme	The tree for life scheme for new parents has been launched. Applications for 2021 are now open having been delayed because of Covid. Applications can be made on the council's website before 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2022.
CIL funding	The Council has made a bi-annual payment of CIL funds to the parish councils – amounting to over £1M across 47 different town and parish councils.
Neighbourhood Plan Process	Is to be streamlined by allowing NPs to automatically proceed to referendum after examination rather than having to seek approval at cabinet. If the post referendum had a majority vote it will be formally adopted by the councils' chief executive which will help mitigate potential delays to plans.
Elmswell Primary School expansion	A CIL bid for over £1.5M to expand Elmswell Primary School is to be determined by MSDC Cabinet on Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> November. The rest of the costs (approx £700k will come from S106 contributions from earlier developments. This bid is not supported by the parish council, nor the district and county councillors, who would all think that this would produce a very crowded school for 420 pupils.
Locality Awards	There is still funding from the annual locality awards. Amounts of £250 or more are available to local community groups and organisations. Please encourage groups in the village to contact me for an application form or telephone for further information and help in applying. Half of my budget has been awarded to various organisations, including a Nature garden at Thurston community College, Speed cameras and posts in Norton and Stowlangtoft.
Meadow Lane Thurston	I've been working with residents and enforcement to make sure Linden Homes carries out remedial work on Meadow lane as conditioned, some work has now begun.

### Cllr Wendy Turner

Mid Suffolk District Councillor (Green Party)

Ward of Thurston Email: [Wendy.Turner@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Wendy.Turner@midsuffolk.gov.uk) Tel: 07548155748

