

District Cllr Report Thurston Ward

Beyton, Norton, Thurston, Tostock, Stowlangtoft

September 2023

MSDC Meeting.

Mid Suffolk District Council meeting held in September. The State of the District report was considered at last month's Full Council meeting, which set out an overview of Mid Suffolk. This is part of the evidence base underpinning the new Corporate Plan. Mid Suffolk Cabinet will be endorsing the engagement strategy for the development of the new Corporate Plan. It is hoped to engage with as wide a section of the district as possible, including some groups which seldom get involved, as well as businesses and Town and Parish Councils.

At a full Council meeting last week, the CIFCO business plan was agreed. Given the change in administration this included a thorough review of operations prior to the next business case being brought to Council to inform MSDC's long term strategies.

MSDC will be discussing the Electric Bus project at Cabinet this month. They hope to bring forward the ringfenced £820k and agree to work towards a 'grant' scheme to enhance existing rural transport provision with set routes.

Planning

The Planning Inspectorate have finished the inspection of the BMSDC Joint Local Plan part 1 and reported that it is sound, so it now needs to be formally adopted by Full Council. Planning policy officers are now able to focus on Part 2 of the plan which will include the housing allocations. All the documentation is available on the website <http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/jointlocalplan>

Wellbeing for younger and older residents

MSDC are supporting an initiative with schools across the district to improve the well-being of young people. Thurston Community College, Stowmarket High School and Stowupland High School now have Youth Link workers to help pupils access community activities. This work will also spread to the feeder primary schools. MSDC is supporting Silver Sunday Campaigns to help tackle loneliness for older residents. Events are being held in Eye, Stowmarket and Needham Market over the next few weeks to bring young people into care homes for sing-alongs, games and fun.

Autumn Tree/hedge planting

Appreciate that this is a direct repeat, however, can you please consult with your communities on potential areas for tree/hedge planting and then contact us with the details.

Locality grants

We have agreed to support Beyton Environmental Group in their sowing of a wild flower mix on the pond spoil area of the village green.

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