

# **District Cllr Report Thurston Ward**

## **Beyton, Norton, Thurston, Tostock, Stowlangtoft**

### **December 2023**

#### **MSDC Meeting.**

There was no Mid Suffolk District Council meeting in December. Mid Suffolk District Council's cabinet will be asked to approve a full business case for delivery of the first work package of the Stowmarket Health, Education and Leisure Facilities (SHELF) project.

The initial works also include an improved pitch for Stowmarket Rugby Club, community running track, cricket nets and additional paths and fencing.

The cabinet, which meets on 9 January, will consider a recommendation to put £450,000 towards the £2.4million scheme, with the remaining funding already identified from a range of external sources alongside Section 106 contributions.

There are more than 680 empty houses in Mid Suffolk, which the councils are keen to bring back into use to help meet growing housing need.

The councils already impose a council tax premium on the owners of properties that are empty and unfurnished for two years or longer, but under new legislation, the councils would be able to target empty properties after just one year from April 2024 – and impose a levy on second homeowners from April 2025.

MSDC has continued with its 'cozy homes' initiative which makes insulation available to appropriate households in our District. It is for:

- *Residents of Mid Suffolk:* Whether you are a private tenant, a homeowner, or a landlord with fewer than five properties, this scheme is for you.
- *Financial Criteria:* Your household income should be less than £60,000 per year, with savings not exceeding £16,000.
- *EPC Rating:* Your home should have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating between D and G.
- *Council Tax Banding:* Your property should fall within council tax bands A to E.

It covers loft insulation (including loft clearance), cavity wall insulation, draft proofing and possibly also other forms of insulation where appropriate.

#### **Planning**

Target date has been set as the 17<sup>th</sup> January for applications DC/23/02429 and DC/23/02430.

#### **Network Rail.**

Still no sign of the final report which was due by the end of November.

#### **Thurston Community College**

The fitness suite is now available for community use.

#### **A14**

Continuing to support the Tostock campaign to have the village speed limit further along Church Road and additional restrictions in Norton.

#### **Locality grants**

We would welcome applications, particularly from Tostock and Stowlangtoft Parishes.

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**Mid Suffolk District Councillors**

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