**District Report : Councillor Wendy Turner**

October 2021

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| September Council meeting | Having not been able to have a meeting since May, the agenda for September’s Council meeting was too full. There was insufficient time to complete the agenda and two motions from the Green and Liberal Democrat Group were unresolved. These were to do with Biodiversity Friendly lighting and Voter ID. These two items will be added to an agenda of another meeting hopefully to be held in the next couple of weeks. |
| Wellbeing Strategy | The Council have adopted a new Wellbeing Strategy. The Strategy focusses on trying to ensure that families lead active, healthy, safe and independent lives and are able to manage their own wellbeing. It promotes sustainable and inclusive places and spaces and go some way to reduce health inequalities across the district. |
| CIFCO  | The Council discussed the 2020/21 report and business plan 2021/22 for CIFCO Capital Ltd. All the funds have now been invested. The total income CIFCO has produced is about £2.5M but there is still a net loss in equity of about £12.5 M. There is always interesting debate about CIFCO as the Green and Liberal Democrat group vote against the plan.  |
| Neighbourhood plan process | It was also agreed to streamline the Neighbourhood Plan process. Neighbourhood Plans can now automatically proceed to the referendum after examination by inspectors, rather than having to seek approval from the Council. Also that post-referendum Neighbourhood Plans with an majority ‘yes’ vote can be formally adopted by the Chief Executive instead of having to be approved by Cabinet. |
| No Casinos in Mid Suffolk | Mid Suffolk Council adopted a ‘No Casino’ resolution. None of our bordering council have such a resolution and there is currently no provision for a new casino anywhere in England and Wales. |
| Pay Policy Review | There was a proposal to increase the salary scales for the senior management team of Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils, but this was deferred because Babergh District Council had voted against the proposal.  |
| HVO fuel for Council vehicles | In September Babergh and Mid Suffolk became the first rural UK councils to switch their fleet of waste tankers to HVO. All 35 waste tankers are now fuelled by HVO and the smaller public realm and housing service vehicles will also be switching to the new fuel in the near future. This will help to reduce the Council’s carbon emissions. |
| Elmswell Primary School expansion | SCC voted to approve the controversial planning application to enlarge Elmswell Community Primary School to 420 places. This development will be the subject of a CIL funding bid and the decision will be made by MSDC Cabinet in due course.  |
| Recreational land | A meeting is to be held on 1st October with Jo Churchill and other representatives from Thurston PC, MSDC and SCC, myself and Cllr Harry Richardson to discuss the urgent need for recreational land in Thurston. |
| Bloor HomesDC/20/05894 | Have been in discussions with a representative from Bloor Homes to see if further improvements can be made to the Thurston planning application before it goes to Reserved Matters planning committee. |
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**Cllr Wendy Turner**

Mid Suffolk District Councillor (Green Party)

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