



MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

AGENDA

COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, 23 March 2017



COUNCIL	
DATE	Thursday, 23 March 2017
PLACE	Council Chamber, Mid Suffolk District Council Offices, High Street, Needham Market
TIME	5.30 p.m.

Please ask for: Committee Services
Direct Line: 01449 724673
Email: Committees@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

NOTES:

- i) Tea /coffee will be available for Members in the Council Chamber at 5:00pm.
- ii) The Council Chamber is situated on the first floor. There is access via a lift as an alternative to stairs.
- iii) The Council, members of the public and the press may record/film/photograph or broadcast this meeting when the public and press are not lawfully excluded. Any member of the public who attends the meeting and objects to being filmed should advise the Committee Clerk.

A G E N D A

	<u>Page(s)</u>
1 Apologies for absence	
2 To receive any declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests by Members	
3 C/09/17 - Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2017	1 - 10
4 C/10/17 - Chairman's Announcements	11 - 12
Councillor Charles Flatman – Retirement	
5 To receive notification of petitions in accordance with the Council's Procedure Rule	

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10, The Chief Executive will report the receipt of any petitions. There can be no debate or comment upon these matters at the Council meeting.

6	Questions by the Public	<u>Page(s)</u>
	The Chairmen of Committees to answer any questions from the public of which notice has been given no later than midday three clear working days before the day of the meeting in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.	
7	Questions by Councillors	
	The Chairman of the Council, the Chairman of Committees and Sub-Committees and Portfolio Holders to answer any questions on any matters in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affect the District of which due notice has been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.	
8	C/11/17 - Mendlesham Neighbourhood Plan	13 - 16
9	C/12/17 - Leader's Report	17 - 18
10	C/13/17 - Portfolio Holder Reports	
a	Enabled and Efficient PFH Report (Pages 19 - 20)	
b	Housing Delivery PFH Report (Pages 21 - 22)	
c	Business Growth PFH Report (Pages 23 - 26)	
d	Environment PFH Report (Pages 27 - 28)	
e	Community Capacity PFH Report (Pages 29 - 34)	

Please note that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 27 April 2017 commencing at 5.30 p.m.

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Agenda Item 3

C/09/17

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the **MID SUFFOLK COUNCIL** held at the Council Chamber, Mid Suffolk District Council Offices, High Street, Needham Market on Thursday, 23 February 2017

PRESENT:

Councillors:	Roy Barker	Gerard Brewster
	David Burn	James Caston
	Rachel Eburne	John Field
	Julie Flatman	Jessica Fleming
	Gary Green	Matthew Hicks
	Glen Horn	Esther Jewson
	John Levantis	Sarah Mansel
	Wendy Marchant	John Matthissen
	Lesley Mayes	Suzie Morley
	Dave Muller	Mike Norris
	Derek Osborne	Penny Otton
	Timothy Passmore	Jane Storey
	Andrew Stringer	Keith Welham
	Kevin Welsby	John Whitehead
	Jill Wilshaw	

In attendance: Arthur Charvonja – Chief Executive
Katherine Steel – Assistant Director - Corporate Resources
Louise Rawsthorne – Assistant Director - Investment and Commercial Delivery
Emily Yule – Corporate Manager - Democratic Services
Melissa Evans – Corporate Manager – Financial Services
Tricia Anderson – HRA Accountant
Ian Winslet – Development and Investment Consultant
Henriette Holloway – Governance Support Officer

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillors Paul Ekpenyong, Charles Flatman, Kathie Guthrie, Lavinia Hadingham, Anne Killett, and David Whybrow.

2 **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS BY MEMBERS**

Councillor Glen Horn declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 9 by way of being Chairman of the Museum of East Anglian Life and Heritage.

3 **C/01/17 - CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 DECEMBER 2016**

Report C/01/17

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 December 2016 were confirmed as a correct record.

By a unanimous vote

RESOLUTION

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 December 2016 be confirmed as a correct record.

4 C/02/17 - CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Report C/02/17

Councillor Elizabeth Gibson- Harries

The Chairman attended local farmer Malcolm Easey's funeral, which was attended by over 600 guests.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Haley for attending the Visit to Sheltered Housing Scheme with her.

The report was noted.

5 TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF PETITIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

A petition signed by 107 residents had been received regarding the erection of a 17.5 meter tall lattice mast with 3 telecommunications antennae and 2 dishes.

In accordance with the Petition Scheme the petition had been dealt with as a Consultation Petition lodged in response to invitations for representation in connection with planning application 4810/16.

Notification of the petition was received at Development Control Committee A on 18 January 2017.

The petition was noted.

6 QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

No questions had been received.

7 QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS

No questions had been received.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

Joint Treasury Management Strategy 2017/18 (Paper JAC93 – Joint Audit and Standards Committee – 23 January 2017 and Executive Committee – 6 February 2017)

Report JAC93

Assistant Director Corporate Resources

The report was introduced by Councillor Suzie Morley, who informed Members that the report had been to the Joint Audit & Standards Committee on 23 January 2017 and to Executive Committee on 6 February 2017. Both Committees accepted the recommendations to Council.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Suzie Morley and seconded by Councillor Nick Gowrley.

Councillor Penny Otton drew members' attention to page 38 and stated that she thought that the Council should not have any investments in Ireland or any other overseas Country for tax purposes.

By 29 votes to 0, 4 abstentions

RESOLUTION 1

That the key factors and information relating to and affecting treasury management activities set out In Appendix A and B be noted.

RESOLUTION 2

That the following be approved:

- (a) The Treasury Management Policy Statement set out in Appendix C.*
- (b) The Treasury Management Strategy for 2017/18, including the Annual Investment Strategy as set out in Appendix D.*
- (c) The Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision Statement set out in Appendix G and H.*

9 C/03/17 - JOINT MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY AND 2017/18 BUDGET

Report C/0317

Assistant Director Corporate Resources

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 18.3, immediately after any vote is taken at a budget decision meeting of the Council the names of Councillors, who cast a vote for the decision or against the decision or who abstained from voting shall be recorded in the Minutes of that meeting.

The Chairman informed Members that a revised Appendix F replaced pages 79 to 87 in the Agenda.

Councillor John Whitehead introduced Report C/03/17 and informed members of the main points in the Joint Medium Term Financial Strategy and 2017/18 Budget.

Central Government had provided figures for the next three years, however, for the fourth year the Strategy remained uncertain due to the 100% retention of Business Rates. The Revenue Support Grant was to be reduced over the next years from £918,000 in 2016/17, to £371,000 in 2017/18 and to £361,000 in 2018/19.

The Grant would then convert to a negative tariff of £337,000 in 2019/20. The number of years of payments for the New Home Bonus was to be reduced and be subject to a 0.4% growth.

The Medium Financial Position's surplus for 2017/18 was to be reduced each year, culminating in a short fall £129,000 by the end of 2020/21. To budget for this shortfall an increase in Council Tax, equivalent to 5p a week for a Band property (£2.61 a year), was to be introduced. This represented an increase of 1.64%, which was below the 3.14% or £5 allowed by Central Government.

The HRA budget was balanced for 2018/17 by increasing Revenue and Capital budgets. The garage rents were to be increased by 10%, but the subsidy of Sheltered Housing service charges was to be reduced, by increasing charges subject to a maximum £4 per week. The discretionary 'Pay to Stay' rent for tenants earning over £60,000 was not being introduced.

Councillor Whitehead reminded Members that point 2.10 in the Recommendations were for the HRA Budget.

The recommendations set out in 2.1 to 2.13 was proposed and seconded by Councillors Whitehead and Nick Gowrley respectively.

Kathrine Steel – Assistant Director Corporate Resources and Melissa Evans – Corporate Manager – Finance, responded to Councillors' questions by clarifying that the budget did not include the disposal of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils' buildings. The Transformation Fund would gain £1.6 million from the £2.6 million income generated from the New Home Bonus and Business Rates. The decrease in Capital income from the loss of income for car parking, Appendix B, had been included in the budget. The rise in Employee costs covered a 1% pay award per year over three years and the Pension Fund contributions.

Councillor Penny Otton raised the question whether businesses had been in contact with the Council regarding the increase in Business Rates. Officers responded they would report back after the meeting on this question.

A Proposed Amendment to Mid Suffolk District Council Budget Proposal for 2017/18 from the Green Party Group, Appendix G, was introduced by Councillor Andrew Stringer, including the 'Tree for Life' scheme, which had an estimated annual cost of approximately £15,000.

Councillors Stringer and Rachel Eburne proposed and seconded the Amendment respectively.

Members questioned the Amendment and it was clarified that Disability Adaptations Grant was being utilised in the budget. Members raised the arrangements for the car parking in Stowmarket Town Centre and if either 'Free after Three' parking or free parking for the first 30 minutes were possibilities, however this proved not to be financially viable.

There was a debate about rural community transport and the possibilities for contributions to transport schemes or alternative arrangements for bus passes. The Sculpture trail and its extension to other areas was raised.

Members were informed that the Gateway into Stowmarket had been approved by Stowmarket Town Council based on advice from Suffolk District Council. Social improvements and affordable housing were discussed and Members were informed that schemes already existed to enable this. Some Members suggested that a small investment into enabling Broadband contributed to this.

It was clarified that the Locality Budget remained at £200,000, but that another £250,000 was being allocated under the Community Capacity fund in the Transformation Fund Budget. Members were advised that the Transformation Funds were available to spend throughout 2017/18.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 18.3 a recorded vote was undertaken.

The result of the recorded vote was as follows:

For the Motion

Rachel Eburne
John Field
Sarah Mansel
Wendy Marchant
John Matthissen
Mike Norris
Penny Otton
Andrew Stringer
Keith Welham

Against the Motion

Roy Barker
Gerard Brewster
David Burn
James Caston
Julie Flatman
Jessica Fleming
Elizabeth Gibson-Harries
Nick Gowrley
Gary Green
Derrick Haley
Matthew Hicks
Glen Horn
Esther Jewson
Diana Kearsley
John Levantis
Lesley Mayes
Suzie Morley
David Muller
Derek Osborne
Tim Passmore
Jane Storey
Kevin Welsby
John Whitehead
Jill Wilshaw

Abstentions

Nine Councillors voted in favour of Proposed Amendment to Mid Suffolk District Council Budget Proposal for 2017/18 from the Green Party Group and 24 votes against, with no abstentions.

RESOLUTION

The Amendment to the Joint Medium Term Financial Strategy and 2017/18 Budget Appendix G was lost.

Members then debated the recommendations for Joint Medium Term Financial Strategy and 2017/18 Budget. Whilst some Members were keen that the Transformation Fund be actively spent, Members were reminded of the need to be financially prudent given the Business Rate Changes taking place in 2020, which would have an impact on revenue funds available to the council.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 18.3 a recorded vote was undertaken.

The result of the recorded vote was as follows:

<u>For the Motion</u>	<u>Against the Motion</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>
Roy Barker	Rachel Eburne	
Gerard Brewster	John Field	
David Burn	Sarah Mansel	
James Caston	Wendy Marchant	
Julie Flatman	John Matthissen	
Jessica Fleming	Mike Norris	
Elizabeth Gibson-Harries	Penny Otton	
Nick Gowrley	Andrew Stringer	
Gary Green	Keith Welham	
Derrick Haley		
Matthew Hicks		
Glen Horn		
Esther Jewson		
Diana Kearsley		
John Levantis		
Lesley Mayes		
Suzie Morley		
David Muller		
Derek Osborne		
Tim Passmore		
Jane Storey		
Kevin Welsby		
John Whitehead		
Jill Wilshaw		

Twenty-four Councillors voted in favour of recommendations in Report C/03/17 and 9 votes against, with no abstentions.

RESOLUTION 1

That the Joint Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Budget proposals set out in the report be approved.

RESOLUTION 2

That the General Fund Budget for 2017/18 is based on a council tax increase of 5p per week for a Band D property to support the Council's overall financial position be approved.

RESOLUTION 3

That the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Investment Strategy 2017/18 to 2021/22 and HRA Budget for 2017/18 be agreed.

RESOLUTION 4

That rent increases under Pay to Stay for tenants with a household income above £60k be not introduced.

RESOLUTION 5

That the mandatory decrease of 1% in Council House rents, equivalent to an average rent reduction of £0.84 a week, as required by the Welfare Reform and Work Bill be implemented.

RESOLUTION 6

That garage rents be increased by 10% to provide some additional income to the HRA (an average increase of 74 pence per week per garage).

RESOLUTION 7

Sheltered Housing service charges to be increased by 20% with a cap set at £4 per week (10% with a cap of £2 last year) to reduce subsidy by £80k.

RESOLUTION 8

That the utility charges for sheltered tenants are not changed as they are in line with costs.

RESOLUTION 9

That in principle, Right to Buy receipts should be retained to enable continued development and acquisition of new council dwellings.

RESOLUTION 10

That capital spend is reduced by £1.5m in 2017/18 and for each year in 2018/19 to 2021/22.

RESOLUTION 11

That the revised HRA Business Plan in Appendix D be noted. A further review will be undertaken, and a revised Babergh Mid Suffolk Building Services Plan and HRA Business Plan will be presented to Executive Committee in April.

RESOLUTION 12

That the proposed capital programme in Appendix C be agreed.

RESOLUTION 13

That the following additional recommendations related to the Budget are approved:

a) *The 2017/18 Precept dates shown in Appendix F.*

b) *The statement from the Chief Financial Officer under section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 covering the robustness of estimates and adequacy of reserves set out in Appendix E and the minimum safe contingency level of unearmarked reserves is £1.05m.*

c) *The 2017/18 Budget and Council Tax resolutions as set out in Appendix F.*

Note: Councillor Gary Green left the meeting at 6.15m p.m. and did not return.

10

C/04/17 - ASSETS AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY - PHASE TWO - APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS TO THE HOLDING COMPANIES AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND SUBSIDIARY COMPANY

Report C/04/17 Assistant Director – Investment and Commercial Delivery

Councillor Nick Gowrley introduced the Report outlining the structure of the Holding Companies and Capital Investment Fund Subsidiary Company. The purpose of the Report was to appoint three elected Members as Directors to the MSDC Holding Company and the Chief Executive to the Holding Company as Company Secretary. Delegation of authority to the Directors of MSDC Holding Company was also to be approved.

Councillor Gowrley advised Members of some administrative corrections:

Page 143, the recommendations were to read points 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3 respectively. Under 2.3 the third line should read: 'association with the Babergh District Council Holding Company Board', and not MSDC.

Councillor Nick Gowrley proposed and Councillor John Whitehead seconded the recommendations.

Members questioned the selection process of the Directors in Recommendation 2.1 and it was clarified that a recruitment process had been undertaken and applications had been submitted. The structure of the Holding Company was questioned and it was established that the titles of the elected Members were to be Member Directors.

Their principle roles were to steer the Holding Company jointly with Babergh Holding Company, approving the annual Business Plan, the financial movement through the Company into the SPV and the related acquisitions of the commercial assets. The Member Directors were to regularly check the performance of the SPV. The Member Directors were to act unilaterally as a board of the Holding Company.

Members questioned the reporting structure of the Board and were informed that due to the commercial sensitivity, some information would have to be confidential. However, the Business Plan would explain in detail the structural functions, business operations and conduct of the Holding Company and Capital Investment Fund Subsidiary Company.

By 24 to 9 votes

RESOLUTION 1

Members authorise the appointment of: Councillor Glenn Horn, Councillor Gerard Brewster and Councillor David Whybrow to the MSDC Holding Company Board.

RESOLUTION 2

Members approve the appointment of the Chief Executive in the role of Company Secretary to the MSDC Holding Company Board.

RESOLUTION 3

Members delegate authority to the MSDC Holding Company Board to appoint a MSDC Elected Member Director to the Capital Investment Fund Subsidiary and (in association with the MSDC Holding Company Board) three externally recruited Non-Executive Directors.

Note: Councillor Jill Willshaw left the Meeting at 6.53 p.m. and did not return.

11

C/05/17 - FURTHER ELECTORAL REVIEW - COUNCIL SIZE SUBMISSION

Report C/05/17

Chief Executive

Councillor Nick Gowrley introduced the report and explained the process for the Further Electoral Review that was being undertaken by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. Three councillor workshops, an online Survey and the Strengthening Governance Task & Finish Group had informed the calculations and evidence base for the proposed number of councillors.

Councillor Nick Gowrley and Councillor Glen Horn proposed and seconded the Recommendations respectively.

Questions were raised by Members regarding the ward boundary between Stowmarket and Haughley. The parish council boundary between Stowmarket and Haughley was changed in 2014 as a result of a community governance review. However, the ward boundary could only be changed by the Boundary Commission therefore the ward and parish boundaries were not coterminous.

It was likely that this and any similar anomalies would be addressed by the Boundary Commission in the second phase of the review.

The differences between Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils' required numbers of Ward Councillors were explained with reference to point 10.7 in the report. The Boundary Commission would only consider population estimates for 5 years ahead.

During the debate Member considered the reduction of Councillors and some members thought that the reductions were too great.

By 21 to 9 votes, 1 abstention

RESOLUTION 1

That the Council agrees the Council size submission as appended to this report and authorises the Chief Executive to present the submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England on behalf of the Council.

RESOLUTION 2

That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be given delegated authority to make minor amendments to the Council size submission in response to any feedback received from the Local Boundary Commission for England.

12 **C/06/17 - DESIGNATION OF THE MONITORING OFFICER ROLE**

Report C/06/17

Chief Executive

Councillor Nick Gowrley introduced the report and informed Members that after an internal recruitment process a decision had been made for the post of Temporary Assistant Director – Law and Governance. The candidate selected was Emily Yule, current Corporate Manager - Democratic Services.

By a unanimous vote.

RESOLVED

That the designation of the Monitoring Officer for Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils as required under Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 be approved.

13 **C/07/17 - LEADER'S REPORT**

Report C/07/17

Councillor Nick Gowrley

The report was noted.

14 **C/08/17 - JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Report C/08/17

Councillor Rachel Eburne

The report was noted.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 7.40 p.m.

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Chairman

Agenda Item 4

C/10/17

Mid Suffolk District Council was represented at the following events by
Councillor Elizabeth Gibson-Harries, Chairman of Council
1 March 2017 to 23 March 2017

Friday 10 March	Suffolk County Council Chairman's Drinks Reception, Endeavour House, Ipswich
Sunday 12 March	High Sheriff of Suffolk – Evensong, St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds
Friday 17 March	SSAFA AGM and Lunch, Community Centre, Needham Market

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Agenda Item 8

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

From: Assistant Director - Planning for Growth	Report Number: C/11/17
To: COUNCIL	Date of meeting: 23 March 2017

MENDLESHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report provides details of the local referendum that was held in relation to the Mendlesham Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.2 In the light of the outcome it recommends that Council makes (adopts) the Plan.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That, the Mendlesham Neighbourhood Plan be formally made (adopted) as part of the District Council's Development Plan and used to help determine planning applications where relevant.

3. Key Information

- 3.1 The Executive Committee resolved at its meeting on 9 January 2017 that the Mendlesham Neighbourhood Development Plan should proceed to a local referendum. The local referendum was held on 2 March 2017.
- 3.2 The format of the local referendum question was:
'Do you want Mid Suffolk District Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Mendlesham to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'
- 3.3 The count took place on 3 March 2017 and more than 50% of those who voted were in favour of the Plan. The results of the local referendum were:

Response	Votes Cast	Percentage of total
YES	393	94.24%
NO	24	5.75%
Total	417	100% (rounded up)

- 3.4 The result of the local referendum now enables the District Council to formally 'make' (adopt) the Mendlesham Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan once made will formally become part of the Development Plan. It will therefore be used in conjunction with existing planning policy documents to help determine planning applications where relevant.

3.5 The District Council is only able to exercise further discretion at this point if it considers that the Plan would be in breach of any environmental legislation or any of the Convention Rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act, 1998). The Plan is not in breach of either pieces of legislation.

3.6 The report presented to the Executive Committee on 9 January 2017 confirmed that, the Mendlesham Neighbourhood Plan as modified to incorporate the Examiner's Recommendations, complies with the 'Basic Conditions' as set out in Paragraph 8(2), Schedule 4B the Town and Country Planning Act, 1990. Accordingly the Mendlesham Neighbourhood Development Plan should be duly made. The formal Decision Statement is appended to this report.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 The District Council receives £20,000 from the Department of Communities and Local Government for each neighbourhood plan once a referendum date has been set following a successful examination. This sum is paid to meet the District Council's costs and will be sufficient in this case.

4.2 The Mendlesham Neighbourhood Plan once 'made' (adopted) enables the parish council to receive 25% of any Community Infrastructure Levy receipts from development in its area.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1990, the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations, 2012 (as amended). It has also had regard to the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations, 2004 and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations, 2010.

5.2 Once 'made' (adopted), the Mendlesham Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the Development Plan and, where relevant, be used to determine planning applications.

6. Risk Management

6.1 The key risks are set out below:

Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measures
Legal challenge to the content of the neighbourhood development plan or order and/or judicial review of the District Council's decisions.	Unlikely - 2	Bad - 3	Ensuring that the relevant Regulations are followed and that the decision-making processes are clear and transparent

7. Consultations

7.1 The District Council undertook formal consultation on the content of the submission draft Mendlesham Neighbourhood Plan from 25 July to 16 September 2016.

8. Equality Analysis

- 8.1 There are no equality and diversity implications arising directly from the content of this report.

9. Shared Service / Partnership Implications

- 9.1 This report relates to matters affecting Mid Suffolk only.

10. Links to Joint Strategic Plan

- 10.1 The making (adoption) of the neighbourhood plan will enable the District Council to fulfil its corporate priorities, in terms of housing delivery, business growth and community capacity building.

11. Appendices

- 11.1 Appendix 1 - Final Decision Statement (attached)

Authorship

Bill Newman (Corporate Manager - Strategic Planning)

Tel. No: 01473 825712 / 01449 724891

Email: bill.newman@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk



Mid Suffolk District Council

Mendlesham Neighbourhood Plan - Final Decision Statement

On 2 March 2017 a local referendum was held in which more than half of those who voted did so in favour of the Mendlesham Neighbourhood Plan. Accordingly Mid Suffolk District Council has decided to 'make' the Plan.

The Plan as made becomes part of the Development Plan for the area and will be used where relevant to help the District Council decide planning applications. This decision was taken by Full Council on 23 March 2017

Reason for Decision

In accordance with the provisions of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations, 2012 (as amended) the District Council appointed an independent examiner to assess the submitted Mendlesham Neighbourhood Plan.

The examination was undertaken by Janet Cheesley BA (Hons) DipTP MRTPI a 'suitably qualified and experienced' person who was independent of the plan making process via written representations. The Examiner concluded that subject to modification the Plan would comply with the 'Basic Conditions' as set out in Paragraph 8(2), Schedule 4B the Town and Country Planning Act, 1990.

The Executive Committee at its meeting on 9 January 2017 agreed with the suggested modifications and concurred that the Plan so modified would comply with the Basic Conditions. The Executive Committee therefore resolved that the Mendlesham Neighbourhood Development Plan should proceed to a local referendum.

The local referendum was held on 2 March 2017. The format of the local referendum question was:

'Do you want Mid Suffolk District Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Mendlesham to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'

More than 50% of those who voted were in favour of the Plan. The results of the local referendum were:

Response	Votes Cast	Percentage of total
YES	393	94.24%
NO	24	5.75%
Total	417	100% (rounded up)

The result of the local referendum enables the District Council to formally make the Mendlesham Neighbourhood Plan unless it considers that the Plan would be in breach of any EU obligation or any of the Convention Rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act, 1998).

At its meeting on 23 March 2017 Mid Suffolk District Council decided that the Plan was not in breach of this legislation and that it should be made part of the Development Plan for the district.

Dated: 23 March 2017

Leader's Report

1. Governance

Further to my report to last Council, I am proposing a change to the number of portfolios within the Cabinet from seven to eight. (BDC are proposing to stick with the original seven).

In the spirit of openness, transparency and inclusiveness, I have also invited the Leaders of the Green Party and the Liberal Democrats to have a seat on the Cabinet (without portfolio) and they have accepted the invitation.

Details will be presented to the Strengthening Governance Task and Finish Group and will be presented to full Council in April for decision.

2. Assets and Investments

- a. Mid Suffolk has now completed the purchase of Paddock House, Eye and the former Middle School in Stowmarket. Having already completed the purchase of the former Middle School in Needham Market, these purchases show the Council's commitment to investing in our market towns and providing new homes to meet the needs of local people. The three sites cost just over £3m and will provide 98 houses.

A development partner will be selected via a procurement/interview process by the end of May this year, with construction starting in September 2018.

At their meeting on the 6th March the Executive Committee unanimously agreed to adopt a Joint Affordable Homes Development Strategy which will encompass the development of these three sites.

- b. Interviews will be held on the 27 and 28 March for the three Non-Executive Directors of the Capital Investment Fund Company Board. There were 27 applicants and 7 will be interviewed. Cllr. Derrick Haley has been appointed as the member director for MSDC.
- c. One Public Estate is a Government initiative with following objectives: 1. Encourage publicly funded services to co-locate; 2. Create economic growth through releasing land and property sites for housing and jobs; 3. Reduce running costs of central & local government assets; 4. generate capital receipts.

A joint bid made between, BMSDC, Suffolk County Council and Ipswich Borough Council. Our bid has been successful:

The OPE Programme Board has agreed to award the partnership £65,000 for 2016/17 to support the delivery of our programme of work, and £170,000 has been earmarked for our programme in 2017/18. A total of £235k against our bid of £350k. Detail to follow on specific details of funding allocation.

Nick Gowrley

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Enabled and Efficient Organisation Portfolio Report

1. Financially Sustainable Councils

Members will not need reminding that the 2017/18 Budget and our Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) was agreed at February's Council meeting with a modest increase in council tax and no significant change to service levels for our residents. However this is an opportune time to acknowledge all the hard work and effort put in by the Finance Team. The budget process was started earlier and a zero-based approach was adopted. By challenging managers and focusing on strategic and service needs a robust budget and MTFS was delivered. With finalisation of the budget the focus for the team shifts to the year-end close, outturn reporting, production of the Statement of Accounts and audit to a tighter timetable than previous years.

2. Outcome Focused Performance Management

Officers are currently working on the next outcome focused performance report and will be included in our next portfolio holder report to Council. A lot of work has also been undertaken on how we manage and monitor our projects through our intranet (Connect) that are contributing towards the achievement of the Joint Strategic Plan. A preview has been seen at the Enabled and Efficient Organisation Portfolio Holder briefing on 14 March and some training will be rolled out to all councillors in the near future.

3. Strengthened and Clear Governance to Enable Delivery

(a) Further Electoral Review

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has made no amendments to the draft council size submission which was agreed by Council in February. Therefore the final version will be submitted, unchanged, by the deadline of 17 March. Councillors will be notified when the first attempt at redrawing the boundaries is made available by the LGBCE for consultation.

(b) Leader-Cabinet

The constitution amendments will be considered by the Strengthening Governance Task & Finish group on 30 March 2017, and brought to Council in April for approval. The scope of the amendments will be limited to the sections of the constitution dealing with council procedure rules, committee terms of reference and the officer scheme of delegations. There will also be some consequential changes to the financial regulations and the contract standing orders.

Alongside side these constitutional amendments, officers are working on a training and support package for councillors and staff members to assist with the change to leader-cabinet. This will include technical training around the key decision process, the scrutiny function and report writing and a cultural change support piece of work.

(c) Modern.gov

Phase 1 of the modern.gov implementation is complete and all committee papers and minutes are being prepared and published using the system. Public papers are available on our website and via the mobile app for councillors, officers and members of the public. Councillors and officers can also access restricted papers via the intranet and the app, although there are some issues to resolve with accessing the restricted papers using the app for councillors who are not members of the particular committee. The advantage of using the app rather than access through the intranet is that the app has an annotation facility. Phase 1 has delivered some real efficiencies in terms of the preparation of papers and has improved the numbering and indexing of the agendas, however there are several learning points from this phase of the project, which will be used to support the delivery of phase 2.

Phase 2 relates to the implementation of report workflows. This means that the writing and authorisation of the reports will all be done within the system – allowing better version control and using automated reminders to the report author, the authorising officers and committee services. This phase is scheduled to go live in September 2017 to allow sufficient time for the workflows to be written and for officers to receive training.

4. More Efficient Public Access Arrangements

There are two major parts of the Public Access strategy that will go live in March. The new joint website will be launched on 20 March and will be accessible directly from both www.midsuffolk.gov.uk and www.babergh.gov.uk. This represents a major step forward for the councils to have a website that is accessible from any device and will give us much better performance information about customer journeys. It is a firm foundation from which to build the Councils' digital services.

Later in the month the contact centre will be switched over to new technology which will enable better understanding of customers and why they telephone the council, improved performance management of the staff and some automated service delivery. The new technology is supporting the new number for both councils which is 0300 1234000.

Glen Horn – Enabled and Efficient Portfolio Holder

John Whitehead – Finance Portfolio Holder

Suzie Morley – Public Access Member with Special Responsibility

Agenda Item 10b

Housing Delivery Portfolio Holder Report

1. Production of a Housing Delivery Strategy Framework

The joint member workshop held on 17 January enabled Members from all parties to explore the issues relating to the Housing Strategy Framework and the connections to inform BMSDC direct delivery approach

Five topics were addressed with senior officers:

- Affordability of all housing tenure types
- Specialised housing - meeting all types of housing need
- Creativity and innovation in the supply of new housing delivery
- Understanding market housing delivery
- BMSDC Direct delivery of new homes

Feedback from delegates informed the production of a draft Strategy for examination by the PFH briefings of the 2 February, 13 March and 12th April, prior to the planned “sign off” at the Administration Meeting of the 24th April when members of all parties will be invited to attend.

2. Consultation Response to Housing White Paper “Fixing our Broken Housing Market” published on 7 February for submission to DCLG by 27 April.

Draft responses have been programmed for the Housing delivery PFH briefings of 13 March and 12 April prior to “sign off” at the respective Administration Meeting of the 24 April.

3. Delivering Affordable Homes

New Build Programme

The first tranche of affordable homes to be supplied directly from Babergh and Mid Suffolk commenced in 2015. Completion of 12 of the 27 in Babergh is due by the end of April with the remaining 15 to be completed by the end of the year. In Mid Suffolk 14 of the 38 are completed with the expectation that a further 18 will be completed by the end of the year.

Housing Acquisitions

A range of properties have been purchased; 15 in Babergh and 23 in mid Suffolk with 3 more in the pipeline.

Babergh 10 Two Bed, 2 Three Bed, and 3 One Bed

Mid Suffolk 17 Two Bed, 4 Three Bed and 2 One bed

4. Future Legislative Priority

The **Homeless Reduction Bill** going through Parliament is designed to give more help to the homeless. In particular it promises to provide somewhere to live within 56 days. Our duty of care will continue to be to trying keep families at risk in the homes they are being evicted from; by talking to the landlord, or if they are completely homeless to provide places for them.

5. Housing Revenue Account

I am pleased to report that a thorough review of the Council's Housing Revenue Account business plan is being undertaken which includes pre-Scrutiny. This review will be concluded in late March and the revised business plan will be presented to Full Council in April.

This detailed review has been prompted by a series of Government measures that will have a substantial impact on the sustainability of the HRA over the 30 year period of the business plan.

These measures include:

- the imposition of a 1% reduction in rents for the for the four years until 2019/20
- the increase in the Right to Buy discount resulting in increased sales
- welfare reform and specifically, Universal Credit which is expected to impact on recipients ability to pay the rent and lead to an increase in bad debts

A number of the assumptions used to forecast the financial position of the plan over the 30 year life have been updated as a result.

The changes taken together present a considerable challenge to the financial position of the HRA and it is likely that operational efficiencies will be needed to ensure that the HRA continues to operate within the debt cap set by Government. Our response will be set out in the business plan and a full report will be presented to the next Executive Committee.

John Levantis

Agenda Item 10c

Business Growth and Increased Productivity Portfolio Report

1. Open for Business

BMDC- Both Councils have now signed up to the **Screen Suffolk Project** which should enhance management of filming enquiries, enable greater promotion and streamlining of our approach as a 'film-friendly' county and supporting a 'no boundary' approach to filming in Suffolk. Not only should this positively impact upon Suffolk (BMSDC) by use of our natural and built assets, it should have positive impacts on the local economy and generate additional income.

Officers have recently attended a regional workshop on the impact of the **Apprenticeship Levy** on businesses, they will be signposting this information through our business networking and other contacts. Officers will also be signposting information in the same way in relation to the **Valuation Office Changes** affecting NDRV, including appeal and transitional relief details.

We are also in the peak season for support requests to the multi-agency **Joint District Safety Advisory Group** – chaired and co-ordinated by the Licensing Team. At the next meeting on the 21 March, the Group will be meeting with the organisers from the **National Sheepdog Trial / Suffolk on Show Team**, a prestigious event which will be coming to Haughley Park on the weekend of the 28th-29th & 30th July.

Improvements to the A120 and widening of the A12 – Haven Gateway Partnership have been instrumental in promoting these projects which have been out to consultation, that period has now ended. Both Councils have been very supportive of the two projects and have duly replied to the consultation. These strategic routes although outside our Districts, are very important to the strategic road infrastructure connectivity that we seek to achieve right through Suffolk and beyond, thus encouraging economic business and housing growth into both Districts as well as through Suffolk generally.

Visits to Businesses are a continuing and important part of the teams work and we are being effective in the approach we make. To gain a much greater understanding of each business and gain trust provides opportunities for the team to support the business in different ways whether that means signposting them to funding streams, relocation possibilities or providing guidance through Council Departments, possibly by allocating one of our growing team of Business Account Managers to be the person they contact for support and information. This work is intended to help business growth and through that process to enable support for our communities with greater employment opportunities.

Officers are working at a Suffolk as well as a local level on a response to the Government's **Industrial Strategy Green Paper**; this work must be completed by April 2017. In conjunction with this we will be supporting a Suffolk Chamber of Commerce event on the 21 March with businesses at Wherstead Park. A member briefing is also being hosted at Needham Market on the 22 March.

2. Planning updates

- 100% of MSDC Majors applications determined in time for Quarter 4 16/17 (01 January 17 to 14 Mar 17) - Earlier Quarterly Majors performance 16/17 YTD is as follows:
 - Quarter 1 – 77.3%;
 - Quarter 2 – 92.9%;
 - Quarter 3 – 100% which cumulatively represents a YTD (as at 14 Mar 17) overall figure of 87%.
- 40 dwellings approved in Quarter 4 to 14 Mar 17 - 1032 dwellings approved in YTD (as at 14 Mar 17)
- Planning Officers and Tech Support team now based in one office. Benefits of this include:
 - Training on the new Uniform IT platform can be undertaken easier with the team in one place
 - Following PAS advice to improve planning performance we have now introduced a single new application validation process
 - Trialling using our Hadleigh offices as a 'landing point' – this will allow for greater understanding of what planning customers want from our 'landing point' and allow the rotation of DM planning and A&T staff through our trial 'landing point' at Hadleigh so that obstacles to good customer service can be identified ahead of a move to Endeavour House
 - To iron out any other problems that we may have prior to the Endeavour move by working as one team. We will be better able to handle the move having worked flexibly and cross boundary in one team
- Smartphones for all planning officers now in place (to provide access to emails and telephone when off site and remove the need to be tied to a landline)
- Microsoft Surface Pro 4 and Dell Latitude tablets now being trialled in planning (flexible working will be key when we move to Endeavour and tablets are more suitable for this purpose than older style bulky laptops)
- 2 x Large Screen Displays and stand up meeting tables introduced into the planning department. This will allow us to conduct more efficient meetings, sometimes with external parties utilising the large screen displays to show plans, maps etc. The screens will also be used to display performance information on a rolling basis to aid with departmental awareness of targets, progress to date and successes

- Client Side Panel Forum - formed to help shape and inform the changes we are intending to make. We have a range of members from consultants to architects to housebuilders who contribute across key planning topics including policy, highways, heritage and infrastructure. Officers are pleased to see positive outcomes already being reached.

3. Planning Policy Update

Approval was given in summer last year to produce a new joint local plan with Babergh. Work is now substantively complete on updating the evidence base for the new local plan, including population growth, housing demand, employment land supply and demand, a new call for sites for housing land, town centres and retail capacity. The Council now has one of the most up to date baselines of any planning authority in Suffolk and, following approval of the local plan project plan last week at Executive Committee, work has commenced on drafting the Plan.

Throughout the last year, collaborative working with Suffolk County Council has increased, leading to joint working on information databases – to enable better mapping of infrastructure requirements. Pilot projects aimed at assessing infrastructure requirements in areas experiencing development pressures have commenced using this shared information.

In addition, there has been considerable progress on digitising all data associated with producing the Local Plan. Projects to map all submissions from the call for sites (for analysis for inclusion on the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment), mapping of village settlement area boundaries and transfer of information of all Section 106 Agreements to a compatible system with the new operating software for development management has been undertaken and is now mostly complete.

The Council has played a significant role in progressing the Suffolk Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Framework (SPIF) – a framework document that will guide growth and determine infrastructure provision for the whole of Suffolk. Work on the SPIF is ongoing and expected to be published in summer 2017.

4. Neighbourhood Planning

In the last year the service provided by the Council for neighbourhood planning has been overhauled. Support to Neighbourhood Planning groups is now being provided from within the Planning policy team and information about policy, capacity, and about legislative requirements is now standardised. A new approach to developing NPs has been established resulting in much higher levels of engagement than hitherto. We await the results of the examination of this function by the Scrutiny Committee to guide further improvements.

There are currently 10 parishes approved as designated Neighbourhood Plan areas, with one – Mendlesham - being made tonight. We also have further interest from a number of other parishes, including cross border collaboration with Diss.

5. Community Infrastructure Levy/Infrastructure

The Community Infrastructure Levy was successfully introduced in April last year, since which time over £500,000 has been collected within Mid Suffolk. Work is now progressing to establish policies for approval by Members that will guide expenditure on infrastructure priorities within the district.

Work has also been successfully undertaken on collaboratively producing a development framework for Ashes farm at Stowmarket, a “stalled site” which will now enable an application to be made and for the development to proceed. This new approach was endorsed by Executive Committee at its last meeting.

Gerard Brewster

Agenda Item 10d

Environment Portfolio Holder Report

1. Environment Portfolio Briefings

Four Environment Portfolio Briefings have taken place since the previous report to Council. We have received briefings and/or carried out investigations on a range of topics including

- how environmental issues are being addressed in the emerging Local Plan (Jennifer Candler and Clare Dawson)
- whether there are any significant environment risks that are or should be on the Council's corporate risk register (John Snell)
- the inclusion of environmental implications in officer reports, when relevant (a task-and-finish panel has been set up to explore this)
- the scope of the environment portfolio and its inter-relationships with the other portfolios and operational delivery teams
- the development of an Environment Strategy
- environmental management transformation bids (Ian Farquharson)
- continuation of work on a draft Heritage Management Action Plan (James Buckingham, Simon Bailey)
- standardisation of waste collection policies across both councils and pricing proposals for 2017/18 (Olly Faiers)
- Suffolk Waste Partnership's investigation into the strategic procurement options (Chris Fry)

2. Consumer Environment

The **Food and Safety** team is presently preparing the annual review of its Service Plan, which is a document required by statute. It includes such details as the intentions of the service, its focus and the number of inspections it carries out. This year one of the key components of the Plan will be the newly presented opportunity to charge for re-inspection – for example, if a food outlet requests an inspection in an attempt to increase the score on its food hygiene rating certificate. The report on the Service Plan review will be presented to Executive in April.

The **Waste Collection** service goes from strength to strength, with year-on-year increases in all areas last year, except in the annual weight of *residual waste* per household, which is down to 0.422 tonnes per annum, one of the lowest figures in the Eastern region. The Great Blakenham Energy from Waste plant is running at the high efficiency rate of 90.8% and it has consumed 300,000 tonnes of residual waste since 2015. Our *kerbside recycling* increased last year by 100 tonnes to 14,031 tonnes and our overall recycling rate has increased by 0.9% to 45.67%; in the last quarter it reached 48.18%. The *garden waste* rounds have been rejigged to accommodate the urban growth that has occurred in some areas (the household waste rounds will be similarly rebalanced later this year). The number of Mid Suffolk subscribers has risen by 971 to 12,955. Income from *trade waste* has increased from £290,000 in 2015/16 to £360,000 in 2016/17.

The challenge this year is to increase it by a further 2%. The new trade glass collection service is developing well; we are now picking up 20 tonnes/month.

A notable achievement from the **Sustainable Environment** enforcement team was the successful prosecution of a serial fly-tipper, who was ordered to pay £2,140 in fine, clearance, investigation and legal costs. For more detail, see the March (no.34) edition of the *Town & Parish Council Newsletter*, which is available on the website.

3. **Modern Built Environment**

The challenges presented by the Councils' relocation plans are currently preoccupying the **Building Control** team. Connected with this is the move towards paperless working; the team is heavily involved with the JOSIE Project in setting up the new method of data storage and management. Maintaining competitiveness within the building control marketplace will be a key consideration in working out how the service responds to our impending move.

4. **Public Realm Environment**

This service is in the middle of a major review exercise which is looking at all aspects of its work in order to identify efficiency measures and cost savings. A workshop with the consultants who have been commissioned to undertake the necessary research was attended by key portfolio holders earlier this month. An issues and options appraisal will be considered in due course. There is a more comprehensive explanation of Public Realm's range of responsibilities and the review in the March (no.34) edition of the *Town & Parish Council Newsletter*, which is available on the website.

5. **Historical Environment**

In the **Heritage Conservation** team, the Buildings At Risk officer has now been re-appointed on a 12-month contract extension from Transformation Funding. The Portfolio Holders recommended this, with a view to the post being incorporated into the permanent staffing structure. Presently, 16 buildings in Mid Suffolk and 13 buildings in Babergh are considered to be At Risk (compared to 19 and 16 respectively at the time of the previous Transformation Funding bid). However, it is likely that at least 2 more buildings will be added in the near future. The Fisons building in Bramford is of particular concern. It is always likely that we will need for a staffing resource to deal with Buildings at Risk, as buildings assets not currently on the register fail to be maintained by their owners; for these reasons, the Corporate Manager's view is that the part-time post needs to be made permanent.

David Burn

Agenda Item 10e

Community Capacity Building and Engagement Portfolio Report

1. Health and Wellbeing

Much of the work of the team is captured in the Delivery Programme under the programme known as *Embedding Health and Wellbeing in all our Policies*.

This programme has 3 key elements:

- *Embedding health and wellbeing within service design, commissioning and delivery*
- *Mentally Healthy communities*
- *Place based working*

Information on these can be found on Connect (<https://suffolknet.sharepoint.com/sites/BMSDCDemo/communitycapacitybuildingandengagement/embeddinghealthandwellbeinginallourpolicies/SitePages/Home.aspx>)

Key highlights/issues over the last 3 months as follows:

- Work to develop a new Joint Leisure, Sport and Physical Activity Strategy and a Leisure Facilities Strategy is progressing well. Drafts of both documents will be discussed by Members at the Leisure Task and Finish Panel on Friday 17 March. All the information on this project can be accessed on Connect at <https://suffolknet.sharepoint.com/sites/connect/EnvironmentAndProjects/SitePages/Leisure%20Sport%20&%20Physical%20Activity.aspx>
- Following our response to the consultation last year the NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups in our area have decided to retender the **health outreach service for Marginalised and Vulnerable Adults** across the county. This is a very welcome development as the CCGs had originally been proposing to reduce the service to cover the Ipswich area only; meaning no provision in Babergh and Mid Suffolk. Two multiagency workshops have taken place to ensure that this new MVA service is as joined-up as possible with all the other public services in Suffolk that provide support for these vulnerable groups including our own homelessness prevention and financial inclusion teams – and we have been fully engaged in that process.
- Following a recent report to the Health and Wellbeing Board from Suffolk's district and borough Council, the Policy and Strategy (health and wellbeing) team have developed a proposal to introduce **Health Impact Assessments**. A health impact assessment (HIA) helps ensure that health and wellbeing are being properly considered in any new policy, programme or project particularly, in the district council context, in planning policies and development proposals. HIAs can be done at any stage in the development process, but are best done at the earliest stage possible. The process looks at the positive and negative impacts of a development as well as assessing the indirect implications for the wider community. The aim is to identify the main impacts and prompt discussion about the best ways of dealing with them to maximise the benefits and avoid any potential adverse impacts. This is achieved through evidence-based analysis of potential health and wellbeing impacts on different population groups, using research and community engagement.

The Assistant Director Communities and Public Access (Jonathan Free) is currently engaging the wider Leadership Team to determine how to proceed with this proposal with a view to piloting a HIA process later in the year.

- The Policy and Strategy (Health and Wellbeing) team have worked collaboratively with Supported Living (Housing) services to develop a business case for piloting a new way of working with our customers by establishing an **Early Help Delivery Team (EHDT)** within BDC and MSDC. Early Help aims to build upon the sterling work of the council's Financial Inclusion and Homeless prevention teams in support of the Suffolk Poverty strategy. The creation of an Early Help Delivery team within Supported Living would support our ambition to be more agile and is in line with the design principle of a smaller, smarter, swifter organisation. It also fits within our wider Public Access transformation by complementing our approach to managing demand through channel shift by providing more joined-up support for those unable to self-serve. The main role of the team would be to "triage" people (assess their level and urgency of need) and then offer the appropriate early help – this will require liaison both with other services internally and a range of external agencies including local Voluntary and Community organisations such as the CABs. The ambition is that the service would be tenure neutral and offered on the basis of need. The proposal is referenced in the draft HRA business plan but as yet no decision has been taken by Housing management as to whether or not to move forward with this proposal.
- Following the publication of *Suffolk Minds Matter* in February, the Council's Health and Wellbeing Board representative (Cllr Diana Kearsley) and Programme Office representative (Jonathan Seed) recently participated in a system workshop on Mental Health which had been convened by the Director of Public Health. The outcomes from the workshop will be used to review the Board's current mental health programme and shape the future approach to mental health in the county. These outcomes help to inform Mid Suffolk's own programme 'Mentally Healthy Communities' which will focus on raising organizational awareness of mental health issues and what services and support are available locally for people living with mental health conditions and their families. The Council continues to provide officer support and a small grant to cover administration costs to the Mid Suffolk VASP (our local Mental Health forum).
- The roll out of the Integrated Neighbourhood Teams across Suffolk is progressing well. INTs bring together community health and social care providers with other local statutory and voluntary sector services in a locality to help people to maintain healthy, independent lives. Mid Suffolk is covered by the Stowmarket, Eye & North West and Bury Rural Localities, each has a regular monthly partnership meeting attended by local practitioners. At present we are focussed on ensuring there is a district council voice on each INT and exploring the opportunities presented by this new locality based model of public service delivery. These include: ensuring our supported living (housing) services are recognised as part of an integrated service offer in each locality, the potential for co-location of some services/support, joining-up our efforts to build community capacity with others and ensuring health and care practitioners are informed about, and have confidence in referring patients to, what is available locally in the community (e.g. befriending schemes).

Discussion in Eye has focussed upon the option for better utilising Hartismere Hospital both as a potential site for colocation of staff from across the various agencies that make up the INT and as a hub for wider community activity in the locality. The Communities Team continue to support the Eye Partnership.

- The mini-walking festival in Stowmarket was launched at MEAL on Monday 6 March. *Let's Walk Stowmarket* will be held in the town between 6 March and 28 April. The Communities team have worked with partners to develop the walks which are designed to be fun and interactive. Bookings are through the local Tourist Information Centres (TICs) and the events will be supplemented by printed route cards so that people can revisit the walks and do them again and again. In terms of legacy, there will be a photographic exhibition of the festival at the MEAL and 'Stepping Out in Suffolk' (health walks) will provide an exit route for those looking to continue walking within a structured programme of support.
- The Policy and Strategy (Health and Wellbeing) team recently hosted a countywide workshop of the Being Well in the Wild (BWITW) partnership – to determine the future direction of this programme. BWITW has already successfully delivered a number of campaigns/projects to encourage greater use of Suffolk's natural environment and green spaces for health and mental wellbeing most notably the Fab 40 adventures <https://www.fab40suffolk.co.uk/> For further information on BWITW please contact Jonathan Seed or Emma Dixon (SCC)
- And finally, on 29 April, Communities and Public Realm staff will be partnering with 'Everyone Active' (our leisure operator) and the local community to hold a Family Fun event including a 'green gym' at Pikes Meadow.

2. News from the Grants Team.

Summary update on the work we are undertaking within the Communities Team on developing opportunities to utilise external funding to support the wide range of activity in our Mid Suffolk localities.

The BIG Lottery Awards figures below demonstrate the number of awards and total grant sum awarded during 2015-2016 to our communities. This breaks down to 11 Awards for Mid Suffolk with a value of just over £ 90,000.

Big Lottery – Awards for All grants by Local Authority area (Suffolk)

1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016

LA area	Total Number of grants made	Total grant value
Babergh and Mid Suffolk	21	£172,785
Suffolk Coastal and Waveney	19	£157,895
Ipswich	17	£142,541
St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath	16	£135,163
Grand Total	73	£608,384

- Awards for All grants £200-£10,000

Below are the figures to give an overview of a small snapshot of other funding secured. These are as follows:

The Geoffrey Burton Charitable Trust	2014-2015	£ 4,550
	2015-2016	£11,000
Suffolk Historic Churches	2014-2015	£ 38,000
	2015-2016	£ 87,829
Suffolk Community Foundation	2014-2015	£ 147,271
	2015-2016	£ 173,377

For further information, contact Sue Clements and Gillian Hilder.

On Saturday 13 March Sue Clements, Gillian Hilder, Cllr Lavinia Hadingham and Cllr Julie Flatman attended the opening of the newly extended and refurbished Metfield Village Hall, with our help they secured lottery funding and Mid Suffolk District Council has also awarded a Community Capital Grant of £23,203.

The official opening of the new Westhorpe Village Hall – 25 March

Many members have also seen the success of the grant team's work in their own wards on a variety of projects including village halls, community shops and play areas.

3. Supporting our younger generation

'The Mix based in Stowmarket is a young people's charity focused on providing support, advice, guidance and activities for anyone young person in school year 7 to year 12, and for people with additional needs up to the age of 24. The Mix is a newly emerging charity, just over two and half years old, and we are currently supporting the Open Access Evening Offer for 3 nights per week through the Mid Suffolk Revenue Grant Programme. Our support also includes helping the charity with business planning, developing their income generation aspirations and the commercial arm of their work.' For further information, contact Sue Clements.

4. Mid Suffolk – Health & Wellbeing, Sport and Physical Activity achievements:

- Men's Tour – Mid Suffolk – links to local cycling club – part funded by MSDC
- Women's Tour – set up of Women on Wheels project at Debenham
- New Age Kurling – set up with Activ Lives
- Bowls – set up with Activ Lives
- Stowmarket Year of Walking Event – Mini walking festival set up with Everyone Active/MSDC launched 6 March
- Friends of Pikes Meadow event – working with Public Realm colleagues to put on an event for the housing estate to promote walking/cycling and use of the outdoor green gym
- Chair Based Exercise/Otago – set up in sheltered housing schemes in Mid Suffolk – with Age UK partnership and Mid Suffolk Funding
- Fit Villages projects in Mid Suffolk x 14 – set up with local parishes/clubs and Suffolk Sport – various activities including Tai Chi, Pilates, Yoga, Dance, Bowls, Nordic walking

- Great Run Local – Needham Lakes – set up with local volunteers/athletics coach and funding from SCC and MSDC – now the most successful event of its type in the UK!
- Workplace Challenge – Mid Suffolk – various staff incentives including setting up corporate memberships for staff at Needham Gym and Fitness and Everyone active free swimming
- Stowmarket Dementia Action Alliance – new Livewell class at Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre for those living with dementia and their carers – set up with Stow DAA/MSLC
- Health Walks programme – dedicated walks in Mid Suffolk area – working with Onelife Suffolk and Thornham Walks and local walk leaders/volunteers
- Public Realm holiday activities – set up with countryside with rangers
- Debenham Leisure Centre – Children’s holiday activities – donation of sports equipment
- Stradbroke Pool - Children’s holiday activities – donation of sports equipment
- Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre - Children’s holiday activities – donation of sports equipment

5. Other Activities

- Suffolk Walking Festival – supporting the annual event – providing one walk in both districts as part of the event at Alton Water and Needham Lake.
- Being Well in the Wild Project – support to event with Emma Dixon at SCC – Suffolk Fab 40 project
- Working on looking at what physical activity initiatives are happening in and around our villages/towns – looking to produce an online directory of activities and link to a database. There is a lot happening that we don’t necessarily get to hear about but can and does have an impact on the local areas. This document will be useful to local partners i.e. Suffolk Sport Active well campaign for mapping purposes/VASP
- Funding/Grant support for local clubs to expand facilities – Suffolk Sport Fit villages projects have often led to additional funding for villages to improve facilities which assist with the sustainability of the activities.
- Supporting Public Health pilot in Stowmarket with Liam Hughes/Becky Coombs and Stow Health Centre – support by providing directory of activities locally for exit routes/signposting
- Sportivate projects – Boxing, wall climbing, water polo
- Get Back into – Netball
- Support offered to sports clubs to help them make use of their facilities in down times and daytime use for local activities to take place to encourage physical activity.

Julie Flatman

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