

District Councillor Report: Woolpit Parish Council

August 2024

District Councillor's Report:

Gislingham Ward

Mellis, Gislingham, Thornham, `Wortham & Burgate, Wickham Skeith Parish Councils

August 24

Local listed building consent order	<p>At July's Council meeting, a process was agreed to enable thousands of Grade II listed building owners to make sensitive energy efficiency upgrades more quickly and easily. The first such initiative in the country, it will involve both Mid Suffolk and Babergh working closely with Historic England, and potential upgrades will include improving or replacing windows, and permitting solar PV and other renewable technologies to be installed on unlisted outbuildings. The aim is to enable residents to more easily reduce the energy needed to power and heat their listed homes.</p>
State of the District Report	<p>Suffolk's second State of the District Report (2024) was discussed at last month's Council meeting, the first was produced in 2023. Drawing on a range of open-source data and the Council's Resident Survey, the report provides an overview highlighting many of our district's strengths, alongside some key challenges that the Council is seeking to address. In doing so, it forms part of the evidence base underpinning the strategic plan (The Mid Suffolk Plan) and helps to inform and support the district's actions.</p> <p>The Report is available on the Mid Suffolk website here. https://baberghmidsuffolk.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s35544/Appendix%20A%20-%20State%20of%20the%20District%20Report.pdf</p>
New Grants available	<p>MSDC have launched 3 new grant funds which utilise the Government's REPF (Rural Englan Prosperity Fund). There are three schemes available for activities which will have a positive impact on rural business and communities. Details and application forms can be found at https://heartofsuffolk.co.uk/invest/business-support/grants-and-funding/rural-spf-fund/.</p> <p>Some of the income generated from Gateway 14 is being used to provide grants to enhance Stowmarket Town Centre. Details of this scheme can be found here: https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/stowmarket-town-centre-gateway-fund.</p>
Household Support Fund	<p>The household support fund is available to help tenants who are finding it difficult to pay their housing costs, and in some cases can also be used to reduce rent arrears. Please encourage any residents in need to apply via the MSDC website https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/household-support-fund or to phone 0300 1234000, option 3.</p>
Call for Biodiversity Land Summit	<p>MSDC are holding a 'call for land' summit on 5th September, 10am-2pm, at the Mix in Stowmarket. Any landowner who would like to use their land to help wildlife – for example by tree or hedge planting or creating a meadow – is welcome to attend. This is a free event, and advice, support, and resources from local environmental organisations will be available. Register your interest at https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/call-for-land-summit-tickets-950534031877</p>
Norwich to Tilbury	<p>The Statutory Consultation on the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Pylons came to a close last month and the Chair of Mid Suffolk District Council has written to Edward Milliband MP, the Secretary of State for Energy, Security and Net Zero. His email address is: secretary.state@energysecurity.gov.uk</p>

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