

District Councillor Report: Andy Mellen – Bacton ward

(Bacton, Cotton, Finningham, Westhorpe and Wyverstone)

July 2024

General Election 4 th July	<p>Due to the pre-election period, Cabinet and Council meetings at Mid Suffolk were postponed until after the election.</p> <p>Now that the results are out, after constituency boundary changes Mid Suffolk is represented by three new Members of Parliament, from three different parties: In Central Suffolk and North Ipswich there is a Conservative MP, Patrick Spencer. In Bury St Edmunds & Stowmarket there is a Labour MP, Peter Prinsley. In the new Waveney Valley constituency (which includes Bacton ward) there is a Green MP, Adrian Ramsay. The council leaders are aiming to meet with all our new MPs as soon as possible so that we can work together to achieve the best for the district.</p>
Council meeting	<p>The re-scheduled Council meeting will be on 25th July. Items for discussion and approval include the potential adoption of a local listed building consent order and local development order. If approved this will potentially enable owners of listed buildings to apply specific energy efficiency measures to their homes without onerous planning</p>
Cabinet meeting	<p>The re-scheduled Cabinet meeting will be on 15th July with a long agenda. Items for discussion and approval include a proposal to support residents in need, a new social value policy and a regeneration initiative for Stowmarket town centre. This is in addition to other matters as well as agreeing the response to the statutory consultation for the Norwich to Tilbury National Strategic Infrastructure Project (NSIP).</p>
Changes to planning	<p>The new chancellor Rachel Reeves has already announced some changes to the planning process, in a bid to speed up delivery of housing and infrastructure. We are yet to see the details of this and the implications for our local plan (currently in process) and the Norwich to Tilbury pylon line. We are concerned that top-down housing targets will take decision-making away from local elected representatives. Currently Mid Suffolk is delivering a good number of homes across the district. We would like to be building more council houses but the financial rules do not allow us to.</p>
Economic Lands needs assessment report	<p>Babergh and Mid Suffolk have now published an Economic Land Needs Assessment document. This shows the future employment land requirements in the Districts to support the identified growth for 2023 to 2037, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance. The document can be viewed at babergh-and-mid-suffolk-economic-land-needs-assessment-report-june-2024.</p>
Student event	<p>Babergh and Mid Suffolk are putting on an event in July for sixth formers to find out about careers in local government and how councils are structured. This is part of the Councils' local democracy project.</p>
Locality Awards 2024/25	<p>Applications for this year's Locality Awards grants are now open again after the election – but please contact me first about your application https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/web/mid-suffolk/w/locality-awards</p>

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