

District Councillor's Report for Parish Councils - April 2023

Councillor Andy Mellen, Bacton Ward (Bacton, Cotton, Finningham, Westhorpe and Wyverstone)

Local elections 2023	<p>We are now in the district council pre-election period. Nominations for candidates closed on 4th April and the elections for both district and parish councils will be held on 4th May.</p> <p>There is still time to register to vote (until 17th April) and you can also apply for your photo ID (Voter Authority Certificate) up to 25th April if necessary.</p>
Joint Local Plan consultation period	<p>Following the Planning Inspectorate feedback, the Councils are inviting responses to the proposed modifications to part 1 of the new joint local plan. The consultation period runs from 16th March to 3rd May. This is a technical consultation about the validity of the plan. There is no scope for any major amendments at this stage.</p>
Stowmarket Health, Education, Leisure and Fitness project (SHELF)	<p>A full planning application for the proposed development of Chilton Fields and Stowmarket High School has now been submitted. The site is designed to be flexible so it can accommodate a range of sports including football, basketball, badminton, cricket, rugby and volleyball. There will also be an all-weather running track and a new multi-sports pavilion.</p>
Planning Enforcement	<p>Following the proposals of a working group, the new Joint Local Planning Enforcement plan was agreed by Council last week. The new plan aims to make the process of enforcement clearer and to keep all interested parties better informed about the process and outcomes of any enforcement case.</p>
Community Infrastructure Levy Expenditure Framework	<p>The working group undertook the 5th review of the CIL expenditure framework and the proposals were agreed by both Councils last week. The main changes included the use of ringfenced funds from catchment areas for major projects, enabling CIL funds to be used for some highway works provided they were related to active travel and were included in the LCWIP. Also the limit for parish projects was increased to £100,000 and up to 75% of the total costs, and there will be more flexibility due to quotes becoming out of date sooner.</p>
Easter Holiday Activities	<p>Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils have put together a programme of free Easter Holiday activities for eligible families. Information and booking of the activities can be accessed online via https://sway.office.com/fvS8xvpnlLaeEgMW?ref=email</p>

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