

District Council District Councillor Report: Andy Mellen - Bacton ward (Bacton, Cotton, Finningham, Westhorpe and Wyverstone)

May 2024

Free Compost events	<p>To coincide with International Compost Awareness Week 5th to 11th May, the district council held a series of compost giveaways across the district to support residents with a garden, allotment, or window box to grow their own plants.</p> <p>There is an additional event on June 23rd 7am to 11.45am at Meadlands social club, Needham Road, Stowmarket, when loose compost will be given out. Residents to bring their own shovels, plus up to two bags per car, and can help themselves on a first come, first served basis. More information about composting can be found at https://getcomposting.com and https://www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk.</p>
Tenant satisfaction	<p>The results from a recent tenant satisfaction survey are not very promising with many council tenants rating the service from the Council as poor. A programme of service improvements is already underway, including a better system for booking appointments with the service team. We are also re-organising the work teams responsible for council house maintenance, including putting more work out to external contractors so that we can catch up with the backlog of repairs.</p>
Housing	<p>The Council was successful in gaining an £800k grant for decarbonising our council housing stock. This will assist ongoing work such as improving insulation and replacing oil and older gas boilers with air source heat pumps. The Housing Solutions team has been shortlisted as Team of the Year in the Housing Heroes awards, for their work in supporting people out of homelessness/in need of emergency housing.</p>
Annual council meeting Weds 22 nd May	<p>Our annual council meeting will take place on the 22nd of May where we will vote in a new chair and vice-chair of the council, as well as chairs, vice-chairs and placings of all the council committees. Following directly on from this will be an ordinary council meeting where we will be debating a review of the boundary between Stowmarket and Onehouse parishes.</p>
Community transport grants	<p>Following a tender process, MSDC cabinet has approved £600,000 of funding for two community transport operators, to enhance public transport across the district.</p> <p>Details of the contracts are being finalised and the successful bidders and details of the new services will be publicised over the next few months.</p>
Locality Budget 2024/25	<p>The application process is now open for this year's locality awards, so I welcome applications from any community group – minimum amount is £250. Do get in touch with me to discuss any application first. Information and application forms are available on the website. https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/web/mid-suffolk/w/locality-awards</p>

Cllr Andy Mellen

Andrew.Mellen@midsuffolk.gov.uk

07790 992619