

District Councillor Report December 2025

The last MSDC meeting took place on the 27th of November. The next one will be on the 22nd of January 2026.

- Amongst 'the Leader's Announcements' it was highlighted that the Mayoral Elections planned for next year will have to be according to 'first past the post', too little time to make any changes. However, as I am writing this the government is announcing that these elections are to be postponed until 2028!
Going back to planned changes we were all reminded that the Consultation period re the LGR (Local Government Reform, size of Unitaries etc) will finish on the 10th of January. 'The Three Councils for Suffolk' website and 'the One Suffolk' website are useful for this.
- The half year report on Treasury Management presented no problems and was passed.
- The Biodiversity and Nature Recovery budget was explained, debated and passed, only one vote against. Personally I think that a commendably in depth work has been carried by the involved Councillors and Officers, it is hard to come up with any aspect not covered. All of this stems from the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), set in motion by the cross-party Biodiversity Working Group. The budget for 25/26 will be £343,866. The scheme covers 3 years and the total budget is estimated to be £1,807,268. There will be a Community fund – grant funding where Parish Councils, Community groups and charities may apply for money to help re-establish/create habitats, a school's programme and so forth. Other items include tree planting, pond creation/restoration. A complete account of this ambitious programme can be found in the MSDC minutes. 'The Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service' website provides useful tips re funds and also insight into what is being planned.
- Cllr Lucy Elkin (G) put forward a motion about establishing a 'Mid Suffolk Youth Council'. This was seconded by Cllr Harry Richardson (C). East Suffolk already has a Youth Council, others have too. Aim is to give young people insight in how society is run, enable them to feel able to make their voices heard. This is important not least when the voting age is set to be lowered to 16. This proposal was passed without any problems, 27/28 votes.
- Re the new waste collection there will be an information campaign launched in February. Glass/plastics to be collected 1/3 weeks, cardboard etc also 1/3. The system is expected to get up and running in June 2026, to that purpose 17 new bin lorries have been purchased.

Yours Sincerely

Anders Linder