

District Councillor Report: Palgrave Parish Council

December 2024

Full Council	Monthly Full Council took place on 21 November. The meeting discussed and approved Treasury management reports and a passed motion urging the Government to reverse its decision to cut the Winter Fuel Allowance.
Fees and Charges updates	Updates to Fees and Charges across the district were approved in November's Cabinet meeting to take effect on 1 April 2025. A full list of amendments are available on the Council's website.
Accessing Community Funding. Pride in Your Place.	Mid Suffolk's website has a refreshed community funding page, aiming to make it much easier for local community groups to understand and apply for grants and funding. Groups in need of funding for a project should go to the www.midsuffolk.gov.uk home page and click the 'Access community funding' button. NB Pride in Your Place award is available for application now, with an increased upper award limit of £5,000.
Waste & Recycling over Christmas & New Year	There are alterations to the collection schedules over the festive period, including a scheme to recycle Christmas Trees. Information can be found on Mid Suffolk's website, using the following link: Christmas waste collections - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk
Potential Local Government reform	There has been national press attention to proposed changes in local government structure across Suffolk. The related White Paper has yet to be published, but it is anticipated in December. The abolition of district and county councils in favour of a unitary system (with combined powers of a district and county council) covering all of Suffolk has been speculated. Until the Government formally outlines its proposals no action is being taken.
Tackling Social Housing Stigma	Mid Suffolk District Council, along with partners at Babergh have signed up to a new campaign to prevent social housing stigma. A workshop for officers and elected members, considered the best methods to tackle social housing inequality and negative stereotypes associated with it across the district.
Eye Airfield Development	I represented relevant Parishes in the ward at Planning Committee's further consideration of the filling station, drive through restaurant, retail and lorry park (etc) application on 20 November 2024. Key to the debate is the provision of fresh water supply to the development (which sits inside the Hartismere WRZ where a water moratorium exists until 2033) and the removal of excess rainwater runoff from the site. Whilst neither matter has been satisfactorily resolved, the application has been approved. It remains to be seen how the developer will progress the project in light of the obstacles presented by the water utility company.

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