

District Councillor June/July 2026

On the 25th of June there was the MSDC meeting, a fairly brief one.

A motion was put forward asking the MDSC to request of the County Council a clear statement clarifying if there will be immediate changes to the thresholds for dealing with potholes and repairs of pavement defects. Also asking the CC to specify the volume of backlog and these are planned to be dealt with. I did vote in favour of the motion although I would have preferred a collaborative effort from all the Districts Councils. It would also have been helpful if there would have been some idea as to what the new criteria for thresholds should have looked like.

The Council approved the report from the Licensing Committee recommending that all roads except the A14 will be designated 'Consent streets' for the purpose of street trading. The same application and consultation process will apply all through the district. A draft street trading policy will be drawn up and put out for consultation at a later stage. At present there are about 50 street traders active in our district.

A number of other matters were also dealt with, of an administrative nature.

The first steps are being taken to create a new Joint Local Plan. A scoping consultation will go on until the 31st of July. A questionnaire has been put together, comprising 23 items. Amongst these will be found items like where new housing should be built, what types of jobs/businesses are desirable/suitable, key transport matters and many more. To access this, www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/joint-local-plan-scoping-consultation would be a good way. The Joint plan is intended to cover the period up to 2045. The first draft Local Plan is planned for early 2027. In February 2028 there will be a Consultation on the proposed Local Plan. Re land supply the government has decided that a 20% buffer is required. This means that Mid Suffolk has 6,73 years of supply at present. We are required to evidence supply for 5 years. For the 5 years 3210 homes are expected to be provided. Our land supply provides the potential surplus of 1116 homes.

Stradbroke Leisure Centre is due to undergo repairs and refurbishments this summer. The pool will be closed between the 21st of July and the 11th of August. The rest of the Centre will remain open.

'Pride in Place' grants, amounts between £ 50 and £ 5000, can be applied for by PCs and other local organizations. The 'Grants Team' at the MSDC can be approached for this.

A legal challenge has been put forward by the SCC, asking for a Judicial Review of the LGR(Local Government Reform). A Judicial Review is not dealing with the actual decision but brings into question how the decision came to be. A judge will deem whether this review will be granted or not. In the meantime the previously planned work preparing for this change(the LGR) will continue pending any court decision.

The process towards achieving some kind of solution to the longstanding parking problem at New Street Close continues. Officers, Cllr Davis and me have had meetings with residents. A very good turnout, plenty of engagement. The tenant engagement coordinator is involved and she is providing a questionnaire for all the residents to find out what their priorities are. In the end I believe there will be more parking space, possibly not to the high standards envisaged all these years ago but we should not let the best be the enemy of the good.

Yours Sincerely, Anders Linder