


# District Councillor Report: Bacton Ward – July 2023

Bacton, Cotton, Finningham, Westhorpe and Wyverstone

	<p>Mid Suffolk District Council has launched a campaign to clean-up neighbourhoods, build community pride and tackle the doorstep issues that voters said mattered to them. The new 'Pride in Your Place' campaign will give every town and village the opportunity to apply for funding for projects which improve the appearance and cleanliness of their community.</p> <p>Once awarded, the money can be used for initiatives like litter picking, sign cleaning, graffiti removal, the maintenance/enhancement of open public spaces and more.</p> <p>These projects will complement routine grounds and maintenance work already carried out by the council and partner authorities, but Mid Suffolk's new administration also wants to help communities to tackle local frustrations and issues that voters said were important to them during the recent local elections.</p> <p>Under the funding scheme, parishes with a population over 1,500 are eligible to apply for up to £400 in funding. For those with a population below 1,500, up to £250 can be applied for. Applications can also be made by voluntary, community and social enterprises with support from their local town or parish council. They must be received by the council by 31 October 2023 and awards and payments will be made within 21 days of receipt of an eligible application.</p>
<p><b>Annual Canvas &amp; Residents' Survey</b></p>	<p>MSDC's annual canvas of every household is now underway; completing the form online or on paper ensures that those of us eligible to vote can do so. A representative mix of around 1 in 12 people across Mid Suffolk and Babergh are also currently receiving a Residents' Survey, seeking their views on a range of subjects such as local facilities, their local community, internet access, and wellbeing – results will be available in November.</p>
<p><b>MSDC Meetings</b></p>	<p>The last full Council meeting was successfully held at the Blackbourne Community Centre in Elmswell on 19<sup>th</sup> July. A previous Cabinet meeting was held at the John Peel Centre in Stowmarket and it is good to get our meetings out into the district.</p>
<p><b>Greenhouse Gas report 2021-22</b></p>	<p>Local Authorities have to publish an annual Greenhouse Gas Report highlighting the greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprint relating to their estate and operations. The report was discussed by full Council on 19<sup>th</sup> July and it was agreed to set up a 'Task and Finish' panel to review activities to help reach the net-zero target in 2030.</p>
<p><b>Review of Elections in May 2023</b></p>	<p>Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC) discussed the issues relating to the administration of the Elections on 4<sup>th</sup> May. The Chief Executive commissioned both an internal and an external review of the processes. There had been issues relating to the receipt, processing and communication of the 1500 candidate nominations, and some of the Statements of Persons Nominated were incorrect and had to be republished. Despite these errors, no bearing on the election results was found. Lessons have been learnt and officers are planning early for the next set of elections – the Police and Crime Commissioner elections next May.</p>
<p><b>Norwich to Tilbury National Grid proposals</b></p>	<p>A consultation event was held at the Blackbourne last month regarding the proposed line of pylons from Norwich to Tilbury. Any member of the public can respond to the consultation at <a href="https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury">https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury</a></p> <p>MSDC agreed at the last council meeting to write to the Government to formally object to the scheme, because of its far-reaching impact on local communities.</p>

<b>Solar farms</b>	In my role as leader of MSDC, I spoke at the LGA conference at Bournemouth in early July, asking that the Government provide a clear national framework for the development of solar farms. There needs to be a balance between delivering renewable energy, food production and protecting our valuable landscape.
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