

District Councillor Report – Battisford and Ringshall Ward

Battisford, Ringshall, Great Bricett, Barking, Offton and Willisham

April 2024

Council of the Year Award

The councils of Mid Suffolk and Babergh have just been jointly awarded Council of the Year for their collaboration and focus on their communities. This was awarded by the iESE, a not-for-profit organisation created by local authorities to transform public services and retain experience within the sector.

Rural Transport Grants

A new rural transport grants scheme has just been launched to provide new passenger transport options and hopefully open new or improved bus routes across six key areas in Mid Suffolk. More details are available at <https://midsuffolk.gov.uk/rural-transport-grants-scheme>.

CIL expenditure framework

Full council recommended approval of the amendments proposed to the Community Infrastructure Levy Expenditure Framework following the sixth review. Under the changes, applications for District CIL from sports clubs and community shops and cafes will be supported with provisos that any profit made by such businesses goes back to the community, and allowing more flexibility for community project costs.

Suffolk Devolution deal consultation

SCC has launched the consultation of the proposed devolution deal for Suffolk. MSDC councillors debated this issue at last week's Council meeting but are not involved in the SCC decision. The deal gives SCC some more local power alongside a fund of £480 million over a 30-year period (an insignificant proportion of the total SCC budget). More information and public consultation can be found here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/devolution>.

District Council objects to National Grid reinforcement plans

MSDC objected to the National Grid's plans to reinforce the network which would increase the number of pylons around the Bramford substation. The council cited cumulative environmental impacts with other development and construction work in the area.

Nationally significant Solar Farm proposal

A 2000MW solar farm proposal near Mendlesham has been proposed. This is a large nationally significant energy application which will be determined by the Planning Inspectorate. MSDC are just a consultee, but have requested more clarity about certain aspects of the application.

Trial an e-bike

Mid Suffolk have partnered with Eezybikes to provide an e-bike hire service from our Needham Lakes site. The bicycles can be booked on the Eezybikes website: <https://eezybike.co.uk/book-now>

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