

District Councillor Report: Andy Mellen

For Bacton, Cotton, Finningham, Westhorpe and Wyverstone parishes

January 2023

Waste fleet	The new fleet of 22 waste collection freighters have arrived and are now in service. A competition was held to decide the names for the vehicles and there were over 400 names submitted. Details of the winning names can be found on the website here https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/news/revealed-winning-names-for-babergh-and-mid-suffolks-new-environmentally-friendly-bin-lorries/ . The new tankers are fuelled by hydrogenated vegetable oil (HVO) which is a low-carbon fuel produced from waste cooking oil.
Solar Carport at Stowmarket Leisure Centre	After various delays, the 70 solar carports are now up and running, producing almost a quarter of the Leisure Centre's annual electricity demand. The system also includes several EV chargers, as well as battery storage so that excess energy produced during sunnier periods can be saved for later.
New Tenancy Policy	Mid Suffolk Cabinet met on Jan 9th to discuss a new tenancy policy. The policy sets out a clear explanation of the range of tenancies that the councils offers and how and they are managed. The policy reinforces the councils' recognition of and the importance of all residents having a safe and sustainable place to call home, alongside the need for high-quality social and affordable housing.
Fees and charges	The cabinet also discussed future fees and charges for council services. Fees and charges are a vital revenue stream for the Council, but they pledge to keep any increases fair and will continue to support families in need. Some of the increases in charges are set nationally – such as building control and licencing. There will be a small increase in charges for garden waste collection.
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	There will be up to 100% Council Tax reduction for those families with the lowest income, and transitional protection scheme to ensure that no-one will be worse off under any of the proposed changes.
Locality Funding	My locality funds for this financial year are now all allocated, I have been able to put funds towards the purchase of a defibrillator for Cotton village hall, the warm space initiatives that the church is running in Bacton and Wyverstone, support for the gardening club's planned Coronation display, as well as various other projects earlier in the year across all five villages in the ward.

Cllr Andy Mellen

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