

**District Councillor's Report for Gislingham Ward: Mellis, Gislingham,
Thornham, Wortham & Burgate, Wickham Skeith Parish Councils**

October 2021

<p>MSDC Full Council Meeting 23/09/2021</p>	<p>A "No Casino" Policy was approved.</p> <p>The CIFCO Business Plan was approved. Active management of portfolio including a sustainability strategy.</p> <p>A comprehensive Wellbeing Strategy (to 2027) was introduced and approved unanimously with a budget of £1million pounds. This was developed through cross party workshops.</p> <p><i>"The long-term ambition and focus of this strategy is to enable families to lead active, healthy, safe and independent lives and manage their own health & wellbeing; to create sustainable places and spaces which maximise health and wellbeing opportunities and for health inequalities to be reduced. Our aim is to do everything we can to stimulate and enhance the social, economic, environmental ,and cultural wellbeing of our communities and this will be achieved not only through this strategy, but by ensuring that well-being also continues to be embedded in the delivery of the strategies that support the Councils' five other strategic priorities."</i></p> <p><i>"The identities and contributions made by people, communities, and local organisations to life in our Districts will be celebrated and further encouraged and developed."</i></p> <p>Recommendations on Payment Scales for Senior Staff was withdrawn.</p> <p>Revisions of Neighbourhood Plans were approved – procedure simplified - automatically proceeding to referendum after parish and councils modifications, and approved at cabinet rather than full council meeting.</p> <p>Motions on light pollution and inclusion of lighting control within the Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document, and on the proposed use of ID cards at Elections – a solution without a problem, were deferred.</p> <p>Meeting closed 10.00pm.</p>
<p>MSDC Extraordinary Meeting 18/10/2021</p>	<p>The council passed the following motions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Council recognises that light pollution is increasing and that it causes harm to wildlife and insects and can increase health risks in people. The Council therefore will seek to reduce the intensity and extent of outdoor lighting within its own public realm and housing assets and other lighting schemes where it has influence, to the extent practical. The Council will also include guidance in its Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document to protect and enhance dark skies for the benefit of wildlife and human health and well being. Proposer: Cllr Dr Daniel Pratt. Seconder : Cllr Jessica Fleming 2. This Council Resolves: To oppose the introduction of photo ID as a requirement to vote at polling stations. To request the Leader to write to the relevant minister indicating this opposition and the reasons why and requesting this measure should be excluded from the Elections Bill. That should mandatory photo ID be passed into law, this council will investigate low-cost and no-cost options for residents, bearing in mind the barriers outlined and focus efforts to promote the ID to those who are most likely to need it. Proposer: Cllr Andrew Mellen. Seconder: Cllr Keith Scarff

**District Councillor's Report for Gislingham Ward: Mellis, Gislingham,
Thornham, Wortham & Burgate, Wickham Skeith Parish Councils**

October 2021

<p>Platinum Jubilee 2022</p>	<p>I have enquired about any funding available for events to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee next year. At present MSDC have no plans to create a special fund however I am able to fund projects from my Locality Fund Next Year. So I am provisionally offering a grant of £250 towards a community event in each Parish. Forms would have to be filled in in the usual way and the event would have to meet the usual criteria regarding access for the larger community and not specific religious or political events.</p>
<p>Locality Awards</p>	<p>New grants available now for 2021/22. Open to groups with projects that provide a clear and tangible benefit to the community. Full information available using the link or contact me to discuss your project. https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/communities/grants-and-funding/locality-awards-2021-22/</p>
<p>Response expected next Full Council Meeting 25th Nov. All party workshops: These are the proposals put forward by the Green and Liberal Democrat Group – no responses have been received.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. £1m should be directed to exemplar zero-carbon housing projects, in particular selecting those that can be delivered within a 2-year timeframe using innovative techniques. We also propose that a set of Suffolk specific designs and specifications be drawn up and used for these developments, and then made open-source for small-scale developers and self-builders to use. The intention is that more housing will be delivered at social rents. 2. Up to £1m should be used to improve the delivery of our planning services, to strengthen and train the staff team, and make the department the best in the region. In particular the role of planning enforcement should be enhanced, so that conditions imposed on developers are followed up and implemented in full, thus moving enforcement into a positive, proactive role alongside its current reactive function. 3. £1m to be retained for future response to the Covid pandemic as needs arise over the next couple of years.

**District Councillor's Report for Gislingham Ward: Mellis, Gislingham,
Thornham, Wortham & Burgate, Wickham Skeith Parish Councils**

October 2021

<p>Local Energy Showcase</p> <p>21st/22nd October</p>	<p><u>Notes from Workshop: Support for Decarbonisation in Local Parishes</u></p> <p><i>Chaired by Alex Templeton from Eastern New Energy</i></p> <p>Eastern New Energy (ENE) working in partnership with NALC and SALC to assist organisations including parish councils to decarbonise.</p> <p>Parishes in the meeting agreed that parish councils can play a large role as a catalyst for emissions reductions, however some barriers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parishes often struggle with large solar and housing developers• Parishes often feel there is a disconnect between themselves, the County and District Councils, and other Parish Councils• Parish Councils may feel they lack the data and information needed to make plans• Finance is required to fund new community assets or renew or adapt existing local infrastructure. (PWLB) <p>ENE can provide advice and help with discreet projects. Parish Councils would need to form a social enterprise or charity in which ENE can legally engage. The organisation would be eligible for assistance on behalf of the parish.</p> <p>ENE can assist with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preparing 'net zero' implementation schemes• Technical feasibility studies and parish surveys• Grants and funding schemes• Local energy production development, retrofit and insulation schemes <p>For more information on ENE please see - https://www.uel.ac.uk/our-research/research-school-architecture-computing-engineering/sustainability-research-institute-sri/eastern-new-energy-project</p> <p>(MSDC has let a contract for the construction of a solar carport in the Stowmarket Leisure Centre car park; works are expected to begin shortly and be complete by spring 2022. More than half of the cost is being met from the Government's Getting Building Fund).</p>
<p>New NPPF</p>	<p>The revised National Planning Policy Framework sets out government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.</p> <p>This was updated 20th July 2021. A link:</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2</p>

MSDC Councillor Rowland Warboys

rowland.warboys@midsuffolk.gov.uk Tel. 01379 783412 Mobile: 07484 186121