

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

July 2022

CIFCO	Rent collection is above expectations for 20/21 , awaiting new business plan. The portfolio has increased in value accounting for an increase in profits. There is a programme of improving properties to meet EPC C, this in turn leads to increased rents. Leases are for an average of 7 years.
Gateway 14	A further £5 million has been authorised to fund further preparatory works.
Mid Suffolk rural transport/electric minibus project.	Member Working Group to meet early Sept. Following the approved budget amendment to ringfence funding of £560,000 capital and £260,000 revenue from the Growth and Efficiency Fund within the 2022/23 budget for rural transport provision utilising electric buses, research has been carried out to explore a range of different options as to what this provision might look like, the deliverability of these options, and some other alternatives that may be worth consideration.
Electoral Services	<p>Residents will shortly start receiving letters and emails from the Electoral Services Team asking them to check and update the information we hold on their household. The emails are being sent via the GOV.UK Notify email service. and will look like the dummy example attached.</p> <p>The letters will be branded with the joint logo and any replay envelopes will be addressed to Endeavour House.</p> <p>Residents who want to respond to us online will be asked to use https://www.registersecurely.com/BaberghandMidSuffolk this website is managed by our contractor and is fully integrated with our Electoral Management System.</p>
Housing Revenue Account	<p><u>Capital Programme in total</u></p> <p>For 2021/22 HRA had an approved annual budget of £26.3m but we also had a carry forward of £13.6m due to slippage from 2020/21 which gave us a total pot of almost £40m. Ongoing difficulties with supplies and staffing issues.</p> <p>HRA spent £13.9m in 2021/22 and are carrying forward £24.6m to be spend over the next few years.</p> <p><u>There are two main elements to this</u></p> <p>Planned maintenance - we have spent more than the annual budget of £2.5m (we spent £2.6m) but we haven’t spent to previous years carry forward of £2m – due procurement delays and supply issues.</p> <p>New build and acquisition we had an annual budget of £23.3m which we have spent £10.8m but we haven’t yet spent the carry forward from previous years of £11m - some schemes will complete over the next 2 to 3 years</p> <p>We have acquired 32 new properties during 2021/22, however we have also lost 21 properties through the RTB scheme.</p>
The “Lewes” Model	Mid Suffolk DC is investigating a cooperative approach with other district councils across Suffolk to bring retrofitting home insulation “in-house.”
CIL Changes	<p>There are changes to eligibility, to include projects to reduce carbon footprints.</p> <p>There are 45 emerging projects across and beyond Mid Suffolk, a Parish Infrastructure Plan, PIP, is a useful way to develop a CIL bid.</p> <p>This a link to the Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Interactive map. Projects have been identified and now need follow up work to the point of making a CIL bid. Perhaps Parishes would like to identify and propose which routes should be a priority.</p>

	https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1sxy99yitOzI74iXgTZrB9-ofvsF1q7nH&dl=52.329927066523766%2C1.0450080800292971&z=13
Locality Grant scheme 2022/23	The next round of Locality Grants is now open. Although the deadline is not until March 2023, I welcome applications from community groups. Details are available on the website https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/communities/grants-and-funding/locality-awards-guidance/ . Please contact me in the first instance. I have already used some of the funding to support the Jubilee Celebrations throughout Gislingham ward.

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