


District Councillor Report for Coddendam Parish Council

March 2024

Council Budget agreed	<p>The first Green Administration budget was agreed by Council in February. It was thought responsible to increase the MSDC element of Council Tax by 2% (approx. 7p a week which is lower than most authorities). The cost of services to residents and communities is expected to rise by £1.8M, and Core Government funding is not matching the inflationary pressures, combined with uncertainty over the income from Gateway 14 and the value of CIFCO mean the modest council tax increase should help protect services and build on the new priorities of the Council. The Green administration is putting environmental sustainability and social justice at the heart of all its activities.</p>
Housing Revenue Budget	<p>The housing revenue budget will have financial challenges ahead, most notably an increase of £1.1M in the cost to run the housing service. The housing revenue account and council general fund account are completely separate so there is no way to cross subsidise from one account to the other. There will be a 7.7% increase in housing rents this year just to keep pace with rising costs. There will also be increases in both service and utility charges for sheltered housing tenants. Advice and help for those struggling with finances is available from the Council.</p>
Rural Transport grants	<p>A new rural transport grants scheme has just been launched to help provide passenger transport options across the district. Existing community transport operators can apply for funding before 15th April. More details are available here: https://midsuffolk.gov.uk/rural-transport-grants-scheme.</p>
Joint local plan part 2	<p>All parish and town councils across both districts have all been invited to complete a questionnaire about the services and facilities present in each area. This information is needed to prepare the next phase of the Joint Local Plan. https://forms.office.com/e/qnxYmp9PWX</p>
	<p>Mid Suffolk District Council scheme for free insulation upgrades for homes is still open. To qualify, properties need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an EPC rating below a C. (This applies to 29 million properties in the UK) • an annual household income under £60k. Savings of no more than £16k. • to be in Council Tax bands A-D • Insulation options must be viable in the property <p>Mid Suffolk Cosy Homes - Mid Suffolk District Council - Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils - Working Together</p>
Community Rail Partnership	<p>The Ipswich to Cambridge Line will join the 9 other CRPs in the region which should mean improvements to Needham, Stowmarket, Elmswell and Thurston stations.</p>
Review of waste collection services	<p>As Coddendam is holding a recycling initiative on the 23rd, you may be interested to know, if you don't already, as the government has mandated weekly food waste collection by 31st March 2026</p>
... and finally	<p>Babergh and Mid-Suffolk District Council has been named UK Council of the Year at the iESE Public Sector Transformation Awards in London. It would be easy for politicians to claim the credit but it is also very much down to the hard work put in over the years by the officers and staff. The award is presented to a council deemed 'outstanding' in transforming its services and creating vibrant communities.</p>

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