

# **District Cllr Report Battsiford and Ringshall Ward**

## **Barking, Battsiford, Great Bricett, Offton, Ringshall, Willisham**

### **November 2022**

#### **Electric Bus Project**

A Task and Finish Group of six MSDC Councillors has commenced work on planning how best to serve our residents with the two electric minibuses which are to be acquired by MSDC because of a Green and Liberal Democrat proposed budget amendment.

#### **Council Tax Reduction Scheme**

In October's Cabinet meeting, councillors agreed to consult on a scheme to increase the council tax reduction for eligible households from 95% to 100%. Currently households who receive benefits have reduced council tax bills depending on the amount of benefit they receive.

#### **Business Park appeal refused by planning Inspector**

Planning Inspector, Mr Wilkinson, agreed with the decision by Mid Suffolk District Council to refuse permission to site 69 mobile homes on the Great Bricett Business Park. The main aspects contested were the provision of affordable homes and the sustainability of the location. Inadequate public transport and proximity to services were key reasons for refusal.

#### **Exemplar Housing scheme proposal**

Plans for a development of up to 50 environmentally friendly low carbon homes on a plot of Council owned land adjacent to School Road in Elmswell are to be discussed by Cabinet in November. If the cabinet agrees to go forward with the £15M scheme the next stage would involve some public engagement prior to the submission of a planning application.

#### **Winter Warmth Funding**

A Winter Warmth Support Grant fund was launched on 21<sup>st</sup> October. Organisations could apply for grants of £250 - £5000 to help with the increased energy, rent and food costs to enable community activities and warm spaces to remain open and available during the winter. The grant application window closed on 31<sup>st</sup> October. Depending on demand the scheme may be repeated at a later date.

#### **Tree for Life**

A reminder for any family living in the district who has welcomed a new baby (either by birth or adoption) this year to apply for a tree to be planted this winter. Details of the scheme is available on the website <https://www.babergh.gov.uk/environment/planting-schemes/tree-for-life/>

#### **New Waste Tankers**

Babergh and Mid Suffolk are investing £2M for 22 new Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO)-fuelled waste tankers. This is the biggest upgrade to the Waste fleet in about 10 years.

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