

# District Cllr Report Needham Market Ward

Badley, Baylham, Creeting St Mary, Creeting St Peter, Darmsden, Needham Market Town

May 2023

## Elections 2023

In Mid Suffolk, 34 councillors were elected, with 24 seats for the Green Party, six seats for Local Conservatives, and four for the Liberal Democrats. The first meeting of the newly elected council will be the Annual Council Meeting held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Councillors will elect their leader and chair and the cabinet will then be appointed by the council leader.

## Electoral Commission and Voter Identification

These were the first set of elections in England where voters had to show a specific form of photographic identification before being issued with a ballot paper in the polling station. This requirement was introduced in The Elections Act 2022. We acknowledge there were a number of voters across Mid Suffolk who were unable to vote due to not having one of the specific forms of identification. MSDC will submit all necessary data regarding the impact of the new legislation to the Electoral Commission.

## Cost of Living Support

MSDC is continuing to provide support for those who are struggling with the ongoing rise in the cost of living. Further information can be found online: <https://www.babergh.gov.uk/benefits/cost-of-living-support/>

## Community Grants available in Mid Suffolk

A range of grants are available for projects that have a clear and beneficial impact on our local communities. These include:

Capital Grants – these are aimed at assisting community groups in making improvements and repairs to village halls, play areas, sports clubs, recreational facilities and other social infrastructure. They can cover up to 100% of total project costs to a maximum grant of £10,000. Capital Grants are open for applications from the 1st April 2023 to 2nd June 2023.

Community Development Grants – provides financial support to help with the delivery of local place-based initiatives and activities, where gaps in provision have been identified. The grants is available towards either revenue (ongoing) or capital (new or one-off) projects. It can cover up to 100% of project costs to a maximum of £20,000. Applications are open for applications from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023.

Councillors Locality Award – the award will be open for applications towards the end of May 2023.

**Dr Ross Piper**

**Mid Suffolk District Councillor**

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