

District councillor's report, March 2011

1. Implications of County Council budget

We still await the full implications of the County Council's budget reductions for Mid Suffolk. While we understand the reasons behind the overall reduction in funding from central government, the County has received a much more generous settlement than nearly all districts in the county. We have concerns about a reduction in many areas that affect rural areas in particular, such as buses, libraries and the household waste sites. The County has offered to meet in order to help us understand what is happening in our area.

2. Recycling

Unfortunately, the County has decided to close seven household waste recycling sites, of which two, Bramford and Brome, are in Mid Suffolk. We lobbied hard against these closures, but our lobbying, and indeed the e-petition designed to persuade the County not to implement the closures, appear to have fallen on deaf ears.

It is early days yet, but MSDC is considering what action it might be able to take in order to keep the extremely popular and successful Brome site open.

On a separate note, we continue to monitor bins across the District for contamination, with some success with individual households. A new booklet is being produced, with central funding, in order to reinforce the recycling message and to clarify what items can and cannot be recycled.

3. Street cleaning and ground maintenance

With winter behind us, the team is preparing to take part in the Suffolk Spring Clean, and are offering kits for individual volunteers (of which more below). The A14 is working hard to clear the winter detritus.

There has been a slight increase in fly-tipping and abandoned vehicles over the last month, although the proposed closure of the two household waste sites is likely to lead to a further increase.

4. Spring Clean 2011 - 26th March – 10th April

The time of year has come round again when we tackle the litter accumulated during the winter months. For those parishes organising a litter pick this year, MSDC is able to provide a litter picking kit to volunteer groups who regularly carry out litter picks. However, as we are unable to gift equipment to every town and parish we ask that neighbouring towns and parishes share equipment.

A press release follows that can be used in your local magazine if you would like to advertise for residents to take part – feel free to adjust it to meet your local needs or just add a local organiser contact name and number.

New groups

MSDC will either gift you with your own litter pick kit or put you in touch with the nearest town or parish that already hold a kit. The kit consists of 15 hi-vis waistcoats (in a variety of sizes), 15 litter pick sticks, 15 pairs of gloves, black bags for collection of waste.

New & Existing groups

We can assist by providing you with bags prior to the litter pick and collecting your waste from an agreed place the following week. MSDC will supply volunteer guidance and any other advice you need.

Individual volunteers

MSDC has a growing band of regular volunteers or look after a street or area in their neighbourhood. MSDC will supply each volunteer with a litter collection starter kit comprising of hi-vis waistcoat, litter picking stick and gloves.

To find out more contact Sarah Carter, Environmental Services Officer, MSDC on 01449 724946.

5. Morrisons supermarket, Stowmarket

Following the grant of planning approval work started at the end of November. Archaeological surveys have been completed and ground works are underway. Target completion is June, allowing three months for the fit out, with a scheduled opening in October.

In connection with this, Milton Road carpark closed at the end of January, and will remain closed for five months, while major refurbishment takes place. Following its completion, however, the number of carparking spaces will rise from 120 to 167. The car park will be re-opened as a short stay with Morrison's refund facility.

Charles Tilbury
01449 767857

charles.tilbury@midsuffolk.gov.uk
07710 376555