

## District Councillor Report: Framsdén

February 2025

Council meeting	The monthly council meeting for January took place on 23 <sup>rd</sup> January. The meeting's key points of discussion included the HRA business plan, and the adoption of the Gambling Act 2005. Most notably, this includes the passing of a motion reiterating council support for farmers, as changes to the Agricultural Property Relief take place, and the cabinet in response will write to all 3 of Mid Suffolk's MPs and meet up with representatives from the National Farmers Union for next steps.
Devolution and Postponement of County Elections	In January, Suffolk County Council was among one of many County Councils across the country to apply for postponing its elections that were due to be held on 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2025, with a formal decision by central government due to be made in the coming days. This comes in response to the Labour government's new plans on devolution, which could see the current two-tier system in Suffolk replaced by a single Unitary Authority.
Extraordinary Council meeting	The extraordinary Council meeting scheduled for Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> February was cancelled because there was insufficient information for us to debate the Devolution and local government reform situation in Suffolk. It will now take place on 27 <sup>th</sup> February. The Government has now agreed that County Council elections will not take place this year but the actual timing is still uncertain.
Council Housing Rent updates	In this month's cabinet meeting, the cabinet updated and amended the rent and service charges for council housing. This included feedback from Tenant survey results that were filled in the previous two months. A full list of changes can be found on MSDC's website
Joint Local Plan Review	The joint local plan across Babergh and Mid Suffolk, previously adopted in November 2023, was reviewed earlier in the month, in response to new government targets regarding housebuilding. Whilst BMSDC have previously exceeded with housebuilding targets, there is a possibility that the new national housebuilding guidelines take priority over the JLP if the council cannot prove there is a 5-year land supply for housing. More details are in this document: <a href="#">babergh-and-mid-suffolk-joint-local-plan-review</a>
Elmswell Services Breach of Condition Notice	Safety Concerns have been raised over Elmswell Service Station, although the service station initially remained open despite it. As a result, the council issued the service station with a Breach of Condition Notice. This was not adhered to, but following a Temporary Stop Order being issued the site has now closed and will remain so while highways works are carried out.
Locality grants	I am pleased to have been able to assist Framsdén Social Enterprise Community Society with £1500 towards the cost of equipment for community lunches and digital workshops.