

District Councillor Report June 2026

In May there were two MSDC meetings, one was the Annual meeting on the 14th and the other a standard monthly meeting.

During the first one the Leader, Andy Mellen, highlighted the development of the Food Museum in Stowmarket. This has received a grant from the Stowmarket Gateway fund a member of the He also reminded about the starting of the new waste collecting arrangements.

Various Committee members were announced as well. As for myself I am a member of the Regulatory Licencing Committee, a member of the Community Governance Review working group, a member of the Joint Gypsy and Traveller's Steering group and a substitute in the Planning Committee.

At the second MSDC it was resolved to commence preparations for a new Joint Local Plan, in May, including approval of a timetable for this. A scoping consultation is planned to commence in June, lasting for 8 weeks.

The working name for the Unitary we will belong to is 'East and Central Suffolk'. All existing Councils are expected to form 'Voluntary Joint Committees' to help preparing and facilitating for this transitional period and required arrangements. These are meant to bring together 'Local authority partners'. The government will have to issue a so called SCO (Structural Change Order) for matters to get moving. This Committee must have an input in this too.

Apart from these meetings I'd like to highlight a couple of things in the 'Rural Funding Digest'. This is a list of various grants that can be applied for. 'The Fisheries and Seafood scheme' somewhat surprisingly includes 'the cleaning up of rivers'. This may be of importance for our area. There is also 'Football Foundation grants' plus, of course, numerous other items.

On Saturday the 27th of June 'Armed Forces Day' will be celebrated in Stowmarket, at the Recreation ground.

All of us will continuously, on and off, be wondering about the formation and progress re the Unitaries. The MSDC has now put in place a website called 'Future Suffolk' where updates and clarifications will emerge over time.

My Best Wishes,

Yours Sincerely

Anders Linder