

District Councillor Report: Walsham Le Willows

August 2024

Support for residents in need	<p>This is an initiative to help residents in need with a Council Tax reduction of up to £50 and an increased provision for household support for residents struggling with the cost of living.</p>
Housing assistance grants	<p>Mid Suffolk District Council has agreed to increase grants to carry out home adaptations for some of their most vulnerable residents – helping them to retain their independence in their own homes for as long as possible.</p> <p>The funding is to support more households to carry out home adaptations for family members with a disability, long term illness or change in health.</p> <p>The increased levels of support, with grants available from £1K up to £15K will allow more residents to carry out the home adaptations needed to help them remain in their home and, in some cases, speed up hospital discharges.</p>
Stowmarket Town Centre Gateway Fund	<p>This is a regeneration initiative for Stowmarket town centre which will target empty properties and allow small business to bid for assistance in setting up in the town centre. This is being funded via the dividend from Gateway 14 which is the Council owned business park on the edge of Stowmarket.</p>
CIL award for library service	<p>£538,000 has been awarded to SCC Library Service for library refurbishment in Stowmarket. Funding for this project will enable the creation of a side extension and alterations of the interior building which includes the four meeting rooms, a back office working space, new toilet facilities, foyer space and new entrance.</p>
Walking and Cycling routes	<p>MSDC have been struggling to get any designs signed off for walking and cycling routes. MSDC has agreed to fund SCC an additional £150k to guarantee a dedicated resource over the next few years to unblock this issue. The detailed design is necessary to attract any external government funding and to progress any new potential schemes.</p>
Simmonds bus service	<p>Commercial Services 304, 337, 338 are being replaced and this will mean a non-existent / very limited bus service for Badwell Ash and Walsham Le Willows.</p> <p>I am trying to liaise with our local MP, SCC and Simmonds as well as other options to see what we can do about this.</p>

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