

District councillor's report, Oct 2011

1. Next year's budget

Work is well under way on the budget for the next financial year (2012/13). We face a significant challenge over the next 3 years, with the worst case suggesting that we may be faced with the need to save £3.9m over that period, of which £1.5m would fall next year.

As you know, we are currently undertaking "Budget Challenge" discussions with key stakeholders, including town and parish councils. In this context I would urge all parish councils to carefully consider what priorities you have in terms of which council services:

- you wish to keep?
- you wish to cut/deliver differently?
- you would be willing to pay for/pay more for?
- could be provided by the community or other organisations?

While the official deadline for responses was September 30, I believe there is some flexibility. The feedback received by the District Council will form part of the Parish Liaison meetings on Thursday October 13.

2. Brome waste recycling site

The Brome site re-opened on September 5. As a reminder, visitors will only have to pay for waste that is unsorted or non-recyclable – otherwise they can dispose of their waste absolutely free of charge. Residents need to make use of these facilities if the site is to remain open.

3. Environment enforcement

Surprisingly, in spite of the 1-month closure of the Brome site, fly tipping across the District fell by 50% during that month. Indeed, year to date, there has been a 22% fall in the number of fly tips.

4. Under-occupation of council properties

The recent customer profiling of all Mid Suffolk council tenants has enabled us to identify, for the first time, which properties are currently under-occupied. A proposed change to Housing Benefit due to come into effect in 2013 will reduce the entitlement of social housing tenants who are living in accommodation which is larger than they require.

Charles Tilbury
01449 767857

charles.tilbury@midsuffolk.gov.uk
07710 376555