



Mid Suffolk District Report for The Stonhams Ward

District Councillor Locality Budget

All submissions have now been reviewed. The following Organisations have been successful:

- Creeting St. Mary - Play Equipment - £1,000
- Creeting St. Mary – Beehive Toddler Group - £250
- Earl Stonham – Village Hall - £1,000
- Stonham Aspal – Village Hall - £1,000
- Stonham Aspal - Nisa Waveney Junior Anglers - £750
- Stonham Parva – Play Equipment - £1,000

Mid Suffolk sets its budget for 2016/17

Mid Suffolk residents in a Band D property will face a rise in their council tax of just under 6p a week (£2.97 a year) after councillors voted in favour of the 2016/17 budget today (Feb 25).

However, more than half of the district live in Band A, B and C properties and will see an even smaller increase of 5p a week or less (£2.64 a year or less) on their council tax bills. Those in the largest properties will face an 11p a week increase, just under a £6 a year rise. The increase was voted through as the council faces a significant decrease in core funding from central government.

However, the council has pledged that those most in need will not pay more than 5 per cent of their council tax bill as it continues its Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

The key highlights from the meeting are:

- An increase of 1.9 per cent in council tax precept
- Mid Suffolk is using £500k of Government support from the New Homes Bonus and Business Rates Grants to support the budget
- A decrease of 1 per cent on council house rents, equivalent to an average rent reduction of 84p a week, as required by the Welfare Reform and Work Bill
- An increase of 1 per cent on sheltered housing rents, equivalent to an average increase of 7p per week
- An increase of 10 per cent on garage rents, equivalent to an average increase of 76p per week, which will be used to maintain and increase council housing stock
- No change to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for eligible residents

Cllr Derrick Haley, Mid Suffolk District Council's Leader, said: "The rise in council tax is a tough decision to take, and one we didn't take lightly. In fact, we have been making sure we



are financially sustainable by increasing our council tax income where necessary over the last few years. This prudence, along with our wise investments, means we are in a relatively good position and are able to keep our increase below the £5 maximum that we were allowed to do. More than half of our residents will be paying less than the average increase because of the profile of properties in our area.

“We have all had to accept that, with decreased core funding from central government, if we want to maintain our essential services, we needed to do this. It ensures we are in a better position to face the future financial challenges.

“Mid Suffolk is actively exploring alternate ways of generating income to replace the core funding from Government and we are also looking at different ways that we can invest to earn a better return. We have recently made £1m available through Funding Circle for loans to both local and national businesses. This type of innovative project is vitally important, not only to ensure the future financial sustainability, but so that we can protect the services that are important to the communities we serve.”