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## May 2023 District Councillor report

### Hargrave Parish Council APM

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As the May Elections approached many of you will have received a copy of my 'In Touch' leaflet, apologies to anyone that I may have missed. Having spoken to many people whilst delivering the above, it became clear some felt disenfranchised through a lack of choice in Candidates in the Chedburgh and Chevington Ward election. Consequently, as the only Candidate I've been re-elected unopposed, of the 64 Councillors at West Suffolk Council, 4 were unopposed, myself and the Bardwell, Mildenhall Queensway, Stanton Wards. Proportional representation was mentioned by one disillusioned voter, perhaps as a way of encouraging more people to stand for office and give greater choice to the electorate. As ever, many thanks to those that would have voted for me, it's honour to serve the needs and interests of all within the Chedburgh and Chevington Ward for the next four years.

Now that the election is over, with the results now known, no single party or group has a majority at West Suffolk council. The previous Conservative administration has lost ten seats, missing the thirty-three required for overall control. The election results are:

Communist Party of Great Britain	0
Independent	10
Labour Party	17
Liberal Democrat	1
Reform UK	0
The Conservative and Unionist Party	26
The Green Party	1
West Suffolk Independents	9
<b>Total seats</b>	<b>64</b>

Much discussion will follow in the coming weeks in establishing the way forward, however, a balanced budget, agreed by Council in April is set by statute and will remain along with all statutory duties enshrined in local government. My term as Chair of West Suffolk Council finishes on May 23<sup>rd</sup> when I open the Annual general Meeting and hand over the Civic role to my yet to be chosen successor. Also, at this juncture the new leader of Council will be appointed, the Cabinet members chosen, and the committees membership established on a politically balanced basis. I remain confident that West Suffolk Council will continue to build on the successes of the previous four years. Further updates will follow.

*Mike Chester*



District Councillor for the Chedburgh and Chevington Ward