

## District Councillor Report: Hunston

Oct 2025

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Local Government Reorganisation</b> | <p>In Suffolk this will be a decision between one unitary for the whole of Suffolk (as proposed by the County Council) and three unitary Councils (as proposed by the Districts and Boroughs).</p> <p>The process was triggered by Suffolk County Council deciding to go for the fast-track option.</p> <p>Proposals have now been submitted with the government making a final decision.</p> <p>The voters of Suffolk don't get a say in the process.</p> <p>Please see the websites below:</p> <p><a href="https://onesuffolkcouncil.co.uk">https://onesuffolkcouncil.co.uk</a></p> <p><a href="https://threecouncilsforsuffolk.org">https://threecouncilsforsuffolk.org</a></p>   |
| <b>Supplementary vote</b>              | <p>A motion was passed requesting the election for the Norfolk &amp; Suffolk Mayor in May 2026 to be held using the Supplementary Vote system (as opposed to First Past the Post).</p> <p>More information can be found here: <a href="#">Council says mayor must belong to us all - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk</a></p>   |
| <b>Housing numbers</b>                 | <p>The Joint Local Plan (JLP) for Babergh and Mid Suffolk is being reviewed, to make sure it stays compliant with the government's increased new targets for housebuilding.</p> <p>A general meeting for Mid Suffolk Parishes was held on March 21<sup>st</sup> 2025 in response to the Government's revised housing targets. The aim was to make Parishes aware of the likely potential impact and to enable them to start to prepare for what is planned.</p> <p>Mid Suffolk's housing target has increased from 535 per annum to 734 (an increase of 37%). If you include a 5% buffer this amounts to a requirement of 15,414 for the period from 2024 to 2044, although 5,475 of these are in the current identified supply.</p> <p>The provisional figures for the Walsham Le Willows ward are as follows (these are based on a rough apportionment of the total target based on population and give indicative order of magnitudes only)</p> |

|  |   | <b>Indicative requirement over 20 year period</b> | <b>Identified residual dwellings on commenced sites</b> | <b>Permitted residual dwellings on sites not started yet</b> | <b>Indicative requirement minus permitted dwellings</b> |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|
|  | Badwell Ash   | 130   | 76  | 25   | <b>29</b>   |
|  | Great Ashfield  | 50  | 0   | 0  | <b>50</b>   |
|  | Hunston   | 30  | 0   | 0  | <b>30</b>   |
|  | Langham   | 10  | 0   | 0  | <b>10</b>   |
|  | Walsham Le Willows  | 190   | 0   | 7  | <b>183</b>  |
|  | Wattisfield   | 70  | 9   | 1  | <b>60</b>   |
| <b>Speed limits on our roads</b>                 | Mid Suffolk District Council passed a resolution requesting the County Council to make it easier to get speed limits changed where there is strong community support for doing.   |   |   |  |   |
| <b>Elmswell / Woolpit cycle way and footpath</b> | <p>This is a £3.5m project is funded via CIL and S106 working with Suffolk County Council's Local Cycling Walking team. This project will link the two villages which share key services and infrastructure such as Elmswell Railway station, Woolpit Medical Centre, Woolpit Business Park, village halls and sports facilities.</p> <p>Due to Elmswell Primary School being at capacity, Woolpit Primary School will be providing schoolplaces for some Elmswell children in the future.</p> <p>It is therefore essential for a safe walking/cycling route to be built between the two villages</p> |   |   |  |   |
| <b>Tour of Britain</b>                           | <p>Despite gusty conditions and sometimes torrential downpours, thousands of people cheered on the riders at the start and finish in Stowmarket, and throughout the 100-mile plus route through Debenham, Eye, Walsham, Badwell Ash, Thurston and numerous villages between.</p> <p>This is the first time that two stages of the men's race have taken place in the county.</p>  |   |   |  |   |
| <b>Electrical recycling banks</b>                | <p>Six new electrical recycling banks have been installed in Mid Suffolk.</p> <p>Residents can now recycle their broken electricals at one of the recycling banks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iliffe Way car park, Stowmarket</li> <li>• Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre, Stowmarket</li> <li>• Elmswell train station</li> <li>• New Green Community Centre, Thurston</li> <li>• Station Yard car park, Needham Market</li> <li>• Buckshorn Lane car park, Eye</li> </ul>   |   |   |  |   |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Listed building consent</b></p>                     | <p>Thousands of listed building owners could find it easier to make windows more energy efficient under innovative proposals from Mid Suffolk District Council. The district has thousands of listed properties, but these often suffer from poor energy performance due to factors such as poorly fitting windows and single glazing.</p> <p>This leads to higher bills for homeowners and is costly for the environment, with Historic England saying that retrofitting historic buildings will be fundamental in achieving net zero.</p> <p>Owners who want to make upgrades must currently apply to the councils for Listed Building Consent.</p> <p>Mid Suffolk, working closely with Historic England, will be among the first councils in the country to introduce measures to make sensitive improvements quicker and easier.</p> <p>They would mean Grade II listed buildings could have secondary glazing installed on historic windows without needing consent from the council - as long as certain conditions are complied with.</p> |
| <p><b>Mid Suffolk Magazine</b></p>                        | <p>The latest version of the Mid Suffolk Magazine is being posted out to all properties in Mid Suffolk.</p>   |
| <p><b>Temporary accommodation</b></p>                     | <p>Demand for temporary housing in Mid Suffolk rose by 97% between 2020 and 2023 and there are currently 63 households in temporary accommodation in Mid Suffolk.</p> <p>Mid Suffolk propose to increase the acquisition of temporary accommodation in Mid Suffolk by up to 30 units.</p>   |
| <p><b>Developer fined £20k for landscape failures</b></p> | <p>Chatsworth Homes Ltd was given permission to build the homes at Warren Farm, in The Street, Badwell Ash in 2020.</p> <p>However, that was subject to a number of conditions – including the need for a landscaping scheme.</p> <p>Mid Suffolk District Council visited the site in 2023 when it became apparent the landscaping had not been finished.</p> <p>The developer was told the work must be completed, but subsequent attempts to contact Chatsworth Homes – including a warning that a Breach of Condition Notice would be served – received no response.</p> <p>The notice was served but not complied with, resulting in Mid Suffolk District Council taking legal action.</p>  |
| <p><b>£ multimillion district sporting upgrade</b></p>    | <p>A new sports pavilion has been approved in Stowmarket – the latest investment in upgrading sporting facilities in Mid Suffolk.</p> <p>The new pavilion at Chilton Fields will include 8 changing rooms, social spaces, a bar, upper sports viewing terraces, and large multi-purpose area - providing significantly improved facilities and additional capacity for sports clubs, groups and the community.</p>  |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Stowmarket high street investment</b></p>             | <p>In July 2024 last year we agreed the creation of a dedicated £1.5m fund, and associated framework, to support a thriving Stowmarket high street and town centre area</p> <p>Funding has been recently agreed for £615k towards the John Peel Centre and £125k for the Community Darts Venue including a darts retail area.</p>   |
| <p><b>Food museum</b></p>                                   | <p>Mid Suffolk District Council has supported the development Food Museum with a £1m grant.</p> <p>The ambitious scope covers conserving and developing three historic buildings - the barn, the factory and the house and linking them together to create a coherent visitor experience.</p>   |
| <p><b>New REACT team now live</b></p>                       | <p>The two-person "respond, enforce and clean team" - or REACT - will patrol litter hotspot areas in the Mid Suffolk District Council area. It will be funded by £360,000 from the council-owned Gateway 14 development.</p> <p>Introducing REACT operatives mean reactive cleansing incidents, such as fly tipping, and our scheduled work, aren't competing for resource and time.</p> <p>According to the latest figures released by Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), local authorities in England dealt with 1.15 million fly-tipping incidents last year, an increase of 6% from those reported in 2022/23. In Suffolk, there were a total of 4,099 incidents of fly tipping reported in 2023/24.</p> <p>In the area of Mid Suffolk District Council there were 399 reported incidents, with the majority of them being on highways.</p> |
| <p><b>Pride in Your Place and Locality Grants</b></p>       | <p>There are small support grants available via these sources for projects to improve facilities in the village for residents.</p>  |
| <p><b>Reintroduction of Living Well in Winter grant</b></p> | <p>Funding from Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils has been granted for a third consecutive year of the Living Well in Winter grant, with grants of up to £2,000 being able to be applied for. More information can be found here: <a href="https://www.babergh.gov.uk/midsuffolk.gov.uk">Grant returns to tackle winter loneliness - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk</a></p>   |
| <p><b>Tree for Life</b></p>                                 | <p>The Tree for Life scheme is open to all families across the districts who have welcomed, or are set to welcome, a newborn baby or adopted child during the 2025 calendar year.</p> <p>The initiative, which runs every year, gives parents the opportunity to mark their child's arrival by planting a fruit tree, which can then grow alongside them.</p> <p>Parents that may have lost a child during the same period are also able to apply for a memory tree as part of the scheme.</p> <p>Since its inception, the councils have given out well over two thousand trees, with 300 hundred families applying last year alone.</p>  |

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  |  |
|--|--|

Cllr Richard Winch  
[richard.winch@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:richard.winch@midsuffolk.gov.uk)  
07931 709486