

# District Councillor Report:

January 2026

**Badley, Baylham, Creeting St Mary, Creeting St Peter, Darmsden, Needham Market Town**

<b>Devolution and local government reform – election delays</b>	<p>The government has delayed the election for a Mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk until May 2027.</p> <p>The government has also offered the option for Councils undergoing reorganisation to further delay local elections i.e. the County Council election currently planned for May 2026.</p> <p>There is a County Council vote on this on January 12<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>The Green Party position is that we must have elections at the allotted time not decided by politicians when it's convenient for them.</p>
<b>Call for sites</b>	<p>The 'call for sites' ends on 9<sup>th</sup> January. The sites put forward will be assessed by the planning policy team at Mid Suffolk. This information will be used to guide part of the Joint Local plan site allocation.</p>
<b>New 3G football pitch</b>	<p>A new 3G football pitch is set to be delivered in Stowmarket after funding from the Premier League, The FA and Government's Football Foundation was secured. Mid Suffolk District Council has secured 51% of the project costs from the Football Foundation, with the pitch due to open in spring 2026.</p> <p>It will be built on the grounds of the high school and made available for community use.</p> <p>The pitch will use cork infill –as part of research by the Football Foundation that is looking at the use of a variety of different pitch systems.</p>
<b>Stowmarket Innovation Gateway</b>	<p>Construction work on a state-of-the-art skills and innovation centre at Gateway 14 in Stowmarket has reached a key milestone with the core construction now complete and the centre due to open in June next year.</p>
<b>New Community Darts Venue</b>	<p>A new community darts venue has opened with £125k in matched funding. The venture which will be an accessible community darts hub, offering everything from darts equipment and accessories to coaching sessions and pay-and-play lanes.</p>
<b>Waste education in schools</b>	<p>This year sessions were held for over 1700 children and staff at primary schools in Mid Suffolk to provide education about what happens to our waste.</p>

Terry Lawrence and Dr Ross Piper  
Mid Suffolk District Councillors

[Terry.Lawrence@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Terry.Lawrence@midsuffolk.gov.uk); [ross.piper@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:ross.piper@midsuffolk.gov.uk)

Telephone: 07928 512599; 07928512581