

District Councillor Report:

October 2026

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

Mid Suffolk Council writes to Government over changes to planning reforms	Mid Suffolk councillors have hit out at Government planning reforms, warning they could leave local communities with less say over new developments. The Mid Suffolk District Council is to write to the Government to raise concerns over changes to Neighbourhood Plans, green spaces and the way planning applications are decided.
Food Summit on Monday 16 November	The Suffolk Food Summit is returning to the Food Museum in Stowmarket this November to celebrate local food and drink production and its impact on the region's economy. The event has been organised by Mid Suffolk District Council and will bring together a range of people from across the food and drink sector for workshops and panel discussions. The summit follows on from the council's recently published Food and Drink Action Plan which sets out an ambition to strengthen local production, build a resilient local food and drink network, improve food education and support the industry as a key growth sector.
New Nature Reserve Needham Market	Chalkeith Nature Reserve has been established on the edge of Needham Market to protect scarce habitats and wildlife. At just over 20 acres, the site has chalk grassland, scrub, young woodland and ancient hedgerows, which support a range of scarce plants and animals. A community charity, Chalkeith Conservation, acquired the site via grant funding from Mid Suffolk District Council, the East Suffolk Trust, Needham Market Town Council, Barking Parish Council, Barnes Construction and locality awards. The acquisition will protect the site and to ensure its continued enjoyment by the public. There are many upcoming volunteering opportunities that aim to enhance the site. On Friday the 16th of October, 5-7pm, there's a Drop-in evening in the Burton Room of Needham Market Community Centre where you can find out more about the site and getting involved. On Friday the 17th of October, 9am to 1pm, there's an Open Day at the reserve, meeting at the top of Mill Lane (what3words: void.cult.fruitcake) More information on the charity and the site can be found here: Chalkeith Conservation Nature Reserve Suffolk, UK

Local housing for local people	Mid Suffolk District Council has recently agreed to introduce a Parish Connection Priority for new affordable and social rented homes secured through S106 agreements.
New double Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) in Stowmarket	Plans for a new multi-use games area at Stowmarket High School have been given the go-ahead after Mid Suffolk District Council agreed to fund the stalled project. The multi-use games area (MUGA) will provide a space for sports including tennis, netball, basketball and football as part of wider efforts to improve access to sports facilities in the town. A new 3G pitch and athletics track for community use have already been completed at the school but work on the MUGA had stalled after planned external funding was not secured.
Community projects receive cash injection	A community-run arts centre, recycling centre and village hall projects are all set to receive a share of more than £110k following the latest Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) awards by Mid Suffolk District Council. An extension was also agreed for the Woolpit and Elmswell footway and cycleway £3m project which had previously been approved but required additional time to be completed by SCC. Community projects receive cash boost - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk
Councillors e-bike partnership receives national recognition	A partnership between Mid Suffolk District Council and e-bike provider Eezybike has been shortlisted for two national awards, recognising the innovative work done in the districts to create active and sustainable travel options. <a href="http://Councils' e-bike partnership receives national recognition - Mid Suffolk District Council -
babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk">Councils' e-bike partnership receives national recognition - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk
Free classes for older people improve their balance	Older people in Suffolk are being encouraged to take part in free exercise classes to help improve balance, fitness and flexibility. The 12-week Strength and Balance programme aims to improve the balance, co-ordination, flexibility and confidence of residents aged 65 or over who have had a recent fall or feel unsteady on their feet. <a href="http://Free classes to help older people improve their balance - Mid Suffolk District Council -
babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk">Free classes to help older people improve their balance - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk
Mid Suffolk Magazine	This magazine highlights the work of the Council over the past few months and is posted to every householder. Hopefully you have now had this delivered.

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