

Gislingham Ward
Mellis, Gislingham, Thornham Parva, Thornham Magna, Wortham & Burgate,
Wickham Skeith.
District Councillor Report

August 2026

Stradbroke Leisure Centre Pool Closure for Maintenance	Essential maintenance on the roof and inside the pool hall. Closed for two weeks.
Approved upper funding limits totalling £350,000 for Stowmarket Town centre Gateway Fund – From the Community Infrastructure Levy	• £100,000 Mid Suffolk Voluntary Organisations Forum (MSVOF) was awarded funding to redevelop the former fire station on Lockington Road • £100,000 for Stowmarket Arts CIC conversion of 6 Old Fox Yard • £70,000 for a new coffee roastery and community activities • £80,000 for a new milkshake, ice cream and dessert business
Greens Delivering Infrastructure – From the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	Additional funding directed to supporting local communities. John Peel centre platform lift and associated work projects, old fire station community space project, st Nicholas church accessible composting toilet and pathway, creating road “big park” play area upgrade project.
Council named as national finalist for nature recovery work	Mid Suffolk District Council has been shortlisted in Nature 2030’s Political Purpose Awards, in the Planning for Nature Recovery category. A £1.8m Nature Recovery Budget and investing in 30 hectares of land in Thorndon, Palgrave and Stowmarket, specifically for nature recovery, with extensive public engagement helping to shape local management agreements.
Free community days out	Families across Babergh and Mid Suffolk can enjoy two free community fun days this summer, with a packed programme of activities on offer for all ages. Delivered by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, the events will take place between 10am and 2pm at Belle Vue Park in Sudbury on Wednesday 12 August, and at Stowupland Village Hall on Wednesday 19 August.
Mid Suffolk Police initiatives	Teamed up with local officer for ASB awareness, on Ipswich Street and Brett Drive, completing various tasks and patrols to counter anti-social behaviour
Home Plans approved	Mid Suffolk District Council approved the reserved matters for the former Bacton Middle School site, in Wyverstone Road Bacton. A joint venture between Suffolk County Council and Lovell Partnerships. It follows outline permission in 2020 for 50 homes, 10 of which affordable and a 3G football pitch alongside reserving land for primary and pre-school buildings.
Bin Collection	The service is now operating as intended, with all scheduled rounds completed. The food waste service collected 153 tonnes this week. Contact

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	volumes on the dedicated Better Recycling telephone line have reduced
Equans investing in Babergh and Mid Suffolk	Babergh and Mid Suffolk have secured £3 million in funding, working with energy and regeneration contractor Equans, to improve efficiency in 168 more council homes, with completion expected by March 2027.
Local Government Reorganisation	Arthur Charvonia CEO Babergh and Mid Suffolk has now received a draft of the Suffolk (Structural Changes) Order 2026 from MHCLG. This is the Statutory Instrument that the government will use to bring in the reorganisation (pending the county council's judicial review). It is expected to be laid in parliament sometime in the autumn. As part of the LGR process, there will be a joint committee set up for each of the three unitaries. The role of these is set out in government guidance: <i>"Joint Committees have preparatory functions, with one Joint Committee formed for each new unitary council. Their focus is to prepare the ground for matters that need to be in place on day one of the Shadow Councils."</i> The joint committees will be made up of equal numbers of county councillors and district councillors, and where the new unitary is being made up of more than one district, each one will be represented. Western Suffolk (1 place) Richard Winch Ipswich and Southern Suffolk (1 place) John Whitehead Central and Eastern Suffolk (2 places) Andy Mellen and Keith Scarff Much of the preparatory work is being done by officers – and is having to go ahead because there is so much to do between now and 2028. There is an Implementation Board already meeting which is the chief execs from all 6 councils, the directors of the two biggest service areas (children and young people; adult social care) and a newly employed programme manager.

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