

Gislingham Ward

Mellis, Gislingham, Thornham Parva, Thornham Magna, Wortham & Burgate, Wickham Skeith.

District Councillor Report - October 2026

Planning reforms	The new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) came into force in September. There remains a presumption in favour of sustainable development, as the Government are hoping to promote housing growth. There seems to be a greater emphasis on climate change and sustainability but 'settlement boundaries' have disappeared and the new policies just refers to settlements. There is also a new National Scheme of delegation which restricts Local Planning Authorities as to which applications can be determined by committee. MSDC has created their own scheme of delegation to comply with this new National Scheme. This will be brought next week's Council for formal adoption. Under the new scheme of delegation, developments under 10 dwellings would be classed as minor residential and will be decided by officers. At the September meeting of MSDC it was agreed that the Leader write to the Government outlining its concerns over some of the changes.
MUGA at Stowmarket High School	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. This is part of the SHELF project to improve sporting facilities in Stowmarket.
Woolpit – Elmswell community path	At the September Cabinet meeting it was agreed to extend the time limit for the CIL funding for the Woolpit – Elmswell Community path. The £3M funds had been agreed previously but SCC have not made sufficient progress to date, but now the team do seem to be moving this project forwards. Further CIL funds were also agreed for other projects across the district. More information can be found on the website. Community projects receive cash boost - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk
Eezybike scheme 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. Councils' e-bike partnership receives national recognition - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk
Student Event 20th November	This is a cross-party event for both Districts, where students aged from 16-18 have been invited. Students will work in small groups to develop and write a Motion on an allocated topic. At the end of the workshop sessions the Motions will be considered by a Panel, and the winning Motions will be debated by all students in the King Edmund Chamber during the afternoon session.
	After a rigorous inspection the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH) has awarded Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council, which have worked together since 2011 and have a fully integrated staffing structure under one chief executive, a C2 grade. Which the Director of Housing aims to make a C1 the top grade. The

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	regulator is assured both councils have accurate, up-to-date information about the condition of its homes. However, it notes that at the time of the inspection, 16% of Babergh District Council's homes, and 13% of Mid Suffolk District Council's homes, did not meet the Decent Homes Standard - a set of minimum conditions covering safety, repair, services, and insulation. An improvement programme is already under way at both councils to ensure all homes meet this in the next year. The regulator is satisfied the councils' have a timely and responsive repairs service and noted a significant reduction in a repairs backlog over the last two years. This follows an additional £1.6m investment by both councils. A positive council culture of fairness and respect for tenants, tenant feedback positively shaping future services, and a responsive complaints system were among the other areas acknowledged In January 2023 the councils had referred themselves to the Regulator for breaching the home standard, the Regulator found that there was potential for serious detriment to tenants and the councils failed to meet Health and safety Requirements for gas, electrical and asbestos safety.
Locality budget	The 2026-27 Locality budgets are now available so I would love to receive applications for funding from any community group in Gislingham. Details can be found on the website https://midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/locality-awards . It is usually a good idea to contact one of us to discuss your application before submitting in.

Cllr. Rowland Warboys

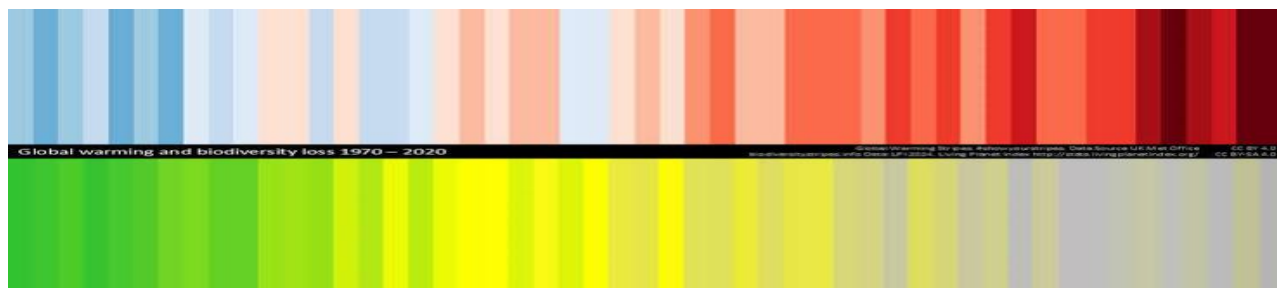
Lead Member Housing Solutions

Gislingham Ward

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Global warming and Biodiversity Loss 1970 - 2020