

Gislingham Ward

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

District Councillor Report

February 2026

NSIP's	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Norwich to Tilbury examination in public has started. Agendas and application details are available here: https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020027 . MSDC are continuing to offer a regular drop in support session for this project which all ward members and Parish Councils should have received an invite for. This is open to anyone and the invite can be shared. The next session is on 5th February.• Consultation on the scoping report for the EcoPower project has been received.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ecopower Suffolk Scoping report now published can be found on the Government's website: https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN0110019/documents Useful maps in Part 9. Very detailed but a great deal has been produced by consultants so reviewing by residents with local knowledge is very important, for example it appears that red deer have not been mentioned despite their migratory routes has been raised.
Elections postponed	<p>The Mayoral elections will be postponed until May 2028, and that means they will probably be held under a Supplementary Vote System rather than First past the Post.</p> <p>SCC has received permission to cancel the May County Councillor elections after claiming that holding the elections would compromise the ability to deliver LGR on time. Reform UK have lodged a judicial challenge – to be heard 19th/20th Feb.</p>
LGR updates	<p>We are expecting the Government to publicise the final decision by March 2026.</p>
Local Plan	<p>The Councils will be beginning a five-week consultation on a Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment) Scoping Report commenced 5th February 2026, which will run until Monday 16th March 2026. The Scoping Report is a key early document supporting the preparation of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Review.</p> <p>Comments can be made via the online consultation system or to localplan@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk.</p> <p>Sustainability Appraisal helps the councils understand the social, environmental and economic impacts of the plan and the different options we could take. This Scoping Report explains how they propose to carry out that assessment.</p>

Gislingham Ward

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

District Councillor Report

Biodiversity and Nature Recovery	<p>At its November meeting, Mid Suffolk District Council approved a package of funding of £1.8m over the next three years for nature recovery and biodiversity. The funding will be used to carry out the plans of the cross-party biodiversity working group, as well as meeting government proposals for biodiversity and nature recovery.</p> <p>Around half of the funding is going towards a new community Nature Recovery Grant fund. The fund will be split equally between both community-led projects and projects for the restoration of rivers and their catchments. The funds will support communities to create and manage habitat and nature recovery schemes, including natural flood management.</p> <p>This is the link to the introduction: Boosting biodiversity by funding nature in your neighbourhood - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk And there is a link to the funding page: Funding opportunities and support - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk Scrolling down the page there are several schemes that fall under “Boosting Biodiversity.”</p>
Armed Forces Day Saturday, 27th June, 2026	<p>Mid Suffolk District Council would be leading Armed Forces Day in Suffolk in 2026, and the event would be held in Stowmarket. Stowmarket Town Council has resolved to support to the District Council in hosting Armed Forces Day in the town. Councillors from across the district have been asked to contribute from their locality budgets.</p>
New Youth Council for Mid Suffolk	<p>The November Council meeting agreed unanimously to set up a new Youth Council for Mid Suffolk. The Youth Council aims to provide an avenue for young people to have their views heard, and to enable young people to better understand and engage with the political process. It is hoped the Youth Council will be operating by September 2026, the beginning of the next school year</p>
Funding	<p>Sustainable Communities Food fund: Our Sustainable Communities Food Fund provides grants to small scale food initiatives such as community pantries, fridges and food pop-ups.</p>
Health and Wellbeing	<p>The Councils vision is to build ‘great communities with bright and healthy futures that everyone is proud to call home’. Wellbeing is one of six key priorities to help deliver this vision. For example Dance East has received funding for its dementia support classes.</p>
Council Grants	<p>For information on Mid Suffolk council grants available to support community projects and organisations, please see: https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/community-funding or email BMSDCgrants@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk for advice on funding options. My Locality budget will be renewed in April so if you have a project that you feel would qualify for funding please contact me then.</p> <p>Further information on Locality Grants: https://midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/locality-awards</p>

Rowland Warboys MSDC Cllr. Gislingham Ward

rowland.warboys@midsuffolk.gov.uk Tel: 07484186121