

Gislingham Ward

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

District Councillor Report

November 2025

Biodiversity and Nature Recovery	<p>The UK's biodiversity duty is a legal obligation, reinforced by the Environment Act(2021). All public authorities in England must integrate the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity into their core functions. Public bodies must determine specific policies and objectives for biodiversity action, take action to achieve these, and review their efforts at least every five years.</p> <p>Mid Suffolk District Council declared a biodiversity emergency in 2021. A Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), arising from the work of a dedicated Task Force, was put in place.</p> <p>The majority of the actions from the first BAP were delivered, including:• Mapping of our tree cover – on average 8.5% against national average of 14.5%• Planting thousands of trees and hedges• Surveys of our wildlife sites• Creating new wildflower meadows</p> <p>The Draft Suffolk Local Nature Recovery Strategy identifies species and habitats of particular importance to the county, and the threats to them, it helps to build a picture of the scale of the challenge with arresting biodiversity decline; the causes and measures needed in response.</p> <p>The budget for a revised BAP has been approved by cabinet and focusses on a broader range of habitats and species, and also recognises the co-benefits that the BAPc and deliver on issues such as water quality, flood management and public health and well-being.</p>
Armed Forces Covenant	<p>Appropriately for this time of remembrance, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have achieved the bronze award for the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme.</p> <p>This award acknowledges our continued support for the armed forces community - from veterans and service personnel to their families, reservists and cadets.</p> <p>It also follows on from our efforts earlier in the year to restate our commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant.</p>
Historic England says retrofitting historic buildings will be fundamental to achieving net zero.	<p>Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, working closely with Historic England, have just introduced a new Local Listed Building Consent Order – the first rural council in the country to achieve this.</p> <p>It makes sensitive improvements quicker and easier:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Secondary glazing on historic windows - Grade II listed buildings can now have secondary glazing installed on historic windows without needing consent from the council, subject to certain conditions.• Replacement of windows in Grade II listed buildings – Where original windows have already been replaced after receiving listed building consent, they can be replaced again, subject to conditions.• Replacement of an existing window in a modern extension to a listed building - Windows in Grade II listed buildings can be replaced, or have secondary glazing installed, if they have previously received listed building consent, subject to conditions.

Gislingham Ward

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

District Councillor Report

Funding	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.
Call for Development sites	<p>The Call for Sites runs until 5pm on 9 January 2026, with the exception of Ipswich, which ends on Monday 15 December 2025.</p> <p>This invites submissions of land to be put forward for consideration to be included in Local Plans - for uses such as housing, employment, sports and leisure and community purposes.</p> <p>These are not planning applications, and no site put forward will automatically see development take place.</p> <p>The process involves a form to be completed by anyone wishing to submit sites.</p> <p>The form can be completed online, by email or by post: https://www.babergh.gov.uk/w/call-for-sites</p>
Locality Awards	<p>Any requests for funding must be completed by Jan 2026 so if you have a project that you feel would qualify for funding please contact me.</p> <p>Further information: https://midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/locality-awards</p>

Rowland Warboys MSDC Cllr. Gislingham Ward

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