

District Councillor Report: Walsham Le Willows

December 2024

| | |
|--|---|
| Potential new Local Government reform | There has been national press speculation over a change in local government structure across Suffolk. The White Paper has yet to be published. There has been speculation over Norfolk and Suffolk becoming a single mayoral authority with an elected mayor and with district councils being abolished and replaced with a unitary authority (with combined powers of a district and county council) covering all of Suffolk. More information will be available in the near future. |
| Supplementary planning documents signed off | <p>The Housing SPD provides further guidance and detail for addressing housing needs and affordable housing delivery within development proposals in the two Districts.</p> <p>The Intensive Livestock and Poultry Farming SPD provides supplementary information on the issues and considerations that are of relevance to the determination of intensive livestock and poultry planning applications.</p> |
| Fees and Charges updates | <p>Updates to Fees and Charges across the district have been approved and will take effect on 1st April 2025.</p> <p>A full list of alterations are available on the council's website – most charges are being raised by only 1.7%.</p> |
| Pride in Your Place | <p>The grant, which was first launched last year, is open for town councils, parish councils and local voluntary, community, faith and social enterprises (VCFSE) organisations to apply for.</p> <p>Grants of between £250 and £5,000 may be applied for, allowing for more significant projects to take place across the district.</p> <p>Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planting• The development of local history, heritage culture• The purchasing of village signs• The purchasing of seating and benches for community spaces• Maintenance or enhancement of open public spaces• The purchase of equipment to enable the maintenance of open public spaces, including community litter picks <p>The grant window opens on 1 December and will remain open for applications until the annual £50,000 budget is fully allocated across the district.</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| Community Led Housing | Community-led housing is a way in which local people can identify what is needed for their town or village, and make it happen. Mid Suffolk and Babergh organised a day workshop with the National Housing Federation, Community Action Suffolk, the Lavenham Community Land Trust and Hastoe Housing to discuss how more community housing could be delivered in this district. |
| Showcase of investment in Stowmarket | <p>Community leaders, retailers and businesses came together in Stowmarket today to hear a rallying call for the future of the town centre.</p> <p>Staged by Mid Suffolk District Council, working with Stowmarket Town Council and Suffolk County Council, the breakfast event at The Regal Cinema provided the opportunity to showcase a raft of new measures agreed to support Stowmarket town centre, designed to help:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bring empty high street units back into use • improve the town centre environment and street scene • attract visitors to spend time and money in the town • and better connect the town |
| Community Funding | Mid Suffolk's website now has a new community funding page, which aims to make it much easier for local community groups to understand and apply for grants and funding. So if you are in need of some funding for a project, it's worth going to the www.midsuffolk.gov.uk home page and clicking the 'Access community funding' button. |
| Simonds Bus service update | <p>A combined group representing the villages of Garboldisham, Hopton, Barningham, Bardwell, Walsham Le Willows, Badwell Ash, Hunston and Stowlangtoft in conjunction with Simonds has now submitted a bid to Suffolk County Council.</p> <p>If successful, the proposal would be to provide a revised timetable for the 73 service. This would involve a slightly earlier first bus in the morning, an additional later bus service for workers returning from Bury St Edmunds.</p> <p>We are still awaiting confirmation on the status of the bid.</p> |
| Summary of Waste Recycling over Christmas & New Year | There are a few alterations to the recycling schedule over Christmas, including a scheme to recycle Christmas Trees. The information can be found on Mid Suffolk's website, using the following link: Christmas waste collections - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk |

Cllr Richard Winch
richard.winch@midsuffolk.gov.uk
07931 709486