

District Councillor Report: Walsham Le Willows

June 2025

Local Government Reorganisation	Suffolk's district and borough councils have just launched a wide-reaching survey inviting residents, businesses and communities to help shape the future of our county. We want to hear people's views on Local Government Reorganisation in Suffolk – the most dramatic change to local government in 50 years. We want to work with you to design together how any future unitary councils work most effectively with all our towns and parishes. We will therefore be asking you all what you think; and we want to bring a number of you together in workshops with us to specifically design the best future relationship between parish, town and unitary councils. If you would like to be involved in these workshops, please register using this link. If you have any other questions about the survey or workshops, email: engagement@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk. You can also take part in our Shaping Suffolk Together survey by clicking on this link.
New REACT team now live	The two-person "respond, enforce and clean team" - or REACT - will patrol litter hotspot areas in the Mid Suffolk District Council area. It will be funded by £360,000 from the council-owned Gateway 14 development. Introducing REACT operatives mean reactive cleansing incidents, such as fly tipping, and our scheduled work, aren't competing for resource and time. According to the latest figures released by Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), local authorities in England dealt with 1.15 million fly-tipping incidents last year, an increase of 6% from those reported in 2022/23. In Suffolk, there were a total of 4,099 incidents of fly tipping reported in 2023/24. In the area of Mid Suffolk District Council there were 399 reported incidents, with the majority of them being on highways.
Tree for Life	The Tree for Life scheme is open to all families across the districts who have welcomed, or are set to welcome, a newborn baby or adopted child during the 2025 calendar year. The initiative, which runs every year, gives parents the opportunity to mark their child's arrival by planting a fruit tree, which can then grow alongside them.

	Parents that may have lost a child during the same period are also able to apply for a memory tree as part of the scheme. Since its inception, the councils have given out well over two thousand trees, with 300 hundred families applying last year alone.
Footpath from Wattisfield Road to Sports Club	We are still waiting for confirmation from SCC for a start date but it should be in the near future.
Bus stop near the Church	There is funding available via SCC for parish councils or other community groups to apply for a share of this year's Local Authority Bus Grant to improve bus stops in their area. The Support Our Buses group for the 73 and 73A service would support our bud. This will need to be looked at in conjunction will potential safety changes at the junction. We need confirmation from the Parish Council that we should pursue a request for funding.
Pride in Your Place and Locality Grants	There are small support grants available via these sources for projects to improve facilities in the village for residents.

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