

District Councillor Report: Walsham Le Willows

July 2025

Local government reform	The five district and borough councils' councils' considered view is that a single, giant council covering the whole of Suffolk would not work well and that there should be smaller, more local, and connected unitary councils, divided along logical economic and demographic boundaries, taking charge of all services in a particular area. Feedback from residents ranks local connection as their highest priority. The district councils preferred solution will focus on 3 unitary Councils – East, West and South East (greater Ipswich) Walsham would be in West Suffolk.
Speed limits on our roads	Mid Suffolk District Council passed a resolution requesting the County Council to make it easier to get speed limits changed where there is strong community support for doing.
Elmswell / Woolpit cycle way and footpath	This is a £3.5m project is funded via CIL and S106 working with Suffolk County Council's Local Cycling Walking team. This project will link the two villages which share key services and infrastructure such as Elmswell Railway station, Woolpit Medical Centre, Woolpit Business Park, village halls and sports facilities. Due to Elmswell Primary School being at capacity, Woolpit Primary School will be providing schoolplaces for some Elmswell children in the future. It is therefore essential for a safe walking/cycling route to be built between the two villages
Grazing walks	Stunning walks and fantastic places to eat are showcased across Babergh and Mid Suffolk in a new initiative. Mid Suffolk District Councils have developed the 'Grazing Walks' guide highlighting perfect places to enjoy a picturesque walk followed by a treat at a local pub, cafe or independent shop. The Mid Suffolk guide includes locations such as Thornham Magna, Thwaite, Thorndon and many more.
Listed building consent	Thousands of listed building owners could find it easier to make windows more energy efficient under innovative proposals from Mid Suffolk District Council. The district has thousands of listed properties, but these often suffer from poor energy performance due to factors such as poorly fitting windows and single glazing. This leads to higher bills for homeowners and is costly for the environment, with Historic England saying that retrofitting historic buildings will be fundamental in achieving net zero.

	Owners who want to make upgrades must currently apply to the councils for Listed Building Consent. Mid Suffolk, working closely with Historic England, will be among the first councils in the country to introduce measures to make sensitive improvements quicker and easier. They would mean Grade II listed buildings could have secondary glazing installed on historic windows without needing consent from the council - as long as certain conditions are complied with.
Crossing by the sports club	A meeting was held between the Sports Club and Highways (Andy Moore) Further work requires two speed surveys, a tube survey to measure axle weights and speed as you enter the 30 mph terminal signs , and a SDR speed survey on the telegraph pole between the two sports grounds. The costs are: Tube Survey £ 465.00 + vat SDR Survey £ 165.00 + vat I am happy to fund this from Locality Grant and believe it would make sense for this to be routed via the Parish Council.
Bus stop near the Church	A request has been made for funding for a bus stop near the Church.

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