

District Councillor Report: Walsham Le Willows

August 2025

Local Government Reorganisation	Mid Suffolk District Council formally agreed to join the county's other district and borough councils in further developing a business case for a three unitary council solution in Suffolk. The Government has introduced plans for local government reorganisation. The process was triggered by Suffolk County Council deciding to go for the fast-track option. Existing councils must submit their proposals for a new structure in September, with the government making a final decision. In Suffolk this will be a decision between one unitary for the whole of Suffolk (as proposed by the County Council) and three unitary Councils (as proposed by the Districts and Boroughs).
Temporary accommodation	Demand for temporary housing in Mid Suffolk rose by 97% between 2020 and 2023 and there are currently 63 households in temporary accommodation in Mid Suffolk. Mid Suffolk propose to increase the acquisition of temporary accommodation in Mid Suffolk by up to 30 units.
Developer fined £20k for landscape failures	Chatsworth Homes Ltd was given permission to build the homes at Warren Farm, in The Street, Badwell Ash in 2020. However, that was subject to a number of conditions – including the need for a landscaping scheme. Mid Suffolk District Council visited the site in 2023 when it became apparent the landscaping had not been finished. The developer was told the work must be completed, but subsequent attempts to contact Chatsworth Homes – including a warning that a Breach of Condition Notice would be served – received no response. The notice was served but not complied with, resulting in Mid Suffolk District Council taking legal action.
£ multimillion district sporting upgrade	A new sports pavilion has been approved in Stowmarket – the latest investment in upgrading sporting facilities in Mid Suffolk. The new pavilion at Chilton Fields will include 8 changing rooms, social spaces, a bar, upper sports viewing terraces, and large multi-purpose area - providing

	significantly improved facilities and additional capacity for sports clubs, groups and the community.
Stowmarket high street investment	In July 2024 last year we agreed the creation of a dedicated £1.5m fund, and associated framework, to support a thriving Stowmarket high street and town centre area Funding has been recently agreed for £615k towards the John Peel Centre and £125k for the Community Darts Venue including a darts retail area.
Food museum	Mid Suffolk District Council has supported the developmebt Food Museum with a £1m grant. The ambitious scope covers conserving and developing three historic buildings - the barn, the factory and the house and linking them together to create a coherent visitor experience.

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