

District Councillor Report: Walsham Le Willows

Oct 2025

Local Government Reorganisation	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). The process was triggered by Suffolk County Council deciding to go for the fast-track option. Proposals have now been submitted with the government making a final decision. The voters of Suffolk don't get a say in the process. Please see the websites below: https://onesuffolkcouncil.co.uk https://threecouncilsforsuffolk.org
Supplementary vote	A motion was passed requesting the election for the Norfolk & Suffolk Mayor in May 2026 to be held using the Supplementary Vote system (as opposed to First Past the Post). More information can be found here: Council says mayor must belong to us all - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk
CIL awards	Mid Suffolk District Council has pledged £4.8m to create hundreds of new places at Stowmarket High School. The school currently has capacity for 900 students aged 11-16, but Suffolk County Council, which is responsible for education provision, estimates an additional 300 places are required in the next four years. The CIL award was one of a number agreed, along with funds for a new play area in Thorndon and replacing play equipment in Coddendam.
Land for biodiversity	Mid Suffolk District Council has secured a 62-acre site at Thorndon and will now work with the local community to protect and enhance the are The pastureland is just north of the village and contains meadows rich in flora and fauna. It was previously owned by the Kerrison Trust, a charity supporting young people, but recently put up for sale. Mid Suffolk has just completed the site's purchase - recognising the potential to enhance the land, increase its biodiversity value and improve flood resilience in the area.
Objection to pylon project as	Mid Suffolk District Council has objected to the "considerable and potentially devastating impacts" of National Grid's Norwich to Tilbury project, with pylons

application submitted	proposed to cut through communities and countryside, including some of the districts' most sensitive landscapes.
Housing for asylum seekers	SERCO have been contracted by the government to purchase / lease properties in the East of England to house asylum seekers. Neither SCC or MSDC are the decision makers. The District Cllr will be contacted if there are any properties due to be assigned in their ward. The numbers in Mid Suffolk are very low.
Reintroduction of Living Well in Winter grant	Funding from Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils has been granted for a third consecutive year of the Living Well in Winter grant, with grants of up to £2,000 being able to be applied for. More information can be found here: Grant returns to tackle winter loneliness - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk
Mid Suffolk Magazine	The latest version of the Mid Suffolk Magazine is being posted out to all properties in Mid Suffolk.

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