

District Councillor Report: Walsham Le Willows

Nov 2025

Council asks communities to identify potential development sites	A 'Call for Sites' has been launched running from October 20th 2025 to January 9th 2026. This invites submissions of land to be put forward for consideration to be included in Local Plans - for uses such as housing, employment, sports and leisure and community purposes. These are not planning applications, and no site put forward will automatically see development take place.
Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) changes	Mid Suffolk is introducing a new brokerage service for where BNG needs to be delivered off-site. This will allow landowners to get funding to improve the biodiversity of their land where developers are unable to get the BNG on-site.
DCN report on Council size versus efficiency	This report analysed data for all existing unitary councils in England to test the link between population size and spending efficiency, financial sustainability and service performance. The key findings are: 1. There is little or no evidence to support a preference for large unitary councils and no evidence to support the 500k population level. 2. The bulk of the data analysed shows a non-existent or faint relationship between a council's population and its outcomes. 3. When there is an apparent correlation between population size and outcomes, it more often favours smaller councils. The evidence gives no reason to assume that smaller unitary councils will be less efficient, less sustainable or less effective due to their size
Schools Climate Summit	<i>Ahead of global leaders gathering in Brazil for COP30 next month, students from schools across Suffolk have taken part in their own event to tackle real-world climate change issues.</i> Mid Suffolk District Councils' second Schools Green Skills Summit saw over 80 year 8 and 9 students from across 10 schools, represent 16 nations in a COP-style event last Friday (10 October).
Rough sleeping	Based on a report in the national press only eight council areas in the UK had no rough sleepers reported in October 2025: East Hampshire , Isles of Scilly, Mid Suffolk, Oadby and Wigston, Rochford, Rossendale, Staffordshire Moorlands and Uttlesford.

District CIL	In this latest round of Neighbourhood CIL funding, 29 town and parish councils in Mid Suffolk will receive a share of nearly £918K. The town and parish councils can decide how to spend this money to best support the development of their local area and meet the need of the community. Those areas with successfully adopted Neighbourhood Plans will receive a higher amount of funding.
Food Museum in Stowmarket receives £3.9m from the Heritage Lottery Fund	The Food Museum is now able to start a £5.5 million project thanks to funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Mid Suffolk District Council. 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. A good museum significantly benefits a town by boosting tourism, enhancing the local economy, fostering community development, and contributing to cultural enrichment.
Funding for bus shelter by the church	Subject to a site visit next month SCC would be happy to fund new bus stops and shelter by the church. The Parish Council may wish to consider a wooden shelter as that may be more innkeeping with the surroundings.
Ev charging points	There is currently money available from central government via SCC / Plug in Suffolk for installing EV charging points. The funding is really for on street charging points rather than at village halls though there may be very limited opportunity for this. The scheme is outsourced to Believ - https://www.believ.com
Fireworks	There have been a couple of issues regarding used fireworks being found in gardens quite near thatched houses.

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