

District Councillor Report: Walsham Le Willows

January 2026

Devolution and local government reform – election delays	The government has delayed the election for a Mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk until May 2027. The government has also offered the option for Councils undergoing reorganisation to further delay local elections if the Councils wish to do so i.e. the County Council election currently planned for May 2026. In my view we should have elections at the allotted time not decided by politicians when it's convenient for them. The mandate for the current County Council is already passed and it's not democratic for the County Council / County Councillors to try and continue to remain in office without elections.
New 3G football pitch	A new 3G football pitch is set to be delivered in Stowmarket after funding from the Premier League, The FA and Government's Football Foundation was secured. Mid Suffolk District Council, has secured 51% of the project costs from the Football Foundation, with the pitch due to open in spring 2026. It will be built on the grounds of the high school and made available for community use. The pitch will use cork infill –as part of research by the Football Foundation that is looking at the use of a variety of different pitch systems.
Stowmarket Innovation Gateway	Construction work on a state-of-the-art skills and innovation centre at Gateway 14 in Stowmarket has reached a key milestone with the core construction now complete and the centre due to open in June next year.
New Community Darts Venue	A new community darts venue has opened with £125k in matched funding. The venture which will be an accessible community darts hub, offering everything from darts equipment and accessories to coaching sessions and pay-and-play lanes.
Waste education in schools	This year sessions were held for over 1700 children and staff at primary schools in Mid Suffolk to provide education about what happens to our waste.

Community Land Grant Fund	The Mid Suffolk Community Land Grant fund will launch on Jan 19 th and the criteria for bidding will be issued at that point.
Bus stop on the Causeway by the Church	SCC Passenger Transport are getting a quotation for this and can install without Highways involvement. We should get an indicative timescale soon.

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