

District Councillor Report: Walsham Le Willows

May 2026

Survey of Council housing	Mid Suffolk have been carrying out a detailed survey of our Council houses which is now 87% complete with a plan to finish by June 30 th . This is important so we have proper visibility of the full costs of bringing the Council stock to the decent homes standard.
Eye post office	Eye post office is reopening. This will restore the service to the area after the previous branch closed in December 2022.
Additional temporary accommodation	Permission was given to convert Balfor House in Haughley into temporary accommodation as part of Mid Suffolk's plan to reduce the use of hotels for homeless families.
UK Muslim event	Plans for the UK Ijtima - an event for Muslims internationally to join and learn from each other - at Shrubland Palace in Barham in July were confirmed by organisers last week. There have been a lot of unfounded scare stories about the event and MSDC have been trying to understand what is being planned.
Planning permission refusal	Mid Suffolk's refusal of advertising signs on the A14 junction 47 was overruled by a government inspector. At the planning meeting councillors had strong comments to make about the plans, describing the signs as a 'hideous intrusion'. Similar concerns had been had raised by local representatives, with objections submitted by Elmswell and Woolpit Parish Councils.
Mid Suffolk Council's Recycling Performance Rankings	This was raised in the house of Lords and is currently true. This is largely down to decades of neglect by previous administrations. See my Annual Report for actions proposed to rectify this.
Sports grant	Walsham le Willows Sports Club received £110,000 from Mid Suffolk District Council for the screen and other improvements, including floodlights and a gym extension. Stradbroke Tennis Club was given nearly £48,000 for the resurfacing of tennis courts. The funding pot is for projects outside Stowmarket, the largest town in the council's area, to "ensure sporting opportunities are spread out across the whole district". Since the fund was started in 2025, £400,000 has been paid out. There is £750,000 available to be applied for by voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise organisations in 2026-27.

CIL awards	Church Road play area in Old Newton and Wetherden play area are both set to receive a share of over £50k, which will be used to upgrade play equipment making the areas more welcoming, inclusive and beneficial for a wider range of children. Meanwhile, nearly £5.7k has been allocated to Needham Market Scout Hut to go towards the completion of a wider project to create a modern, larger and more versatile building.
Footpath from Wattisfield Road to Sports Club	There is still more money in the budget to finish off some items. Extend path to street, more accessible path from allotments, signage, tidy up corner. Waiting Parish Council steer.
DC/25/01874 - Outline Planning Application Development of up to 15 dwellings	This was removed from the planning committee in April due to the elections. It is currently rescheduled for June 3rd.

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