

District Councillor Report: Walsham Le Willows

September 2026

A14 clean up on-going	A 20 mile stretch of the A14 in Suffolk has been cleared of more than 250 bags of litter. The operation, conducted by highways contractor Triplex, took place between junctions 51 and 52, covering the Beacon Hill and Claydon Interchanges. The waste collected, equivalent to the weight of a large white rhino at 2.3 tonnes, according to the East Anglian Daily Times, included the removal of car and lorry parts. The team conducted the clean-up operation over four nights, taking advantage of planned National Highways road closures to minimise disruption and avoid additional lane closure costs. The council confirmed the work was part of ongoing efforts in collaboration with National Highways, Suffolk County Council, and Suffolk Highways to coordinate further litter picking along the A14. Authorities have expressed gratitude to volunteers who help keep their communities clean, but have urged people to only pick litter where it is safe, and not on fast roads.
New Council Housing	The keys have been handed over for a batch of new affordable homes in a Suffolk village. The 67 properties have been built by Bellway in Bramford. The homes include a mix of one and two -bedroom flats , two - bedroom bungalows , and three - bedroom family houses , available for both rent and shared ownership. The keys were handed over to Mid Suffolk District Council as part of a developer's community contribution agreement , known as Section 106.
Fisons site	Mid Suffolk District Council has stepped in to install CCTV to deter anti-social behaviour at the derelict Fisons site in Bramford – but says the owners should do more. The former Fisons factory, in Paper Mill Lane, has seen a number of serious fires and vandalism over many years. The site owners, Paper Mill Lane Properties, are responsible for its security. However, after repeated cases of anti-social behaviour and ongoing community concerns, Mid Suffolk District Council has taken action to provide additional security - funding mobile CCTV cameras – while exploring further options to compel owners to improve safety and security.
Sports facilities in Stowmarket	A state-of-the-art 3G community football pitch and new athletics track have been completed in Stowmarket – opening up new sporting opportunities for the district’s residents. Built in the grounds of Stowmarket High School, the 3G pitch and mini athletics track will be managed by Everyone Active and available for community use

	outside school hours through a booking system. The 3G pitch project was funded by the Government's Football Foundation with contributions from Mid Suffolk District
Pylons	In the closing statement to National Grid's Norwich to Tilbury examination, Mid Suffolk District Councils have restated their objection and again called for the plan to be halted – with questions remaining unanswered over the devastating impact of the scheme for local communities, businesses, environment, heritage and landscape. National Grid proposes 159km of new overhead lines between Norwich to Tilbury, with the route cutting through the Suffolk countryside. It includes 21km of underground cabling, including some through the Dedham Vale national landscape, and up to seven new compounds to connect underground sections to overhead lines. Although negotiations with National Grid have secured some improvements to planned construction practice and ecological management, in a joint closing statement submitted today, the council said there too many questions still unanswered regarding the significant and devastating impacts of the scheme on the districts. The councils repeated their objection to the proposal and the call they made during public hearings earlier this year for a delay to the project so other options – such as an undersea route or underground cabling – can be fully considered and costed.
Consultation on adult social care	More than a quarter of our population are over the age of 65 compared to the national average of 18.5% and that proportion will grow over the coming years but more of the social care budget is moving away from the elderly to working age adults who have long term health conditions. Both groups rely on a patchwork of services and their families. An increasing proportion of council tax will go to pay for social care. Councils and Central Government must work together to achieve radical change. The review is being undertaken by the Independent Commission on Adult Social Care, also known as the Casey Commission and led by Baroness Louise Casey. Members of the public submitting their views via an online platform, the campaign will seek the views of people who work in adult social care and those unable to take part online.
Bus shelter	SCC have confirmed that the exploratory digs showed BT cabling 380mm below the footway surface. They are confident however that they will be able to

	construct shorter legs with shallower and wider foundations so that the shelter sits above the cabling. Just waiting on their final spec for this but should be completed this year. Works on the opposite side have been ordered so just waiting for a construction date.
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