

District Council District Councillor Report: Andy Mellen - Bacton ward (Bacton, Cotton, Finningham, Westhorpe and Wyverstone)

June 2024

Upcoming general election	The next parliamentary general election will take place on Thursday 4 th July. The next scheduled MSDC Council meeting on 27 th June has been cancelled due to the pre-election period. Other meetings may also be cancelled for political reasons, however the work of the council continues, and services are being delivered
Annual Council meeting	The Annual Council meeting was held on 22 nd May. The new Chair is Cllr Dr. Dan Pratt and his chosen charity for the forthcoming year will be The Food Museum in Stowmarket. LibDem Cllr Keith Scarff was appointed as Vice Chair. There were very few other changes to committees.
Community Infrastructure Levy payout	The Neighbourhood CIL payout of over £500k was distributed last month. The Neighbourhood CIL funds are for parishes to spend on infrastructure within their parishes, but they are still able to apply for further funds from the developer contribution. The next bid round for applications to the district for CIL funds opened on 31 st May. The decisions will be taken to the Cabinet meeting in the autumn.
Swimming pool improvements	Babergh and Mid Suffolk have been awarded funding to improve the carbon footprint of their swimming pools. Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre received £180k to fund pool covers, and micro filtration units
Food Waste collections from 2026	Funding to begin weekly food waste collections in Babergh and Mid Suffolk has been agreed. The service will launch in 2026 as part of a national requirement from central government. There is approximately £250k shortfall in the funding allocated from central government, which we are appealing. The plan will be for every household to receive a new 23-litre food waste bin, as well as a smaller 5-litre caddy for use in the kitchen. The food waste will be collected on a weekly basis. Residents who wish to continue with home composting of their food waste can opt out of this new arrangement. There will also be changes to the collection of recycling materials but these are still to be finalised – and there will be communications campaign ahead of any changes to make sure that residents are kept informed.
Gateway 14	Funding of £18.8m has been agreed to create a Skills & Innovation Centre at Gateway 14 in Stowmarket – the latest development there to support business, create jobs, and boost the local economy. The majority of this money will come from government funding and retained business rates.
Locality Budget 2024/25	The application process opened for this year's locality awards, however the process is now paused due to the pre-election period. Information and application forms are available on the website from 5 th July. https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/web/mid-suffolk/w/locality-awards

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