

District Councillor Report: Andrew Mellen, Bacton Ward (Bacton, Cotton, Finningham, Westhorpe & Wyverstone)

July 2025

Council meeting held on 26 th June	<p>Two motions were brought to this council meeting, alongside other routine business: The first was a motion calling for Suffolk County Council to simplify and expedite the process where communities are keen to have 20mph speed limits installed to improve road safety. At the moment the process is lengthy and expensive. The motion was passed with a large majority and the council chair will be writing to SCC to express our views. The second motion proposed that the council appoint an accessibility champion, this was approved unanimously.</p> <p>Council also approved an upgrade to the waste depot in Creeting Road Stowmarket. We have been looking for an alternative site to expand the facilities, however with reorganisation underway and future authority boundaries uncertain, the search has been paused and we are instead maintaining the facilities in our current depot for the time being.</p>
Devolution and Local government reorganisation	<p>We are waiting for a government announcement on the formation of the combined county authority and capital funding for the mayor – still expecting an election for the mayor in May 2026. On reorganisation, the survey asking for residents’ priorities is still live: Project: Have Your Say on the Future of Local Government... Mid Suffolk District Council</p>
Haughley, Stowupland & Wetherden by-election	<p>This by-election was held on 12th June to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Councillor Rachel Eburne, deputy leader of the council. The full result was as follows: 1st Dr. Agnes Watson (Green) 901 votes; 2nd - Kieron Clayton (Conservative) 444 votes; 3rd – Tim Glenton (LibDem) 61 votes.</p>
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	<p>This funding is collected from developers and the council administers the allocation of funds to infrastructure projects. Recently approved have been grants of £33k to improve the heating in Rattlesden church, which is used for community functions including a mother and toddler group. A much larger grant of £3m was approved for the provision of a new cycle and footpath linking Elmswell with Woolpit. The 2 villages share facilities but are divided by the A14, this funding will provide a safe route between the villages for walking, cycling and wheeling.</p>
Summer activities for families	<p>Community Fun Days are returning to the districts at the end of July, providing families with a series of free days out packed full of activities.</p> <p>Events are taking place between 10am and 2pm at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thurston, New Green – Thursday, 24 July • Stowmarket, Recreation Ground – Monday, 28 July <p>Each event is free attend and has activities for all ages - people just need to turn up on the day. However, children that receive means tested free school meals are able to pre-book some activities and order a free lunch by visiting the Abbeycroft website - our partners for this year's fun days.</p>
Locality budget 2025/26	<p>The next round of locality funding is available, so I am able to consider applications for grants to community organisations. Full details available here: https://midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/locality-awards</p>

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