

# District Council Report for Bacton Ward

## (Bacton, Cotton, Finningham, Westhorpe and Wyverstone)

September 2025

Council Meetings	Whilst there was no full council meeting during August, the work of the council continued, with meetings of the scrutiny, audit, planning and licencing committees. Council officers have also been dealing with unauthorised traveller encampments in various locations, as well as planning for the Tour of Britain event (see below)
Proposal for three unitary councils	In early August Suffolk's districts and borough councils published details of their joint proposal under the government's drive for local government re-organisation. The proposal is the establishment of three new councils to take over all the current services delivered under our two-tier system, these would be a Western, Central & Eastern, and Southern & Ipswich councils. As neither Mid Suffolk nor Babergh comfortably fits into this model, this would see the two councils effectively broken up across the 3 councils. A full website on the 3-unitary model, including the proposed map effecting these changes, is available here: <a href="#">Welcome – Three Councils For Suffolk</a> The government will run a public consultation on the plans later in the autumn.
Mid Suffolk and Babergh hosting Tour of Britain Men's race Weds 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	The UK's largest professional cycle race is coming through Mid Suffolk on 3 <sup>rd</sup> September. The stage starts and finishes in Stowmarket, as well as visiting other parts of the district, including Debenham and Eye – it will pass along the Rickingham straight and turn down Walsham Road sometime between 12.30 and 1.15pm and there will be temporary road closures whilst the race passes through. Information on the full route can be found here: <a href="#">Suffolk routes revealed for opening stages of Lloyds Tour of Britain Men - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk</a>
Temporary accommodation	The council has a statutory duty to house people at risk of homelessness (eg after a relationship breakdown). Demand for temporary housing in Mid Suffolk rose by 97% between 2020 and 2023 and there are currently 63 households in temporary accommodation in Mid Suffolk. The council proposes to increase the acquisition of temporary accommodation in the district by up to 30 units. This will cost c.£4m but will provide high quality accommodation and save spending money on using private sector hotels.
Introduction of new electrical recycling banks	12 new recycling banks for small electrical items (6 in Mid Suffolk, and 6 in Babergh) have been installed across the two districts. This is part of a new scheme to help reduce e-waste across the district – and part of our move to provide more comprehensive recycling opportunities for residents. More information about where these banks are can be found on MSDC's website <a href="#">Twelve new electrical recycling bins for Babergh and Mid Suffolk - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk</a>
Mid Suffolk magazine	The second edition of this will be delivered through letterboxes from the 22 <sup>nd</sup> of September. It is full of useful information about the council's services and facilities so please do not immediately recycle it! Also let me know if you do not receive a copy.
Locality grants	I have allocated about half of this year's locality funds, so if you are a community organisation in need of a small grant please get in touch to discuss.

Cllr Andy Mellen

[Andrew.Mellen@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.Mellen@midsuffolk.gov.uk)

07790 992619