

District Councillor Report November 2025

On the 23rd of October the monthly MSDC meeting took place.

Unanimously it was decided that the Community Governance Review will go ahead. The Lead officer for this project is Mr David Connors. A working group will do the review. This group is cross-party and there are four members, Cllr Miles Row, Cllr Rowland Warboys, Cllr Adrienne Marriott and Cllr Anders Linder. The group is due to convene on November the 17th to peruse applications for changes that have been received. The last date for submissions was on the 7th of November. Under consideration will be 'names and styles of existing Parish Councils, the number of Councillors required for any Parish Council and 'to consider any grouping rearrangements. Boundary changes cannot be considered in this review. This will in due course(March 2026) result in a package of draft recommendations and it will be up to the Council to decide whether to approve these or not. All in all 3 consultations are planned. The first one on 'valid submissions', 8th of December to the 23rd of January. After that there is planned to be Consultation on the Draft Recommendations, the 6th of April to the 29th of May 2026 and finally a publication of the Working Group recommendation for a final period of comment, this for June 2026. All of the above is required to take place before any changes are actually made. The working group will take into account views that have been put forward before coming up with the final recommendations. The entire process is planned to result in a decision by the District Council to issue a resolution to make any reorganisation orders. This is expected to happen in August/September 2026.

Monitoring fees have been set up for 'Biodiversity Net Gain' re new developments. These can be paid in instalments as the development progresses. There are four categories for different sizes of developments. Up to 9 dwellings it's £11,326, 10-49 dwellings £14,047 and 50-199 £25,045.

The state of the District Report contains a raft of statistics. These figures are long term and don't change a lot from one year to another. It is encouraging to note the percentage of residents at least 'fairly satisfied' in mid Suffolk is 87, the National average is 74%.

Mid Suffolk is continuing the work with the New Local Plan. As part of this there is a 'call for sites'. Land that could be considered for future developments can be included in the Local Plan. Any land put forward in this way does not have to be developed and carries no planning weight. This process will go on until the 9th of January 2026.

It has been announced that 22 units of sheltered housing will be decommissioned in so far that the services will no longer be provided. Apparently the vast majority don't want to pay the fees and don't much need this service. Tenants don't have to move. None of this affects the Stradbroke/Laxfield area.

As some of you will have seen in local media District CIL spending has been announced. £1,6 million for a sports pavilion in Stowmarket, playground improvement in Elmswell, Thurston Railway station £520 000 and improvements on a Stowmarket recreation ground.

Finally, let's not forget about the information dates re the Suffolk and Essex water projects.

Best Wishes,

Anders Linder