

County Councillor Report



Parish Councils, May 2025

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Devolution – Suffolk County Council’s initial proposal for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) was submitted by the deadline of 21st March, refer to: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/2025-03-21-suffolkcc-lgr-interim-plan-final.pdf>. SCC is working with Norfolk County Council concerning plans for both LGR and formation of a combined Mayoral Authority. Detailed plans will be submitted to the Minister for Local Government in September with a view to holding elections in May 2026 for Mayor and forming new electoral boundaries for one (or more) unitary councils.

The Council is planning a series of meetings with Parish Councils about devolution throughout the County, these are not public meetings and schedules are being firmed up.

“Simpler” Recycling – Commencing nationally by 31st March 2026, the Government is requiring changes to the way household and business wastes are collected and managed. Currently District and Borough councils collect waste (black bins), co-mingled/ mixed recyclable materials (except glass), and garden waste from households across Suffolk using a wheeled bin service. The materials are then delivered, to a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in Blakenham, a Composting Facility such as Material Change in Creeting, or the Energy from Waste Facility (EFW) as appropriate.

Under the new programme, households would have five bins instead of two (or three including garden waste); glass would be mixed with other items and food/ kitchen waste would be separated.

Figure 4. Twin Stream Collection System Summary

- 2 recycling bins:
 - containers (glass, plastic, cans/tins, cartons)
 - fibres (paper and card)
- Recycling and residual collection frequency as per WCA decisions
- Food waste collected weekly
- Garden Waste – charged subscription scheme with fortnightly collection



Collection schedules would change. Currently Mid Suffolk has proposed collecting household waste/black bins once every three weeks, the schedule is below:

Collection Calendar	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3
Residual			
Recycling			
Food			

Babergh, East Suffolk and
Mid Suffolk residents

Mid Suffolk & Babergh District Council is the only council to propose black bin collection every three weeks. Other new collections such as food and garden wastes will not be optional but will form part of the overall council tax charge. There will be substantial costs in implementing the changes, such as modifying the MRF to take glass, building or contracting for disposal of the specialist facilities required for food waste processing, and new bins and vehicles. The future of local village hall glass collections is uncertain. Planning implications are also under consideration as additional space will be required for bin storage. For background on the new Government policy position refer to:

[Simpler Recycling in England: policy update - GOV.UK](#)

Large Scale Solar Proposals – Several large (NSIP) solar proposals with Battery Electric Storage Sites (BESS) are proceeding in Mid Suffolk at pre-application state and have held local public meetings. These are: Elmya north of Mendlesham (675 acres) and Eco-Power near Yaxley. For Elmya reference: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/major-infrastructure-projects-including-nsips/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-nsips/white-elm-solar-farm> and EcoPower around Yaxley/ Mellis/Eye around 1500 acres) <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/suffolk-prepares-for-another-significant-solar-farm-proposal>

Regenerat8 is a proposing a 208-acre (84 hectare) solar site with inverters on land at Stone Cottages east of Botesdale, west of Wortham, and north-west of Burgate Little Green. Refer to:

<file:///C:/Users/flemj/Downloads/Stone-Cottages-Banners-April-2025.pdf>

Yaxley Field Battery Electric Storage Site, Yaxley - DC/24/05535 /Full Planning Application with Environmental Statement - Erection of a Battery Energy Storage System and associated infrastructure including access, drainage, landscaping and other incidental works. This proposal came to Mid Suffolk's planning committee in May and was deferred for more information on public safety and risk from a National Gas Transmission high-pressure gas pipeline within the proposal area. **FEEDER PIPELINE 5 - DISS COMPRESSOR TEE to STOWMARKET.**

The pipeline has a 12.2m easement in operation (6.1m either side of pipe). No development, construction or landscaping is permitted within the easement without formal written approval from National Gas Transmission. The developer is engaging with National Gas Transmission for further guidance in the early stages of design to ensure that electrical interference, security, future access, and construction methods can be mutually agreed prior to undertaking any works on site.

Refer to Field Yaxley - planning reference [DC/24/05535](#).

National Grid Pylon Scheme Public Consultation – National Grid has made some route adjustments in Palgrave, Mellis and east of Gislingham following public consultation but earlier proposals for undergrounding in the Waveney Valley have been rejected. National Grid states: *Following a review of consultation feedback and the findings of environmental and technical assessments, we have concluded that an overhead line would be most appropriate. This is because an overhead line would have the least impact on the valley and the local environment, particularly recognising the future purpose of the Waveney and Little Ouse Recovery (WaLOR) project and meets our requirements as a developer.* Refer to [Norwich to Tilbury Frequently asked questions | National Grid ET](#)

The County Council's position is as follows: *"We are bitterly disappointed that pylons are still the go-to solution for this project, and particularly those cutting across the Waveney Valley's valued landscape, rather than going underground, or ideally offshore. We still firmly contend that less damaging alternatives to the project have not been properly considered.*

Information is available on – nationalgrid.com/norwich-to-tilbury

Please get in touch with me if you have questions or comments: Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk

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