

## Gislingham Ward

Mellis, Gislingham, Thornham, `Wortham & Burgate, Wickham Skeith Parish Councils  
Mat 2025

### District Councillor's Report:

Devolution Update in council meeting 10 <sup>th</sup> April	At this month's extraordinary council meeting, the primary topic of discussion was once again that of devolution, primarily the response from Mid Suffolk Council in regards to a consultation for the council on the Norfolk and Suffolk devolved authority. Although there was some initial scepticism over the mayor, and some of the responses to the consultations were in disagreement to the answered questions, there is still optimism about how devolution can assist with Suffolk's priorities and goals, and the council's responses were unanimously approved.
Changes to Waste & Recycling	At the council meeting, a motion was proposed by Cllr Richardson over the new waste and recycling changes, including a resident consultation over the changes. Concerns were raised regarding the change to the frequency of black bin collection. However since the proposals, complying with new government regulations, meant food waste would be collected every week and there was an increase in recycling there would be less general waste. The new regime is based on extensive research and intended to deliver the best value for money. Rather than a consultation now it is intended to review its effectiveness once up and running. As now residents' individual needs would be dealt with sympathetically. The frequency of collections had been agreed with Suffolk County Council and the Suffolk Waste Partnership.
Response to Govt Changes to Planning	Council therefore asks the Chair to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and our three members of Parliament stating our concerns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•That the changes proposed in the Planning and Infrastructure Bill should not erode or curtail the role of democratically elected councillors in the planning process.</li><li>•That the government consider giving councils powers to advance the build-out of sites with planning permission.</li><li>•That the government should make explicit the requirement that all elements of the planning system should fully align with duties under the Climate Change Act 2008.</li></ul>
Annual Council Meeting 15 <sup>th</sup> May	A new Chair was elected: Cllr. Keith Scarff – Lib. Dem. Keith is also a SCC Cllr. and Stowmarket Town Cllr. Cllr. Lorraine baker was elected Vice-Chair – Green
LGR Update:	Mid Suffolk District Council launched its public consultation on Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> May. "How could public services work better for you"

	<p><b>Local government in Suffolk is changing. All county, district and borough councils are being replaced with ‘unitary’ councils responsible for delivering all services.</b></p> <p><b>Suffolk’s district and borough councils are working together on an ambitious proposal for two or three unitary councils delivering services to different parts of the county. We believe these will meet the differing needs of our diverse communities - councils that are big enough to deliver, local enough to care.</b></p> <p><b>“Residents are being asked to provide feedback by visiting: <a href="http://www.midsuffolk.govocal.com/en-GB/projects/have-your-say-suffolk">www.midsuffolk.govocal.com/en-GB/projects/have-your-say-suffolk</a>, or call your local district or borough council if you need a paper copy of the survey. We will carefully consider all your responses before putting forward a final proposal to the Government in September.”</b></p>
Haughley, Stowupland & Wetherden by-election	Following the death of Cllr Rachel Eburne last month, the by-election for her successor is due to be on Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> June
New grant offers for Mid Suffolk sports facilities	Over £750,000 of the Community Sports Infrastructure Grant has been set aside for new sporting facilities across Mid Suffolk, including either building new or upgrading existing infrastructure. More information can be found on Mid Suffolk’s article <a href="http://babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk">New grant offers significant funding for sporting opportunities across Mid Suffolk - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk</a>
£100k for new Mid Suffolk culture fund	A funding grant of over £100k has been approved to promote Mid Suffolk’s culture, including support for children in arts and theatre. This also includes support for both the Food Museum and the John Peel Centre in Stowmarket, which are closely linked with the council.
Locality Awards	<p>This is now open for applications, link to MSDC for Information &amp; Forms: <a href="https://midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/locality-awards">https://midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/locality-awards</a></p> <p>Eligible projects range from improvements to community facilities and sports clubs, to wildflower planting, and the purchasing of equipment for youth groups or community shops.</p> <p>All applications must benefit the communities in which the funded activity is taking place.</p>

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