## **District Councillor Report: Palgrave Parish Council**

June 2024

Upcoming general election	The General Election has been called on Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> July. Certain Council meetings, including Cabinet and Full Council have been cancelled to comply with the Electoral Commission's pre-election period guidance.
Annual Council meeting	The Annual Council meeting was held on 22 <sup>nd</sup> May. The new Chair is Cllr Dan Pratt and his chosen charity for the forthcoming year will be The Food Museum in Stowmarket. Cllr Keith Scarff was appointed as Vice Chair. Minor changes to committee membership were agreed and full details are available on the Council's website.
Community Infrastructure Levy payout	The Neighbourhood CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) payout of over £500k was distributed last month. The Neighbourhood CIL funds are for parishes to spend on infrastructure within their parishes, but they are also able to apply for further funds from the developer contribution. The next bid round for applications to the district for CIL funds opened on 31st May. Approved applications will be taken to Cabinet for approval in the autumn.
Swimming pool improvements	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have been successful in being awarded funding to improve the carbon footprint of its swimming pools. Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre received £180k to fund pool covers, and water micro filtration units.
Food Waste collections from 2026	Funding to begin food waste collections in Babergh and Mid Suffolk has been agreed. The service will launch in 2026 as part of a national requirement from central government. There is approximately £250k shortfall in the funding allocated from central government. The plan will be for every household to receive a new 23-litre food waste bin, as well as a smaller 5-litre caddy for use in the kitchen. The food waste will be collected on a weekly basis.
Gateway 14	Funding of £18.8m has been agreed to create a Skills & Innovation Centre at Gateway 14 in Stowmarket – the latest development there to support business, create jobs, and boost the local economy.
Flash flooding	Further to a meeting with residents impacted by local flash flooding and communication with Palgrave Primary School, I am writing to Suffolk County Council with regard to blocked gulleys and the poor condition of the highway, particularly in The Lows. I have also requested Officers at MSDC to clear detritus from roads for which it is responsible to mitigate obstruction of gulleys and culverts. Preventative solutions are being researched 'upstream' with relevant landowners.

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