

# District Councillor Report: Palgrave

September 2024

Survey of residents	Mid Suffolk Council are conducting an informal survey to find out how our residents want it to invest to improve facilities in our communities. This is an informal survey so if you have any ideas, please get in touch with your district councillor or visit the Council's website: <a href="https://www.govocal.com">Project: Tell us what your community needs   Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils (govocal.com)</a>
Annual Canvass of electors	The statutory annual canvass of electors is currently in progress. All properties in the district are being contacted to confirm who is registered to vote.
Future waste collection – Simpler Recycling	Mid Suffolk Cabinet will be discussing the new waste collection service on Tuesday 10 September 2024. The proposals include weekly food waste collections from 2026 as well as accepting more recyclable waste with the addition of a second recycling bin for every household. With greater recycling opportunities, residual waste 'black bin' will reach capacity as is currently the case. Any changes to the collection cycle will be explained to residents as part of a Suffolk-wide communication ahead of the 2026 roll-out.
Innovation Awards	Businesses across the district are set to be recognised for fresh thinking and new ideas in the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Innovation awards this autumn. Nominations closed on 31 <sup>st</sup> August for the nine different awards available. The winners will be announced at an event on Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> November.
Development of Chilton Fields sports facilities	Work has now begun on the development of the sports facilities at Chilton Fields in Stowmarket. The new trim-trail is currently being installed. The rest of phase 1 of development will continue over the coming weeks as part of a larger project aimed at addressing Health Inequalities in Stowmarket and the wider district.
Needham Market old HQ building	The old HQ building in Needham Market is to be sold for development, in order to deliver the regeneration plans and funds for re-investment back into social housing. MSDC has already developed housing on the old Middle School site and part of the old office site behind the older building facing the high street.
EV scheme for MSDC residents	A trial of electric community vehicles is set to launch next summer in Suffolk. Plug In Suffolk Car Clubs will be placing sixteen electric vehicles across eight locations in Suffolk, which local residents can book by the minute, hour or day. Two of the proposed locations are in Mid Suffolk – Needham Market and Stowmarket. More information by subscribing to <a href="#">the Plug in Suffolk mailing list</a> .
Eye Airfield Development	MSDC Planning Committee heard an outline planning proposal for development of a petrol station, drive through food outlet, retail, lorry park etc. on Wednesday 28 August 2024. As your Ward Member, I represented the views of residents (notably relating to potential for exacerbated flood risk) as well as highlighting procedural irregularities with the application and its management. It was noted that an Environmental Impact Assessment was absent from the application being considered. The decision of the Committee was to defer a decision until further evidence is sought from the developer. The opportunity was used to spotlight concerns regarding wider development on the airfield and the impact of this on flooding. Further action between flood (SCC) and planning authorities (MSDC) and partner agencies to address this is being pursued.
Thurston By-election	Cllr Austin Davies has resigned from the Council and a by-election will be held in Thurston Ward on 24 <sup>th</sup> September.
Land Acquisition by MSDC.	In accordance with the Council's Biodiversity Action Plan, to promote maintenance of existing green space for wildlife, ecology and public access, the Council has acquired 2.5 acres of largely undisturbed riparian woodland in Palgrave. The site is being audited to document species, make safe deceased and diseased trees and discussions are in progress to provide open access for the community.

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