

## District Councillors' Report – May 2024

Housing IT system	The Cabinet at Mid Suffolk approved a new job management system for the council's housing. The current system is not fit for purpose and the new system will allow tenants to book appointments when they request a repair, get the work programmed, reduce the need to chase for updates and improve the overall service for tenants.
Supplementary Planning Documents	<p>At May's Council meeting, councillors will discuss several Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) which will support the Joint Local Plan. Although these are not planning policies they provide detailed guidance for applicants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing (including open market mix, community-led housing, affordable housing and self-build)</li> <li>• Biodiversity and Trees (including permitted development, biodiversity net gain, veteran trees and expectations of developments)</li> <li>• Intensive Livestock and Poultry (especially the impact on habitats and the local population)</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
Skills and Innovation Centre at Gateway 14	The Council will also discuss the final funding proposal for developing the Skills and Innovation Centre site on Gateway 14. This is an £18 million investment that will help to address green skills and innovation across the district working with local companies and educational facilities. If agreed, planning permission will be applied for to progress the work.
Recycling	The Government is introducing "Simpler Recycling" which will include a food waste collection from April 2026. The first stages in this project will be discussed by Cabinet next week as plans are being put in place to ensure we have the resources and facilities to meet this timetable. Note that in Suffolk over 50% of waste thrown into the black bin is recyclable!
Progress Power	<p>This month's stakeholder meeting with the developer included an overview update and site visit to the plant. The host (Yaxley) and neighbouring parishes were represented by respective parish and town council members, I attended along with Cllr Lucy Elkin (for Eye ward) and a planning officer from MSDC. Cllr Jessica Fleming attended for the update presentation. Among other matters, planting/landscaping schemes, flood mitigation and extended hours of operation (build phase) were raised and responded to by the developer. In summary; the project is progressing to schedule information is available on its website, which includes contact details for an resident enquiries:</p> <p><a href="http://www.drax.com/about-us/our-projects/progress-power/">www.drax.com/about-us/our-projects/progress-power/</a></p>

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