

## Palgrave Parish Council – November 2025

### District Councillor Report

Biodiversity and Nature Recovery	<p>The UK’s biodiversity duty is a legal obligation, reinforced by the Environment Act (2021). All public authorities in England must integrate the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity into their core functions. Public bodies must adopt policies and objectives for biodiversity action, take action to achieve these, and review their efforts at least every five years.</p> <p>Mid Suffolk District Council declared a biodiversity emergency in 2019. A Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), arising from the work of a dedicated Task Force, was put in place.</p> <p>The majority of the actions from the first BAP were delivered, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping of our tree cover – on average 8.5% against national average of 14.5%</li> <li>• Planting thousands of trees and hedges</li> <li>• Surveys of our wildlife sites</li> <li>• Creating new wildflower meadows</li> </ul> <p>The Norfolk &amp; Suffolk Local Nature Recovery Strategy (launched last week) identifies species and habitats of particular importance to the county, and the threats to them, it helps to build a picture of the scale of the challenge with arresting biodiversity decline; the causes and measures needed in response.</p> <p>A budget of £1.8M to deliver on the BAP for 2025/28 was approved by cabinet on 11 November 2025 and focusses on a broader range of habitats and species, and also recognises the co-benefits that the BAP can deliver on issues such as water quality, flood management and public health and well-being.</p>
Armed Forces Covenant	<p>Appropriately at this time of remembrance, Mid Suffolk District Council have achieved the bronze award for the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme.</p> <p>This award acknowledges the Council’s continued support for the armed forces community - from veterans and service personnel to their families, reservists and cadets.</p> <p>It follows on from the Council’s re-statement earlier in the year on its commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant.</p>
Historic England says retrofitting historic buildings will be fundamental to achieving net zero.	<p>Mid Suffolk District Council, working closely with Historic England, have just introduced a new Local Listed Building Consent Order – the first rural council in the country to achieve this.</p> <p>It makes sensitive improvements quicker and easier:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Secondary glazing on historic windows</b> - Grade II listed buildings can now have secondary glazing installed on historic windows without needing consent from the council, subject to certain conditions.</li> <li>• <b>Replacement of windows in Grade II listed buildings</b> – Where original windows have already been replaced after receiving listed building consent, they can be replaced again, subject to conditions.</li> <li>• <b>Replacement of an existing window in a modern extension to a listed building</b> - Windows in Grade II listed buildings can be replaced, or have secondary glazing installed, if they have previously received listed building consent, subject to conditions.</li> </ul>
Funding	<p>Sustainable Communities Food fund: Our Sustainable Communities Food Fund provides grants to small scale food initiatives such as community pantries, fridges and food pop-ups. Details will be available on the Council’s website.</p>
Call for Development sites	<p>The Call for Sites runs until 5pm on 9 January 2026, with the exception of Ipswich, which ends on Monday 15 December 2025. This invites submissions of land to be put forward for consideration to be included in Local</p>

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	<p>Plans - for uses such as housing, employment, sports and leisure and community purposes. These are not planning applications, and no site put forward will automatically see development take place. The process involves a form to be completed by anyone wishing to submit sites. The form can be completed online, by email or by post:  <a href="https://www.babergh.gov.uk/w/call-for-sites">https://www.babergh.gov.uk/w/call-for-sites</a></p>
<p>Locality Awards</p>	<p>Any requests for funding must be completed by Jan 2026 so if you have a project that you feel would qualify for funding please contact me.</p> <p>Further information: <a href="https://midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/locality-awards">https://midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/locality-awards</a></p>
<p>Essex &amp; Suffolk Water: Water Recycling, Transfer and Storage proposal (NSIP)</p>	<p>Essex &amp; Suffolk Water is currently undertaking a major infrastructure project called the <b>Suffolk Water Recycling, Transfer and Storage Project</b> that includes plans for a new underground drinking water reservoir and pipelines near Eye.</p> <p>This development is part of a wider £1.5 billion investment to ensure future water supply in the region, which has been identified as a "seriously water-stressed area". A temporary moratorium on new non-domestic water connections is currently in place in the Hartismere Water Resource Zone, which includes our area, due to the lack of available water.</p> <p>Key details of the project related to our area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>New Reservoir:</b> One of two proposed new underground drinking water service reservoirs is planned near Eye airfield.</li> <li>• <b>Pipelines:</b> A network of new pipelines is proposed to run as far west as Eye, connecting existing infrastructure to the new reservoirs and a new Advanced Water Recycling Plant near Lowestoft.</li> <li>• <b>Purpose:</b> The project aims to provide a more reliable and resilient water supply for homes and businesses, lifting the current restrictions on business growth in the area.</li> <li>• <b>Nationally Significant:</b> The project has been designated a "Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project," requiring a Development Consent Order.</li> </ul> <p><b>Current Status:</b> A public consultation on the proposals (including potential locations/corridors) is currently running until Wednesday, December 10, 2025. A preferred pipeline route and infrastructure locations are expected to be announced at the end of 2026, with a further consultation planned for 2027.</p> <p><b>Essex &amp; Suffolk Water are hosting drop-in public events at locations across the county. Remaining events take place in Dennington (19/11), Leiston (22/11), Beccles (26/11) and Lowestoft (29/11). The information available at the events is replicated online at <a href="http://www.suffolkwaternetwork.co.uk">www.suffolkwaternetwork.co.uk</a>.</b></p>

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