

District Councillor Report – Palgrave December 2025

<p>Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) - consultation for Suffolk and Norfolk</p>	<p>The Government launched the consultation about the future of local government in Norfolk and Suffolk. Both proposals for Suffolk have been put forward – the ‘One Suffolk’ and ‘To the Power of 3’ unitary councils for Suffolk.</p> <p>The consultation is open to all and can be accessed here: https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/norfolk-suffolk/. The Consultation ends on 11th January 2026. We expect the Government to announce the final decision by March 2026.</p>
<p>Biodiversity and Nature Recovery Budget</p>	<p>Mid Suffolk District Council has committed £1.8 million over the next three years to accelerate work which enhances biodiversity and nature – in a bid to safeguard the environment for generations to come. The investment is a major step towards reversing habitat loss and supporting nature and wildlife across the district. Details of the dedicated grant from this budget available to communities will be published in the New Year. https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/biodiversity-action-plan</p>
<p>Youth Council for Mid Suffolk</p>	<p>The Council agreed to the formation of a Youth Council for Mid Suffolk. It is important to get young people engaged with local democratic process, and there was cross party support for this proposal. It is hoped to form a Youth Council by September 2026, the start of the next school year.</p>
<p>Rural Support Fund, Community Development Grants.</p>	<p>A reminder that the Mid Suffolk Rural Support Fund is still open for applications. This is a fund created to support towns and villages outside of Stowmarket. More information can be found on the Mid Suffolk website. Do also consider the other grants available to our communities on the Council’s Grants page: https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/community-funding</p>
<p>Sustainable Communities Food fund</p>	<p>Our Sustainable Communities Food Fund provides grants to small scale food initiatives such as community pantries, fridges and food pop-ups. Between £250 and £5,000 is available and can be used for anything from the purchase of equipment and revenue costs to delivering training and workshops. Funding is awarded on a first come, first served basis. More details are available on the website https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/mid-suffolk-district-council-funding-1</p>
<p>Essex & Suffolk Water</p>	<p>Following roadshow events around the County E&SW have extended their informal public consultation until 17 December 2025. Online responses made be made at www.suffolkwaternetwork.co.uk or email swsp@nwl.co.uk, or by post to ‘FREEPOST ESW LAND TEAM’. It is noted that proposals available for consideration at this time fall short of granular detail enabling meaningful detailed feedback. A further consultation will occur (expected 2027) where a preferred pipeline route and preferred site of ground infrastructure will be shared. As a (further) Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) in our area, Mid Suffolk District Council are a consultee rather than a decision-maker in the (proposed pipeline corridor and service reservoir proposals) planning process.</p>

Cllr Tim Weller, Ward Member – Palgrave

Mid Suffolk District Council | Email: tim.weller@midsuffolk.gov.uk