

## District Council Report – Palgrave Parish Council – February 2026

<p><b>Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation – Election Cancellation</b></p>	<p>The County Council elections planned for May 2026 have been cancelled and we can assume there will be no further County Council elections in Suffolk.</p> <p>It is regrettable that the most significant change in local government administration since 1974 will be implemented with virtually no public involvement and with all elections over the relevant period voided.</p>
<p><b>Support for Ipswich’ bid for City of Culture 2029.</b></p>	<p>Mid Suffolk District Councillors unanimously supported the Ipswich bid to become City of Culture in 2029. The status is a competition run by the Government's Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) every four years, with a £10 million prize.</p> <p>DCMS will longlist up to eight bids, awarding each £60,000 to support development and strengthening their full application over a three-to-four-month period from February until May/June 2026. The finalist will be announced in the winter of 2026.</p>
<p><b>Community Nature Recovery Grants</b></p>	<p>The new Community Nature Recovery grants were launched earlier this month. Community groups are able to apply for grants up to £50,000 for projects such as expanding wildlife corridors, tree planting, creating wildflower meadow and other environmental initiatives to safeguard natural spaces for future generations. More details of the grants can be found on the Council’s website <a href="https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/boosting-biodiversity-by-funding-nature-in-your-neighbourhood">https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/boosting-biodiversity-by-funding-nature-in-your-neighbourhood</a></p>
<p><b>Better Recycling update.</b></p>	<p>A leaflet explaining the changes to waste collection has been delivered to all homes in Mid Suffolk. More items such as tetra-pak, plastic bags and film will be able to be recycled and there will be a weekly food waste collection too. Residents will begin to receive their new bins over the coming months ready for the new collections to start in June 2026. Residents with existing special arrangements will continue to have these met.</p>
<p><b>Locality Funding</b></p>	<p>I was delighted to support the following organisations from the £10,000 Locality Budget at my disposal for 2025/26:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brome &amp; Oakley Village Hall (Dishwasher/Curtains)</li> <li>• Stoke Ash Village Hall (Storage Shed)</li> <li>• Palgrave &amp; District Community Centre (towards publication of The Star)</li> <li>• Palgrave Parish Council (Replacement bench for cemetery)</li> <li>• The Bank, Eye (Consumer unit/commercial freezer)</li> <li>• Eye Primary School (Safety signage)</li> <li>• Wingfield Barns (Catering and musical equipment)</li> <li>• Palgrave Players (Lighting equipment)</li> </ul> <p>The application window for my 2026-27 Locality Budget will open in early April.</p>
<p><b>Postal Votes</b></p>	<p>The deadline to submit fresh signatures (for residents who use a postal vote) expired on the 31 January. From 12 February 2026, all electors whose postal vote has been removed will receive a formal notice confirming the change. The notice will include details of their polling station and a postal vote application form should they wish to continue voting by post. For queries or further clarification please contact the Electoral Services Team at <a href="mailto:elections@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk">elections@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk</a></p>