

**District Councillor's Report:
Gislingham Ward
Mellis, Gislingham, Thornham, `Wortham & Burgate, Wickham Skeith Parish Councils
August 2023**

Working together	At the Annual Council meeting in May, we are continuing our ethos of working together with all political parties across the Council by ensuring different roles are shared out.
Skills and Innovation Centre at Gateway 14	Also this month, the final funding proposal for developing the Skills and Innovation Centre site on Gateway 14 will be discussed. This is an £18 million plus investment that will help to address green skills and innovation across the district working with local companies and educational facilities. Of the total amount, £6 million is Government funding and over £11 million is from Freeport-related business rates. If agreed, planning permission will be applied for to progress the work.
Supplementary Planning Documents	At June's Council meeting, councillors will discuss several Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) which will support the Joint Local Plan. Consultation on these is currently open (until 19 th June) and although these are not planning policies they provide detailed guidance for applicants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Housing (including open market mix, community-led housing, affordable housing and self-build) - Biodiversity and Trees (including permitted development, biodiversity net gain, veteran trees and expectations of developers) - Intensive Livestock and Poultry (especially the impact on habitats and the local population)
Recycling	The Government is introducing "Simpler Recycling" which will include a food waste collection from April 2026. The first stages in this project were agreed by Cabinet last 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!
Energy efficient housing	The Council was successful in gaining an £800k grant for decarbonising council housing stock. Mid Suffolk will add to this to ensure as comprehensive programme as possible.
Locality Awards 2024/25	Applications for this year's Locality Awards grants are now open, so we would welcome applications from any community organisation or group. Do get in touch with either of us to discuss options. Information and application forms are available on the website and completed forms should be sent to either of us. https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/web/mid-suffolk/w/locality-awards

Cllr. Rowland Warboys Chair Mid Suffolk District Council 2023/24, Green Party, Gislingham Ward
Email: rowland.warboys@midsuffolk.gov.uk