

District Councillor Report: Gislingham Ward
Mellis, Gislingham, The Thornhams, Wickham Skeith, Wortham & Burgate
October 2024

Survey of residents	The deadline for the Mid Suffolk Council informal survey has been extended to 31 st October. This is an informal survey so if you have any ideas, please get in touch with either of your district councillors or visit the website here https://baberghandmidsuffolk.govocal.com/en-GB/projects/tell-us-mid-suffolk
Thurston By-election	Harry Richardson (Conservative) was elected as the new ward councillor for the Thurston Ward on 24 th September.
Simpler recycling	MSDC have now agreed how they will adapt their waste collection service in line with the new government regulations. From 2025 there will be weekly kerbside food waste collections. Each household will receive a food waste bin for collection as well as a caddy to use in the kitchen. This will reduce the amount of waste in the black bins, so from 2026 we will move to twin-stream recycling so each household will have 2 recycling bins (one for card and paper, the other for plastic, glass and cartons) and a black bin. These will be collected on a 3-week cycle.
Heart of Suffolk Big Weekend	The ballot is now open for our first ever Heart of Suffolk Big Weekend, in which residents can win prizes by entering a free ballot. This new event has been organised to highlight our culture, leisure and visitor attractions, and to encourage local residents to explore what's on offer. Details can be found here https://www.heartofsuffolkbigweekend.co.uk/ . The draw is open until Monday 30 th September.
Shaping our Economic Strategy	BMSDC officers are hosting a series of economic development workshops across the district. They are seeking the expertise and insights of key local stakeholders including business leaders, council partners, voluntary services, policymakers, academics and beyond to help develop our forward-thinking economic strategy. Anyone wishing to participate should register online for the following sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday 7th October, The Mix, Stowmarket Wednesday 23rd October, New Green Centre, Thurston.
CIL upgrades to footpaths	A number of CIL bids for footpath improvements throughout the district have been approved. This includes 3 routes in Elmswell; Ashfield Road to Grove Lane, footpath across Lords Bridge to the Blackbourne and footpath to Elmswell Cemetery.
Locality Budget	As part of the VCFSE Funding review some changes have been agreed to Locality Awards. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be enhanced monitoring for Locality Awards greater than £5,000. Ongoing running costs / core costs as an eligible spend will now be capped at £2,000 per organisation, per councillor. Members can now support organisations or groups rather than a specific project. Funding for activity in schools where there is no wider community benefit and where the schools have a statutory duty (part of the curriculum) is now excluded. The locality guidance and website have been updated with the changes Locality Awards - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk