

District Councillor Report: Gislingham Ward

Mellis, Gislingham, The Thornhams, Wickham Skeith, Wortham & Burgate

September 2024

Thurston By-Election	Following the resignation of Austin Davies, there will be a by-election held on the 24 th September in Thurston Ward. Whilst this by-election is underway, some council business will be limited, especially in and around Thurston, in order to avoid the council being involved in party politics.
Council meeting	There was no scheduled council meeting during August. The next meeting is due to take place on the 26 th September.
Cabinet meeting	The Cabinet met on the 6 th August. This primarily involved discussing updates regarding the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Project (LCWIP) across Mid Suffolk; a scheme to assist with improving and regenerating the walking and cycle paths across the district.
Sports Facilities at Chilton Fields	Work has begun on the development of the sports facilities in Chilton Fields in Stowmarket. This is part of a multi-phase project to improve sports and health facilities across Stowmarket and will continue over the coming weeks.
Sale of former Needham Market offices	Part of the former Mid Suffolk office site in Needham Market have been put up for sale this month. The funds created from selling the buildings is intended to be re-invested into social housing across the district, including in Needham Market.
Discussions on new waste collection service	The district is planning the roll-out of a weekly food waste collection service, and expanding the list of recyclables that the council accepts. Although this scheme will not be introduced until 2026, there have been further talks with council stakeholders this month to ensure plans for its smooth rollout.
CIL Update (Community Infrastructure Levy)	Babergh and Mid Suffolk communities are set to see more than £836,000 injected back into local projects – including major investments in helping to protect local heritage and village hall improvements. This week, cabinet members at B&MSDC's voted to approve the latest round of CIL bids which includes a total of £200K towards Stowmarket's Food Museum, in addition to projects such as footpath and bridleway upgrades, improvements to village halls, sports pavilions and parks.
Norwich to Tilbury – update.	Research by Suffolk Mind, and the experiences of the county council, show that the wellbeing of local residents and communities suffers when NSIPs are proposed in a local area, especially when multiple projects are on the table. Feelings of fear, mistrust, anger, and frustration are all reported, along with impacted sleep, and inability to plan for the future, due to the uncertainty created by the proposed development. As part of their NSIP teams work and in response to an incident believed to be related to an East Suffolk project, Suffolk County Council have published guidance for developers relating to community wellbeing (link here).

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