

Gislingham Ward Mellis, Gislingham, Thornham, `Wortham & Burgate, Wickham Skeith Parish Councils

District Councillor's Report:

August 2025

Council Meeting 24 th July	Mid Suffolk's monthly council meeting took place this month on the 24 th July. Within the meeting, the council discussed the new sports and community pavilion at Chiltern Fields (SHELF), the performance report of CIFCO, an investment company owned by Mid Suffolk, underwriting a funding gap for the Stowmarket Food Museum, and the appointment of Cllr Terence Carter as council disability champion.
Adoption of Three Unitary Authorities	At the council Meeting on 24-08-2025 Cllr Richard Winch submitted a motion to full council regarding MSDC's desire to move forward with unitary authorities, as part of local government re-organisation across Suffolk. The 5 district councils across Suffolk, including Mid Suffolk, have long been supporters of having multiple unitary authorities across Suffolk, in opposition to the county council's support of a single unitary covering all of Suffolk.
LGR Public Engagement Plans	<p>New Website:</p> <p>https://threecouncilsforsuffolk.org/</p> <p>More details of proposals (including the County Council's Single Unitary authority for comparison)</p> <p>External partner engagement (dates to be confirmed):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish & Town Councils (in each of the 3 new unitary areas) to help co-design a future working relationship with their unitary - SALC are helping to facilitate this and they have a further SALC forum late Sept. • Business breakfasts across each of the 3 new unitary areas • Health - Senior officers met with the ICB Deputy CEO and Area Directors on Friday 15th Aug. • Care - Senior officers met with Suffolk Care Association & Social Care Institute for Excellence on Friday 15th Aug • MPs & Peers - individual contact & seeking joint letter of support from MPs. James Cartlidge has also arranged a session for T&Ps with BDC & SCC on 12th Sept <p>Public engagement (dates to be confirmed):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic public meetings to explain & discuss the proposals -2 or possibly 3 spread geographically across each district (e.g. Stowmarket, Eye, Sudbury, Hadleigh, Stradbroke, Peninsula)

New Rural Support Fund	Over £415k has been granted to support rural business across both Babergh and Mid Suffolk. This money can go towards projects that contribute to Net Zero, farm diversification, or improved rural sustainability.
Mid Suffolk and Babergh to host Tour of Britain Men	<p>The UK's largest professional cycle race is due to come through Mid Suffolk on 3rd September, starting and finishing in Stowmarket, as well as visiting other parts of the district, the route passes through Eye, Thorndon, and Gislingham – Mill Street. It crosses the A140 at The White Horse, turns right at the 4 Horseshoes, then left along Thornham Road to Gislingham. There will be about 100 cyclists preceded by a police rolling roadblock, Timings 12.13 Stradbroke 12.58 Walsham le Willows.</p> <p>Links to interactive maps: https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/tourofbritain/men/stagetwo and https://ridewithgps.com/routes/51405227</p> <p>MSDC has also prepared a toolkit for business that are along the route and may wish to get involved: BMSDC Tour Toolkit 2025</p> <p>The 2017 TOB Suffolk brought a £3.8 million boost to the local economy, 49% of the spectators were visitors and 17% stayed overnight.</p>

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