

Gislingham Ward
Mellis, Gislingham, Thornham, `Wortham & Burgate, Wickham Skeith Parish
Councils
District Councillor Report:
September 2025

Council Meeting	There was no scheduled full council meeting held last month. The next meeting will take place on the 25 th September.
Published plans on three unitaries	The council released draft proposals on its proposed 3-unitary model, which included splitting Suffolk into a “Western”, “Central & Eastern”, and “Ipswich and Southern”. As neither Mid Suffolk nor Babergh comfortably fits into this model, this would see the two councils effectively broken up across the 3 councils. A full website on the 3-unitary model, including the proposed map effecting these changes, is available here: Welcome – Three Councils For Suffolk
Mid Suffolk and Babergh hosted Tour of Britain Men	The UK’s largest professional cycle race came through Mid Suffolk in early September. The event started within East Suffolk, before running through Stowmarket, as well as visiting other parts of the district, including Debenham and Eye. Olav Kooij (Visma-Lease a Bike) won this stage in a sprint finish, marking his second consecutive victory. This race was notable as Geraint Thomas participated in what was to be his final professional race.
Introduction of new electrical recycling banks	12 new electrical recycling banks (6 in Mid Suffolk, and 6 in Babergh) have been installed across the two districts. This is part of a new scheme of just under £800k to help reduce e-waste across the district. More information about where these banks are can be found on MSDC’s website Twelve new electrical recycling bins for Babergh and Mid Suffolk - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk • Local site: Buckshorn Lane car park, Eye
Mid Suffolk District Council submits objections to National Grid pylons project	Mid Suffolk has restated its concerns for the district’s heritage, environment and rural economy, calling for a pause to the scheme and consultation on alternative solutions, including a coordinated offshore grid approach. National Grid submitted its application to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on 29 th August and the PINS now has 28 days to determine whether or not permission should be granted.
MSDC secures 62-acre site at Thorndon for Nature and Flood Resilience	The site which contains a mixture of habitats and permissive footpaths was previously owned by the Kerrison Trust, a charity supporting young people was recently put up for sale. MSDC recognised the potential to protect improve the site which contains habitats including enhancing wet grassland and grazing marshes, pond habitats, lowland meadows and pastures, and deciduous woodland. MSDC will develop a management plan for the site following an ecological survey and consultation with local residents. There will be no change to public access arrangements with permissive paths being preserved.

Mid Suffolk District Council has pledged £4.8m to create 300 new places at Stowmarket High School.	The school currently has capacity for 900 students aged 11-16, but Suffolk County Council, which is responsible for education provision, estimates an additional 300 places are required in the next four years. The council's cabinet approved £4.83m of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) towards an expansion project. The CIL award was one of a number agreed, along with funds for a new play area in Thorndon and replacing play equipment in Coddensham. CIL funding is paid by developers building homes within the district, which the council then reinvests in eligible infrastructure projects.
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