

## Mid Suffolk District Council Report - Onehouse Ward January 2026

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| <b>Elections for Mayor delayed</b>     | The government has delayed the election for a Mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk until May 2028.   |
| <b>Local Government Reorganisation</b> | The government has also offered the option for Councils undergoing reorganisation to request a further delay to local elections. Suffolk County Council is writing to Government following a special meeting today (Jan 12). This could result in the County Council election (currently due in May 2026) being postponed again. The Green Party group has called for these elections to go ahead as planned.   |
| <b>Cost of Living support</b>          | <b>A reminder that residents can seek help and support with the cost of living, here:</b><br><a href="https://www.babergh.gov.uk/midsuffolk.gov.uk">Help and support for you - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk</a>  |
| <b>Citizens Advice</b>                 | <b>Citizen's Advice is available in for advice on debt, bills, and lots more.</b> 01449 676060 or office open at 5 Milton Road, Stowmarket  |
| <b>Stowmarket Innovation Gateway</b>   | Construction work on a state-of-the-art skills and innovation centre at Gateway 14 in Stowmarket has reached a key milestone, with core construction now complete. The centre is due to open later this year.<br>The centre will provide meeting spaces and support to assist local businesses. The centre will also provide training and skills development to fill local skills gaps, in partnership with local colleges and universities.  |
| <b>Darts Venue in Stowmarket</b>       | A new community darts venue has opened with £125k in matched funding. The venture which will be an accessible community darts hub, offering everything from darts equipment and accessories to coaching sessions and pay-and-play lanes.  |
| <b>New 3G football pitch</b>           | A new 3G football pitch is set to be delivered in Stowmarket after funding from the Premier League, The FA and Government's Football Foundation was secured.<br>Mid Suffolk District Council has secured 51% of the project costs from the Football Foundation, with the pitch due to open in spring 2026.<br>It will be built on the grounds of the high school and made available for community use.<br>The pitch will use cork infill –as part of research by the Football Foundation that is looking at the use of a variety of different pitch systems.  |
| <b>Locality Awards</b>                 | The Locality Award is an annual grant that allows each District Councillor to support local projects and organisations.<br>Full details of this grant <a href="https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/documents/d/mid-suffolk/msdc-locality-awards-22-december-25">https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/documents/d/mid-suffolk/msdc-locality-awards-22-december-25</a> The fund is expected to re-open in spring for 2026/27 – please contact John to discuss ideas.   |
| <b>Other Council grants</b>            | A range of other District Council grants are open for applications, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Community Development Fund</b> – up to £20,000, <b>closes Jan 18<sup>th</sup></b></li> <li>• <b>Sports Infrastructure Fund</b> – up to £250,000</li> <li>• <b>Town Centre Shop-front fund</b> – up to £10,000 for projects to improve shop fronts</li> <li>• <b>Community Asset Fund</b> – up to £100,000 to buy community assets to run as social enterprises</li> </ul> <p>For more information, see: <a href="https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/community-funding">www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/community-funding</a> or email <a href="mailto:BMSDCgrants@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk">BMSDCgrants@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk</a> for advice on funding options.</p> |

Mid Suffolk District Council services: see [www.midsuffolk.gov.uk](https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk), phone 0300 123 4000, or drop in to see Council staff at the Ipswich Street, Stowmarket office. Open Monday – Friday 54 Ipswich Street, Stowmarket, IP14 1AD

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