

District Councillor Report – Onehouse Ward - October 2025

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)	<p>The main business of the September full council meeting was to debate and agree our bid to government, jointly with the other Suffolk districts and Ipswich Borough for the county to create three new unitary councils.</p>
Mayor for Suffolk and Norfolk	<p>At the September Council we also approved a motion calling for government to change back to supplementary voting before electing a mayor for Suffolk and Norfolk. The risk with a ‘First Past The Post’ vote is that with 5 parties all polling significantly, a mayor will be elected by a very small segment of the population – perhaps less than 10% - so most people will not feel the mayor belongs to them.</p> <p>https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/council-says-mayor-must-belong-to-us-all</p>
September cabinet meeting	<p>The meeting approved community infrastructure levy payments including £133K to help our old depot in Creting Road, Stowmarket last another couple of years, and cope with the additional recycling streams next year. Also extension to Stowmarket High School £4.8 million and £100K towards a new household waste and recycling centre in Ipswich to be used by Mid Suffolk residents to a small extent.</p>
Police Engagement	<p>The Police & Crime Commissioner will be joining Suffolk Constabulary at an engagement/pop-up event on Thursday 16th October between 11 am and 1pm on Ipswich Street, Stowmarket to discuss policing issues with local residents.</p> <p>There is also an online public meeting on Monday 3rd November 6-7.30 pm. https://suffolk-pcc.gov.uk/events/category/public-welcome</p>
Improving energy efficiency	<p>As well as extending our Cosy Homes scheme for domestic properties we have introduced Solar for Business which offers free installation of solar panels for businesses.</p> <p>https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/solar-for-business and Listed building energy upgrades made easier council initiative – one of the first of its kind in the country – will help owners of Grade II listed buildings make their homes more energy efficient.</p>
Practical work	<p>Frustrated with poor SCC maintenance of walking and cycling routes, a group of councillors has been tackling sections between Needham and Stowmarket, and also towards Haughley.</p> <p>Responding to complaints and injuries in Stowmarket, councillors are highlighting pavement trip hazards with warning tape.</p>
Locality Budget	<p>I would like to finalise this soon, but there are several large ideas which have not yet been submitted, and it is difficult to see how best to share the remaining money. Please get the forms submitted soon.</p> <p>Details at https://midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/locality-awards</p>