

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

<p><b>Devolution and local government reform</b></p>	<p>The County Council elections are on 7 May 2026.</p> <p>The government has decided that there will be 3 unitary councils for Suffolk. While detailed boundaries and names are still being finalised, the three councils are planned to be in place from 2028. Our villages will be in the rural central council. Elections for the new shadow authorities will take place in May 2027, with the new councils formally taking over responsibilities from April 2028. The idea of the transition period is to enable detailed work for reorganisation to take place, while services are delivered as usual throughout the process.</p> <p>The current plan is for Mayoral Elections to be held in May 2028.</p>
<p><b>Recycling &amp; Waste Collection</b></p>	<p>The delivery of new bins ready for the rollout of Better Recycling is well under way. This means the delivery of a <b>new blue recycling bin for glass, plastic and metal bottles, cans and containers</b>, using the <b>existing green bin for paper and card</b> and the <b>new kitchen food caddie and food recycling bins</b>.</p>
<p><b>Funding for Neighbourhood Plans</b></p>	<p>Government funding for Neighbourhood plans has been withdrawn. MSDC has now introduced funding to support Parish Councils in the preparation of Neighbourhood Development Plans / Reviews, which seek to allocate sites for housing development that make an agreed contribution to meeting the district-wide housing needs. There is a limit of £20,000 for any specific Neighbourhood Development Plan.</p>
<p><b>£120k boost for art and culture in Mid Suffolk</b></p>	<p>This year, 10 organisations have received a share of £119,496 from the Mid Suffolk Culture Fund. for projects covering a wide range of areas and all age groups, including Stowmarket Culture Group, which has been awarded £15,000 for the delivery of the 'Jubilant' youth summer arts festival, and Orchestras Live, which will use a grant of more than £8,000 to facilitate an intergenerational orchestral project in Eye and the surrounding areas.</p>
<p><b>Works starting on 3G football pitch</b></p>	<p>Works to deliver a brand new 3G football pitch and mini athletics track in Stowmarket are due to start in the coming weeks.</p> <p>The project is being funded by contributions from Mid Suffolk District Council, the Premier League, The FA, the Government's Football Foundation as well as S106 developer contributions.</p> <p>Being built in the grounds of Stowmarket High School, the 3G pitch and athletics track will be available for community use with Everyone Active managing the facilities and associated booking system outside of school times.</p>
<p><b>Locality Awards</b></p>	<p>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 after the local elections – please contact John to discuss ideas.</p>

Mid Suffolk District Council services: see [www.midsuffolk.gov.uk](http://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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