District Councillor Report: Framsden

August 2026

Pride in Your Place	Applications for Mid Suffolk District Council's Pride in Your Place grant have reopened, offering funding to projects that bolster community pride and celebrate the heritage of towns and villages across the district.
Doors to 'exceptional' £18m Stowmarket Innovation Gateway officially open	Mid Suffolk District Council's Stowmarket Innovation Gateway, backed by Freeport East, offers office spaces for high growth start-ups, collaboration and innovation areas, meeting rooms, a café and high-quality training spaces. It will be a hub for firms with a particular focus on the green economy, digital and AI technology. The project has been delivered in partnership with Universities of Suffolk and Essex, West Suffolk College, Suffolk New College and Colchester Institute who will be delivering a programme of professional development courses to address the region's skills gap. The workshops and courses are open to all adults with local employers receiving direct access to higher-level training that used to mean travelling outside the district.
Fund created for food and drink producers as Mid Suffolk sets out action plan for sector	Mid Suffolk District Council's £50,000 Sustainable Communities Food Fund will back community-based food and drink businesses and projects. There will be a particular focus on small food producers and makers, cultural venues, pubs and food banks. Funding could also help small-scale and start-up primary food producers - such as fruit and vegetable growers, bakers and artisanal producers. There is a Food Summit planned at the Food Museum in Stowmarket on 19 October.
Meadow land fire risk during hot weather	In July the Council made the decision to bring forward cutting of the open spaces we manage as wildflower meadows in order to reduce fire risk during the continued hot, and dry weather. This decision was supported by Suffolk Fire and Rescue service.
Council named as national finalist for nature recovery work	Mid Suffolk District Council has been shortlisted in Nature 2030's Political Purpose Awards, in the Planning for Nature Recovery category. Examples of the Council's activities are the £1.8m Nature Recovery Budget for communities and investing in 30 hectares of land in Thorndon, Palgrave and Stowmarket, specifically for nature recovery, with extensive public engagement helping to shape local management agreements.
Infrastructure awards of £430k from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	At the recent cabinet meeting £430k of CIL funds were awarded to a number of local projects, including Tostock Village Hall, Old Fire Station Community space in Stowmarket, accessibility features such as a lift for the John Peel Centre and an upgrade to the play provision in Creeting Road, Stowmarket, Composting toilet for Bedfield Parich Church and improvements to bridleways in the Akenham area.
Funding for Stowmarket town centre regeneration	Funding totalling £350,000 has been awarded for specific schemes in Stowmarket Town centre.

	• £100,000 for Mid Suffolk voluntary organisations forum redevelopment of Lockington Road • £100,000 for Stowmarket Arts CIC conversion of 6 Old Fox Yard • £70,000 for a new coffee roastery and community activities • £80,000 for a new milkshake, ice cream and dessert business The funding is provided via dividends from the Council's business park at Gateway 14 with the aim being to support new businesses on the high street.
Needham Lake wins coveted Green Flag Award second year in a row	Needham Lake, owned by Mid Suffolk District Council, has been officially recognised as one of the country's best green spaces for a second-year running, after winning another prestigious Green Flag Award. Now in its 30th anniversary year, the award is the international quality mark for parks and green spaces.
Free community day out	Families can have a free community fun day this summer, with a packed programme of activities on offer for all ages. The MSDC day will be at Stowupland Village Hall on Wednesday 19 August. More info at https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/summer-fun-returns-with-free-community-days-out
Better recycling	The waste service is now operating much as intended. There are still a few issues but this is improving as the new staff for food collections become more familiar with their route and with the location of homes needing assistance. The number of residents using the dedicated Better Recycling telephone line have significantly reduced. Any problems please email recycling@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk and copy me in.
Local Government Reform	There is still uncertainty around this process, and until the Statutory Instrument is laid before parliament this will likely continue. Mid Suffolk District Council remains focused on the delivery of services and supporting businesses and communities who are based in Mid Suffolk. However, where activities are required to prepare for possible new authorities, we are proactively supporting this as we are mindful that we need to be as prepared as possible.

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