

Appendix C – County Cllr. Penny Otton’s Report to Full Council –

- Cost of Living help and advice: <https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/family.page?familychannel=6>
- Benefits advice and support: <https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/adult.page?adultchannel=0>
- Flood preparation advice: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/suffolk-fire-and-rescue-service/fire-and-rescue-safety-advice-in-the-community/preparing-for-flooding>
- Flood recovery advice and support: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/about/flood-recovery-information-for-suffolk>
- Recycling and Waste Collection Changes - At Cabinet on Tuesday 10 September, we heard about the changes the council is preparing to make to prepare for the new recycling and waste collection requirements set out in the Environment Act 2021. This new law means that district and borough councils must additionally collect food waste, glass and cartons from residents by 2026, and also collect plastic film from 2027. It is up to each district and borough council how they choose to arrange their waste collection schedule, and they will be communicating these changes to residents soon. However, the county council also needs to make changes as it is responsible for storing and processing waste and recycling after it is collected. The council will be spending around £4.535m, allocated from its reserves, to update waste transfer stations in the county where waste is taken after it is collected. The council will also need to set up a new contract for anaerobic digestion of the food waste.
Once again I have asked and the leader of Mid Suffolk what will happen to the community bottle banks. As yet Mid Suffolk have not decided.
- Hollow Lane / The Planche – Speed Check - this has been done and the report indicates that the council would not support a request for a reduction in the speed limit. I am happy to have further discussion.
- Ixworth Road and other Highway problems - This has been put back even further. I have asked the director for highways for a face-to-face meeting to go through all of these rather than the toing and froing via emails.
- Thurston Rail Crossing - I am waiting for a reply from the new MP having written to him and asking for a meeting to let him have all the facts and to contact the DfT about funding.
- Financial Monitoring Report for 2024-25 - We also heard at Cabinet on 10 September about the council’s latest financial forecast for 2024-25, and so far the year seems to be going better than last year, with a projected overspend of £1 million compared to last year when the council was forecasting an overspend for 2023-24 of £29.3 million. Some services are still overspent, for example costs for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and care purchasing in adult social care services.
- Funding to Improve Home Energy Efficiency - My group were disappointed that the council is projecting to return £5 million of funding to the government which could have been used to improve the energy efficiency of homes in Suffolk. The Warm Homes Suffolk Scheme is now closed, but the council has heard that a similar scheme may be on its way and we would encourage residents who are eligible to apply.
- Suffolk Devolution Deal Withdrawn - Following the change in government, the devolution deal which had been tabled for Suffolk has now been withdrawn, as has the deal for Norfolk which was along similar lines. Devolution would have provided the county with extra funding and

power to make more decisions locally, for example transport and adult education. We wait to see if the new government come up with a different proposal.

- Arts and Culture Project Funding - I am particularly pleased the council has launched its new £500,000 Culture Project Fund to support local arts and museum projects across the county after the cuts made last year. This is the bidding system for arts funding for the financial year 2024-25 which was announced by the council's administration as part of the budget process in early 2024, and will see a larger amount of smaller grants for projects and organizations compared to previous years. The fund offers three tiers of grants:
 - Small grants up to £1,500
 - Medium grants up to £15,000
 - Large grants up to £50,000
- Eligible applicants include arts organizations and museums, skilled freelancers, registered charities, community interest companies, non-profits, and social enterprises based in Suffolk. For more information on deadlines and award dates, or to find out how to apply, please visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/cultureprojectfund or contact the Arts & Museums Team at cultureprojectfund@suffolk.gov.uk
- Apply for Primary and Secondary School Places - Parents and carers can now apply for a place in the normal year of entry at a primary (including infant and junior) school and secondary school for September 2025. The deadline for applications to secure a place at a secondary school is Thursday 31 October 2024 and for primary school places, including infant and junior schools, the deadline is Wednesday 15 January 2025. All applications received by the closing dates are processed at the same time using the schools' oversubscription criteria to prioritise applications when necessary. Late applications are processed after all of those received on time. SCC advise that parents and carers think about how their child will travel to school before they apply for a school place. They can check which is their child's nearest suitable school on our Nearest School Checker because it might not be their catchment area school: <http://nearestschool.suffolk.gov.uk/>. Advice and guidance about the school application process is available here: www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions

Appendix D - District Cllrs' Report to Full Council –

Cllr. David Bradbury –

- Survey of residents - The deadline for the Mid Suffolk Council informal has been extended to 31st October. This is an informal survey so if you have any ideas, please get in touch with either of your district councillors or visit the website here <https://baberghandmidsuffolk.govocal.com/en-GB/projects/tell-us-mid-suffolk>
- Thurston By-election - Harry Richardson (Conservative) was elected as the new ward councillor for the Thurston Ward on 24th September.
- Simpler recycling - MSDC have now agreed how they will adapt their waste collection service in line with the new government regulations. From 2025 there will be weekly kerbside food waste collections. Each household will receive a food waste bin for collection as well as a caddy to use in the kitchen. This will reduce the amount of waste in the black bins, so from 2026 we will move to twin-stream recycling so each household will have 2 recycling bins (one for card and paper, the other for plastic, glass and cartons) and a black bin. These will be collected on a 3-week cycle.
- Heart of Suffolk Big Weekend - The ballot is now open for our first ever Heart of Suffolk Big Weekend, in which residents can win prizes by entering a free ballot. This new event has been

organised to highlight our culture, leisure, and visitor attractions, and to encourage local residents to explore what's on offer. Details can be found here <https://www.heartofsuffolkbigweekend.co.uk/> . The draw is open until Monday 30th September.

- Shaping our Economic – Strategy - BMSDC officers are hosting a series of economic development workshops across the district. They are seeking the expertise and insights of key local stakeholders including business leaders, council partners, voluntary services, policymakers, academics and beyond to help develop our forward-thinking economic strategy. . Anyone wishing to participate should register online for the following sessions:
 - Monday 7th October, The Mix, Stowmarket
 - Wednesday 23rd October, New Green Centre, Thurston.
- Local issues - The Fishwick junction in Thurston is still causing concerns with residents due to the number of accidents and “near misses” David is still trying to get the traffic lights reinstated while the junction is being redeveloped.
The A1088 bridge closure is causing serious problems along Kiln Lane in Stowuplangtoft. County Councillor Andy Mellen is working with Stowuplangtoft PC and Highways. There are plans to turn Kiln Lane into a designated “Quiet Lane” in the future.
- Locality funds - Owing to Austin’s resignation, the usual 50/50 split of locality awards has not been possible. Now that Harry has been elected, where possible Harry & David will revert back to split funding.
- Informal councillor chats. David will be at New Green café (Thurston) on Friday 5th October between 12:30 & 14:00.

Cllr. Harry Richardson –

- Refuse and recycling - At Mid Suffolk’s Council meeting on Thursday 26th September, it approved the following changes to waste collection, commencing from 31st March 2026: refuse collections every three weeks instead of fortnightly; an increase in food waste collection to weekly; and separate recycling for glass, cartons, and plastic films. The latter two components were mandated by the Environment Act 2021, however the former was not; the Act was intended to stop local authorities from introducing three-weekly or monthly refuse collections but Mid Suffolk District Council has decided to adopt this approach regardless.¹
I have included as an appendix a graphic that outlines the new waste collection pattern.
- Council housing motion - Mid Suffolk also passed a motion expressing a desire to see greater funding allocated from central government, with the following specific points:
 - Establish a new fair and sustainable Housing Revenue Account model – including an
 - urgent one-off cash injection, and long-term, certain rent and debt agreements.
 - Reform unsustainable Right to Buy policies
 - Remove red tape on existing funding
 - Announce a new, long-term Green & Decent Homes Programme
 - Fund the completion of new council homes

In agreeing the motion, the Council committed to the following:

1. Writing to the Secretary of State and our local Members of Parliament to inform them that this motion has been passed and urge them to take urgent action.
2. Continuing to work with partner councils to lobby Government for the changes required, taking a collaborative approach to better highlight the issues we all face.
3. To continuing raising awareness of the challenges, and our calls for government action, in local media.

4. Encouraging local housing associations to work more closely with the Council to increase the supply of affordable housing.
 - Local updates - Thurston by-election. After the by-election on Tuesday 24th September, I am delighted to return as your District Councillor and look forward to working with you again. My thanks must go to all those involved in the organising and running of the by-election, both Council staff and volunteers, and to Oscar and Nathan for putting themselves forward to represent our community.

1. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/simpler-recycling-collections-and-tougher-regulation-to-reform-waste-system>

New waste collection pattern

Collection Calendar	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3
Refuse			
Recycling			
Food			
Garden			

October Briefing Note for town and parish councils – from Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils - [Increased bin collections set to herald ‘recycling revolution’](#)

Residents in Mid Suffolk will get more opportunities to recycle from 2026 as part of nationwide changes to waste collections.

[Councils renew call for urgent government action to end council housing funding crisis](#)

Mid Suffolk District Council has renewed its call for urgent government action to end the financial crisis that is currently facing council housing.

[Suffolk councils join forces to urge government to save council homes](#)

Mid Suffolk District Council supports five-point action plan being put to the Government.

[Councils issue response after devolution deal scrapped](#)

Mid Suffolk District Council has added its voice to a joint statement following the news that a proposed Suffolk devolution deal has been scrapped by the Government.

[Have your say on our new economic strategy](#)

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are developing a new economic strategy and want to hear your views.

[‘We will protect our heritage’ – Council’s pledge as Shrubland Hall owner fined](#)

The owner of Grade II* listed Shrubland Hall has been fined £3,600 after two structures were erected on the historic estate without planning permission.

[Developer cash set to help preserve local history and update community facilities](#)

Babergh and Mid Suffolk communities are set to see more than £836,000 injected back into local projects.

[Councils to plug employment skills gap for local businesses](#)

An innovative project designed to support people into employment, including help for those facing mental health challenges in the workplace, has been launched.

[Lifetime of funding for biodiversity projects secured](#)

A number of communities are set to benefit from a lifetime of funding for biodiversity projects as part of a developer’s planning agreement with Mid Suffolk District Council.

[Half term activities](#)

Children in Babergh and Mid Suffolk will be able to get involved in a wide range of activities during the October half term. From swimming to soft play, soccer schools to arts and crafts, there’s plenty on offer for families across the districts.

[Community Emergency Plans](#)

As we approach the first anniversary of Storm Babet, we remind any town or parish Council interested in developing a new Community Emergency Plan or refreshing an existing plan to contact us at EmergencyPlanning@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk.