

Mid Suffolk District Council Report for Eye Ward (Eye, Occold and Redlingfield)
– March 2026

County Council elections reinstated	The Government has reinstated the County Council elections, which will now go ahead on May 7th. The pre-election ‘moratorium’ period will begin on 27th March. During this time, scheduled district council meetings will go ahead but controversial issues are likely to be withdrawn from meeting agendas. The government’s current schedule: ○ County Council elections – May 2026 ○ Unitary elections (to the incoming new council) – May 2027 ○ Mayoral Elections – May 2028 The current councils (District and County) will continue to operate until the new unitary takes over in May 2028.
Council budget 2026-2027	On Thursday 26th February the full Council met to agree the budget for 2026-27. The District Council’s share of Council Tax is to be raised by 2.99%. For context, for a Band D property the increase attributable to Mid Suffolk is £5.23 per year or 10p per week. Of the overall Council Tax, about 8% goes to Mid Suffolk District Council. For the Housing Revenue account there is a proposal for a 4.8% (CPI + 1%) increase in social rents. Utility charges and service charges in sheltered accommodation is continuing to increase to reach full recovery over 4 years. In addition to the day-to-day provision of council services and activities, the 2026/27 budget includes funding for a wide range of programmes, including: • Implementation of the new food waste collection scheme • Enhancements to our current waste depot in readiness for this, plus further support for recycling education • Cost of living support • Council Tax Support scheme • Grants programmes for towns and rural communities outside of Stowmarket • Investment in leisure centre maintenance • Stowmarket sports facilities delivered through the SHELF Project, plus support for wider Stowmarket regeneration • Support for the Cosy Homes insulation scheme which has been expanded to help residents obtain solar panels • Grant funding for nature recovery and community biodiversity groups • Support for new footpaths and cycle ways • Completing the build of the Stowmarket Innovation Gateway • Expansion of the area’s temporary accommodation (which avoids homeless residents being put into bed and breakfast accommodation and saves on costs going to private providers.)
Site assessments for Joint Local Plan	The Council has published a map of all sites submitted by land owners during the recent ‘Call for Sites’ exercises: https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/web/babergh/w/call-for-sites Note: This is not a list of preferred locations for development. No planning status is granted by including a site on this list. Rather, sites will now be assessed against planning policy, constraints, evidence and deliverability criteria.

	Publishing the map at this stage promotes transparency and ensures that communities have early visibility of what sites have been put forward for consideration. Further assessment will be published through the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) in Spring 2026.
Changes to recycling	The Better Recycling scheme is starting in June. This will see the collection of food waste and additional items for recycling, with more frequent collections overall. The new bins are now arriving in parts of the district: every home across Mid Suffolk will be receiving a new blue-lidded bin and a smaller food-waste bin and food waste caddy. Information packs are being sent out with more detail. The blue-lidded bin will be for glass bottles, jars, tetra pak, plastic bags, cans and plastic bottles. Paper and card will go in the existing green-lidded bin. Further information can be found here: www.suffolkrecycles.org.uk and on social media @suffolkrecycles
Armed Forces Day	Plans are beginning to take shape for Armed Forces Day, which will be held in Stowmarket on 27th June, supported by both Mid Suffolk District Council and Stowmarket Town Council. Armed Forces Day is a chance to show your support for the members of our Armed Forces community. It is shaping up to be a great family day out, with a number of attractions such as a climbing wall and assault course. Please support if you can.
A14 Litter	Concerns about health and safety (including a fatal accident in Norfolk) have meant litter picking along fast routes such as the A14 have had to be re-assessed. Contractors are about to be employed to tackle the litter, and the A14 and slip routes will get cleared within a few weeks. Ultimately, this problem is caused by a minority of people who unfortunately think it is acceptable to throw rubbish out of their car windows.

Cllr Lucy Elkin lucy.elkin@midsuffolk.gov.uk phone 07928 512590 www.facebook.com/CllrLucy
Mid Suffolk District Council services: phone 0300 123 4000, or drop in to see Council staff or Citizen's Advice at Eye Library, every Friday 9.30-12pm – no appointment is needed.