

## Mid Suffolk District Council Report - Eye Ward (Eye, Occold and Redlingfield) – Feb 2026

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| <b>Elections cancelled</b>                        | <p>The government has the cancellation of the County Council elections due in May.</p> <p>The government is currently still expected to announce its decision on the future shape of local government in Norfolk and Suffolk in March. At this point, we will find out if we will be part of a new, smaller unitary authority, or a larger Suffolk-wide one. The cancellation of elections means these major local government reforms are taking place with little public involvement.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Better Recycling</b>                           | <p>Changes are coming to recycling this year, with the new Better Recycling scheme starting in June. This will see the collection of food waste and additional items for recycling (such as glass and tetra-pak), with more frequent collections overall.</p> <p>Mid Suffolk District Council has been working hard to make sure the required new waste lorries and bins are in place in good time, and that information is going out to residents. Information flyers are now being sent to all residents in the District, with a more detailed information pack to follow. An advertising campaign is also planned.</p> <p>Detailed information can be found here: <a href="http://www.suffolkrecycles.org.uk">www.suffolkrecycles.org.uk</a> and on social media @suffolkrecycles</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Launch of Community Nature Recovery Grants</b> | <p>Local groups are urged to apply for new funding from Mid Suffolk District Council, designed to connect people with nature and to restore natural habitats.</p> <p>Mid Suffolk's new Community Nature Recovery Grant, which launched in January, offers up to £50k for projects that protect and expand wildlife corridors and habitats within the district – including tree planting, wildflower meadow creation, or other environmental initiatives to safeguard natural spaces for future generations. Grants are available at two levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Small grants</b> of up to £2,000, with a simplified application process.</li> <li>• <b>Large grants</b> of up to £50,000, for larger projects such as pond creation and restoration, land purchase for habitat creation, and urban tree planting schemes.</li> </ul> <p>To apply see <a href="https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/mid-suffolk-district-council-funding-1">https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/mid-suffolk-district-council-funding-1</a></p> <p>For information on other District Council grants, see: <a href="http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/community-funding">www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/community-funding</a> or email BMSDCgrants@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk for advice on funding options.</p> |
| <b>Support for Veterans</b>                       | <p>Mid Suffolk's Armed Forces Champion, Cllr James Patchett, has spoken out strongly against recent comments by US President Trump on the role of the UK. Cllr Patchett, a veteran who served in Afghanistan, said "Four hundred and fifty-seven members of the United Kingdom's Armed Forces gave their lives in service during operations in Afghanistan, and thousands more sustained life-changing injuries. In light of this, the assertion that British personnel 'shied away' from the front lines is not only inaccurate but deeply regrettable."</p> <p>Local veterans can find information about support available via the councils, here: <a href="https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/armed-forces-community-support">https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/armed-forces-community-support</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Action on 'sewage sludge'</b>                  | <p>Mid Suffolk District Council has called for urgent action by the Government to tighten regulations governing the spreading of sewage sludge on agricultural land, citing serious concerns for public health, farming and the environment.</p> <p>Sewage sludge contains a mixture of harmful contaminants, including so-called "forever chemicals" (PFAS) and microplastics – many of which are not regulated or routinely tested for under current legislation dating back to 1989.</p> <p>It follows growing concern in Suffolk after independent testing in late 2025 found water at a sewage sludge processing site near Wattisham air base contained more than 170 times the recommended safe levels of ammonia, posing a serious threat to aquatic life in the area.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

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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.