

Mid Suffolk District Council Report - Eye Ward (Eye, Occold and Redlingfield)

January 2026

Elections for Mayor delayed	The government has delayed the election for a Mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk until May 2028. The government has also offered the option for Councils undergoing reorganisation to request a further delay to upcoming local elections. This could result in the County Council election (currently due in May 2026) being postponed again. The County Council will vote on this on January 12th. The Green Party group is calling for these elections to go ahead as planned.
Government consultation on unitary councils closes Jan 11th	The government consultation on the future of local government in Norfolk and Suffolk closes on 11th January. You can have your say, here: https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/norfolk-suffolk/. Details of the proposal put forward by the District and Borough Councils can be found here: https://threecouncilsforsuffolk.org/ The government is expected to announce its decision by March 2026.
Skills and Innovation Centre - Stowmarket	Construction work on a state-of-the-art skills and innovation centre at Gateway 14 in Stowmarket has reached a key milestone, with core construction now complete. The centre is due to open later this year. The centre will provide meeting spaces and support to assist local businesses. The centre will also provide training and skills development to fill local skills gaps, in partnership with local colleges and universities.
Cost of Living support	A reminder that residents can seek help and support with the cost of living, here: Help and support for you - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk Council staff and Citizen's Advice are also available in person for advice on debt, bills, and lots more – residents can drop in to Eye Library on Friday mornings.
Locality Wards	The Locality Award is an annual grant that allows each District Councillor to support local projects and organisations. This has now been allocated for 2025/26, with the following receiving funding: - Occold Parish Council (solar SID unit); Occold Football Club (mobile goals); ORAC (tree work and biodiversity measures); Eye Town Moors Woodland Society (new benches, tree survey); St Peter and St Paul Primary School, Eye (moveable road-safety bollards); Eye Saints Community Bowls Club (new rain shelters – approved but not yet disbursed.) Full details of how this grant has been allocated can be found here: https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/documents/d/mid-suffolk/msdc-locality-awards-22-december-25 The fund is expected to re-open in spring for 2026/27 – please contact Lucy to discuss ideas.
Other Council grants	A range of other District Council grants are open for applications, including: • Community Development Fund – up to £20,000, closes Jan 18th • Sports Infrastructure Fund – up to £250,000 • Town Centre Shop-front fund – up to £10,000 for projects to improve shop fronts • Community Asset Fund – up to £100,000 to buy community assets to run as social enterprises For more information, see: www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/community-funding or email BMSDCgrants@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk for advice on funding options.