

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

The ‘Big Conversation’ on social care	Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Council Leaders are urging people to have their say on fixing adult social care . The Independent Commission on Adult Social Care (known as the Casey Commission) has launched its ‘Big Conversation’ to seek people’s views. You can take part using this link: The Big Conversation on Care The Casey Commission .
Local housing for local people	Mid Suffolk District Council Cabinet (MSDC) has agreed to introduce a Parish Connection Priority for new affordable and social rented homes secured through S106 agreements. This policy will give more priority to those with a local connection to the parish in which homes are located, without disadvantaging those in the highest housing need. The aim is to help people stay near family, schools and other support systems.
Financial assistance for heat pumps	Suffolk’s Councils are assisting residents to replace older oil or gas heating systems with new heat pump systems. Air source heat pumps typically use three to four times less energy than a traditional boiler to heat a home, and also produce fewer emissions than a gas, oil or LPG boiler. Eligible residents can apply for grants via the government’s Boiler Upgrade Scheme (which offers grants of up £7,500-£9,000) plus savings from the Switch Together group purchase scheme. Residents can check their eligibility and register their interest on the Switch Together website .
New sports facilities	The new 3G sports pitch and athletic track at Stowmarket High School have been completed as part of the SHELF project. This received funding from the FA, Premier League and Football Foundation, as well as MSDC. Everyone Active will be managing community bookings. Grants of £20,000 up to £250,000 are also available for projects to improve access to sports outside Stowmarket: Funding opportunities and support - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk
E-bikes for hire in Stowmarket	A new solar-powered pod containing two electric bikes has been installed at Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre, giving residents the chance to explore the town using a sustainable travel option (or try out an e-bike, for anyone thinking of buying one).
Council support for armed forces recognised	In August Mid Suffolk District Council received the Defence Employer Silver Award. The award is given to organisations that have made tangible changes to their workplace policies and culture, helping to ensure that reservists, veterans, cadet force adult volunteers, and their families feel genuinely valued.
EcoPower consultation June	The statutory consultation period for the EcoPower solar project closed on August 16 th . Mid Suffolk District Council continues to offer monthly, online sessions where parish councillors and residents’ groups can get advice from the council’s in-house NSIP expert.
Cross Street EV chargers	The Cross Street electric vehicle (EV) chargers have unfortunately been out of action since end-February. Although the EV charges are working, there is a problem with the electricity connection. Officers are seeking quotes for the work to rectify this. In the meantime, the EV chargers in the nearby Buckshorn Lane carpark remain operational.
Locality Award	Applications are welcome for the District Council’s Locality Award grant. Full details can be found here: https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/locality-awards

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 Mid Suffolk District Council: 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.