

District Councillor Report: Hunston

April 2026

Recycling update

The new recycling regime is due to start in June 2026.

The delivery of new bins ready for the rollout of Better Recycling has now started. This means the delivery of a new blue recycling bin and the new food caddy and food recycling bins.

The bins are:

Food waste

Green recycling bin – paper and card

Blue recycling bin – glass, plastics, tetrapaks i.e. non paper recycling

Black bin – refuse bin

The planned schedule will be as follows:

Collection	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3
Food Waste			
Refuse general rubbish			
Paper and Card			
Recycling glass, plastics, metal and cartons			

Call for sites

Owing to the change in government housing targets it is vital to create a development plan that meets government targets or we end up with a planning free for all which is what happened 5 or 6 years ago.

As part of this process the Council carried out a call for sites.

The published **map** of all sites submitted during the Call for Sites exercises.

<https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/web/babergh/w/call-for-sites>

Note:

This is **not** a list of preferred development locations. Publication promotes transparency and ensures communities have early visibility of what has been suggested. **No planning status** is granted by submission. Sites do not benefit from any presumption of development. Submissions will now be assessed against planning policy, constraints, evidence and deliverability criteria.



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 address the litter. The A14 and slip routes will get cleared within a few weeks.

Ultimately, this problem is caused by an irresponsible minority of people who think it is acceptable to throw rubbish out of their car windows.

<p>Pylons</p>	<p>National Grid’s plan for more pylons in the Suffolk countryside should be halted, leading councillors from Mid Suffolk District Council have told a public hearing (11 February).</p> <p>National Grid proposes 159km of new overhead lines between Norwich to Tilbury, with the route cutting through the Suffolk countryside.</p> <p>Mid Suffolk has called for a delay to the project so other options can be considered and costed – such as an undersea route or undergrounding of the entire length of the project. They cite serious concerns about the impact on the environment, communities and businesses. This is consistent with the position taken as under previous governments.</p>
<p>Rough sleeping</p>	<p>Based on a report in the national press only eight council areas in the UK had no rough sleepers reported in October 2025:</p> <p>East Hampshire , Isles of Scilly, Mid Suffolk, Oadby and Wigston, Rochford, Rossendale, Staffordshire Moorlands and Uttlesford.</p>
<p>Nature recovery budget</p>	<p>Mid Suffolk District Council has allocated a budget of £1.8m to support nature recovery. This covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant funding for communities • Grant funding for river catchment and landscape • Habitat creation, management and monitoring on new sites • recovery • Pond creation and restoration • Tree planting • Meadow management <p>Public engagement and awareness / Schools programme</p>
<p>Funding for study to resolve on-going issues at Thurston station</p>	<p>Mid Suffolk District Council has allocated c. £500k of CIL funding to Network Rail to produce the options to resolve the issues with the need for passengers to physically cross the railway track at Thurston station.</p>
<p>New Community Darts Venue</p>	<p>A new community darts venue has opened with £125k in matched funding. The venture which will be an accessible community darts hub, offering everything from darts equipment and accessories to coaching sessions and pay-and-play lanes.</p>
<p>Food Museum in Stowmarket receives £3.9m from the Heritage Lottery Fund</p>	<p>The Food Museum is now able to start a £5.5 million project thanks to funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Mid Suffolk District Council.</p> <p>The ambitious scope covers conserving and developing three historic buildings - the barn, the factory and the house and linking them together to create a coherent visitor experience.</p>

	<p>A good museum significantly benefits a town by boosting tourism, enhancing the local economy, fostering community development, and contributing to cultural enrichment.</p>
<p>Former HQ site in Needham Market</p>	<p>Mid Suffolk District Council has announced the sale of the remainder of its former office site in Needham Market to Hatch Homes – in a deal that supports the town’s regeneration and realises funds for reinvestment into council housing.</p> <p>The council also successfully delivered the first phase of the transformation of its former council office site – creating 32 homes, including further affordable housing, plus a new retail unit, which the Co-op moved into in 2023.</p>
<p>Mid Suffolk budget and Council Tax</p>	<p>Mid Suffolk Budget Scope</p> <p>In addition to the day-to-day provision of the current services and current activities the 2026/27 budget includes further funding for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major implementation of food waste collection and better recycling • Enhancements to our current depot in readiness for Better recycling • Further support for recycling education • Cost of living support and Council Tax Support scheme • Support for our towns and rural communities outside of Stowmarket in the wider District • Support for sports and leisure facilities in the wider district • Sorting out various long standing property issues in the District • Communities Infrastructure projects • Leisure centre maintenance • Stowmarket sports facilities - SHELF Project • Support for Stowmarket regeneration • Support for the Cosy Homes scheme which has been expanded to offer solar panels • Funding for the Reach Retrofit Hub to be an advice centre for the district • Grant funding for nature recovery and community biodiversity groups • Support for new footpaths and cycle ways • Completing the build of the Stowmarket Innovation Gateway • Developing the skills offering for the Stowmarket Innovation Gateway • Funding for disabled adaptations and the disability action plan • Expansion of temporary accommodation to avoid homeless residents being put into bed and breakfast accommodation and save on costs going to private providers • Use of Land Transfers and/or Capital Receipts to alleviate the pressure in the HRA • Support for planning such as neighbourhood plans • Support for local food production • Support for local energy production <p>Mid Suffolk District Council is increasing Council Tax by 2.99%.</p> <p>About 8% of the total Council Tax bill is attributable to Mid Suffolk District Council and this % has been reducing. For context for a Band D property the increase attributable to Mid Suffolk is about £5.23 per year or 10p per week.</p>

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