

# District Councillor Report:

April 2025

**Badley, Baylham, Creeting St Mary, Creeting St Peter, Darmsden, Needham Market Town**

Death of Cllr Rachel Eburne	It is with great sadness to announce that the Deputy Leader of Mid Suffolk Council, cabinet member for finances and resources, and Councillor for Haughley, Stowupland & Wetherden, Rachel Eburne sadly passed away on the 14 <sup>th</sup> March after a long illness. She had previously stepped down from her cabinet duties the week before her death, with Cllr Richard Winch stepping in to become the new Deputy Leader, whilst Cllr Janet Pearson became the new cabinet member for finances and resources. Since being elected as a councillor back in 2010, Rachel was a key champion within her local community, and was deeply committed to Mid Suffolk.
Devolution and local government re-organisation updates	Following a proposal from central government over re-organising Mid Suffolk into unitary authorities, the District Councils have published their draft proposals on how local government in Suffolk should be re-organised. Whilst Suffolk County Council is in favour of a single Unitary Authority covering all of Suffolk, the District Councils have opposed this model, and have instead opted to support multiple authorities for the county, although the exact number and the boundaries of these authorities remain uncertain, and either scenario would likely see Mid Suffolk broken up. This ties into the potential “Greater Ipswich” proposal, which may see areas of Mid Suffolk absorbed into an authority that includes Ipswich, and has support from some of Suffolk’s MPs. These proposals were further discussed in this month’s council meeting.
CIL Project funding	As part of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), over £180k has been put into 5 projects across Mid Suffolk, to allow for greater community events and activities to be held, and for improved infrastructure across the district. Details of the funding were approved in this month’s cabinet meeting.
Boost for warm, safe council homes	In a process to help bring down energy bills for residents and to make council houses warmer, the government has offered the council £2.9m as part of the Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund. This, in addition to Mid Suffolk’s Cosy Homes scheme, should allow those with lower incomes to access cheaper energy bills, whilst also improving energy efficiency across homes.
Additional Information	Locality award funding for the forthcoming financial year is now live. If there are community projects that require funds in your parish please contact your district councillor. The application form is available online and is attached to this email.

Dr Ross Piper  
Mid Suffolk District Councillor  
Email: [ross.piper@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:ross.piper@midsuffolk.gov.uk)  
Telephone: 07928512581