

September 2026 District Councillor Report: Onehouse Ward

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)	At the time of writing, the Secretary of State has very recently announced that the process of reorganising Suffolk's four districts, one borough & one county council into three Unitary councils is on indefinite 'hold' and will now be subject to further review. Huge amounts of work and investment have been involved in meeting Government's detailed requirements and tight deadlines in preparing for these changes. The result is a period of uncertainty ahead for all of us as residents, and disappointment and frustration for council staff and elected councillors. Unitary elections, due in May '27, are now on hold, but district elections (which Govt had delayed to May '28) are now brought forward, once again, to next year. As far as we know, parish elections will go ahead as planned. There may well be further changes we are not yet aware of, but as always Mid Suffolk District Council will remain focused on service delivery, and on support to communities and businesses across the district.
Pride in your place grants	Applications for Mid Suffolk District Council's Pride in Your Place grant have reopened, offering funding to projects that bolster community pride and celebrate the heritage of towns and villages across the district.
Progress with SHELF project at Chilton Fields	The new 3G sports pitch and athletic track at Stowmarket High School were completed recently as part of the SHELF project. This received funding from the FA, Premier League and Football Foundation as well as MSDC.
Waste collections	If anyone has any remaining issues with the new system of collections, please let me know.
Gateway 14 news	If you want to have a look in the Innovation Centre, the café is now open to the public from 9am - 4pm https://stowmarketinnovationgateway.com/cafe/ This in addition to short and long term room hire and hot desking.
Locality budget	The 2026-27 Locality budgets remains open and I would love to receive applications for funding from any community group in the ward. Details can be found on the website https://midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/locality-awards It is usually a good idea to contact me to discuss your application before submission.
Sports facilities in Stowmarket	A state-of-the-art 3G community football pitch and new athletics track have been completed in Stowmarket – opening up new sporting opportunities for the district's residents. Built in the grounds of Stowmarket High School, the 3G pitch and mini athletics track will be managed by Everyone Active and available for community use outside school hours through a booking system. The 3G pitch project was funded by the Government's Football Foundation with contributions from Mid Suffolk District
A14 clean up on-going	The team from contractor Triplex conducted the clean-up operation over four nights, taking advantage of planned National Highways road closures to minimise disruption and avoid additional lane closure costs.
Financial assistance for heat pumps	Grants of up £9,000 are now available for households to convert older oil or gas heating systems to Heat Pumps. Residents of Suffolk can check their eligibility and register their interest on the Switch Together website.
New Council Housing	The keys have been handed over for a batch of new affordable homes in a Suffolk village. The 67 properties have been built by Bellway in Bramford. The homes include a mix of one and two -bedroom flats , two - bedroom bungalows , and three - bedroom family houses , available for both rent and shared ownership.