

## STOKE ASH & THWAITE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held Thursday 20 November 2025, 7.30pm at Stoke Ash Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs T Pulham (Chairman), Mrs V Lane, Mrs C Maisey, R Maisey, J Rosling, Mrs J Wright, G Wright and G Tancred. District Cllr T Weller

1. **Apologies and Consent to Absence** – apologies were received from Cllrs G Leggett, R Kember and County Cllr A Stringer. The apologies were approved by the meeting.
2. **To receive declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda**  
Item 9.2 – Cllr T Pulham
3. **PUBLIC FORUM:** to receive the following reports:
  1. Police – report available online at <http://suffolk.police.uk> - no queries were raised.
  2. County Councillor – a written report from Cllr Stringer had been circulated (copy attached to the Minutes). No queries were raised.
  3. District Councillor - Cllr Weller presented his written report (copy attached to the Minutes). Queries raised included the disposal of blister packs at recycling banks. Cllr Weller would progress the query and would forward the Allotment Act document as promised.
  4. Catherine Holmes, County Commissioner Girlguiding Suffolk – Girlguiding at the Stoke Ash Centre  
Mrs Catherine Holmes introduced herself to the meeting, she having taken over as County Commissioner for Girlguiding Suffolk. Catherine had been involved with Suffolk Guiding for some 40 years, she was now based near Hadleigh and her area covered the whole of Suffolk. There were to date 3200 girlguides in the county and 900 adults in various guiding roles. The number of girlguides had reduced slightly as some had become scouts. Leaders responsibility covered Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. Suffolk Guides had recently been left a legacy and the Group had agreed to spend the sum on items for the Centre this had included a Zipline and inside Climbing Wall. The Guides tried to appeal to the wider audience of girls.  
The Group was working towards tidying the grounds at the Stoke Ash Centre, there were two permanent outdoor cooking areas. The Centre was hired to external people, currently a music group and dog training group, attempts were being made to promote the facilities, it was ideal for childrens’ parties. The Centre had plenty of parking. The A140 road sign still stated Primary School, it was felt this should remain although the Group was looking to name the building. The Centre was mentioned on the Suffolk Guides website. It was suggested from the meeting that the Centre could be nominated as an Emergency Centre should there be a need in the future.  
The Chair thanked Catherine for attending the meeting to update councillors on activities and use of the Centre. It would be possible to advertise the Centre for hire in the Stoke Ash & Thwaite parish magazine should the Group wish to do so.
  5. Parishioners and Public (meeting open for 10 minutes) – none.
4. **To consider Health and Safety items for report** – none.
5. **To consider for approval Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 18 September 2025**  
Cllr R Maisey proposed acceptance of the Minutes, seconded Cllr Tancred – unanimously agreed.
6. **Matters arising from the Minutes for report only**

|                                |  |  |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| 17.5.18                        | Storage of PC documents at Ipswich Record Office   | TP   |
| 18.5.23<br>18.5.23<br>21.11.24 | Thwaite Comm Projects<br>Allotment plots<br>Prune Fruit Tree on allotment land/coppice hedge<br>St George’s Hall – solicitor investigating covenants<br>OSR – Improvement Project<br>Grant funding for fruit trees on allotment land | <b>See Agenda item below</b><br>TP preparing plots<br><br>TP/GL<br>Report on Meeting with Diocesan Solicitor - GL<br>Pending St George’s future.<br><br>TP |
| 18.6.20                        | Review Emergency Plan  | A revised MSDC template had been requested. RK   |
| 16/11/23                       | Clearance of Ditches Wetheringsett side of Deadman’s Lane  | Pending s.19 letters to landowner/s Cllr Stringer /TP meeting to arrange clearance. Report deferred to January 2026 meeting.                               |
| 16/11/23                       | Thwaite:   |  |

|         |   |   |
|---------|---|---|
| 18/7/24 | 1.River Dove clearance from Deadman's Lane bridge to Thwaite<br>2.Resolve flooding at A140/Wickham Road junction during rainfall<br><br>Replace 6-8 reflective bollards Church Lane/Wickham Road junction | TP to undertake ditch clearance Wickham Road subject to a meeting with Highway officer.<br>If dredging work a success Willow tree to be left in situ.<br>Further report at Jan 2026 meeting.<br><br>Application to Cllr Stringer for locality funding – deferred pending further report from RK |
| 21/3/24 | Thwaite Allotments subject to Allotment Act 1950  | TW to provide up to date version of Allotment Act document and terms & conditions   |
| 16/1/25 | St George's Hall  | agenda item   |
| 20/3/25 | Roman Way/Huggins Lane white lines  | Re- reported. AS progressing.   |
| 17/7/25 | Old School Room, Thwaite – gutters  | Deferred pending GL report  |
| 17/7/25 | Furniture rear Roman Way  | agenda item   |
| 18/9/25 | Locality Funding application for Xmas activities  | agenda item   |

## 7. To consider Planning Application/s for recommendation to MSDC

- DC/25/04922: Collingsford Farm, Thwaite Rd, Thwaite – to determine if prior approval is required for proposed change of use of agricultural buildings to dwellinghouses (c3) and building operations reasonably necessary for conversion. Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development)(England) Order 2015 as amended Schedule 2 Part 3 Class Q – conversion of former poultry houses to 4 dwellings including demolition of other poultry building. A recommendation in support of the proposed change of use was proposed by Cllr Maisey, seconded Cllr Mrs Maisey – 7 in favour, 1 abstention. Proposal carried.

## 8. Planning Decisions received from MSDC

- DC/25/03457: Truehayes, Norwich Road, Thwaite - application to Determine if Prior Approval is Required for a Proposed Larger Home Extension. Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) Schedule 2, Part 1, Class A - Erection of a rear single storey extension. Prior Approval Given subject to conditions.

## 9. Planning correspondence

- National Grid: Notice of Acceptance of an Application for a Development Consent Order by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of The Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero) under Section 56 of The Planning Act 2008 (the '2008 Act') – proposed Norwich – Tilbury Pylons. Councillors noted the concerns raised by parishes immediately impacted by the proposed pylons and resulting infrastructure work. The proposal was a concern, particularly as other options were available. Comments and objections had been raised - this would be a Government decision.
- Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Call for Sites 2025 – Notification noted.
- Babergh and Mid Suffolk Draft Five-Year Housing Land Supply Position Statements – consultation – 28/11/25 – noted.

## 10. Report on Parish website and change to gov.uk domain name

The gov.uk domain name and individual councillor email addresses had been set up by the Community Action Suffolk IT Team. Councillors would look at converting over to their new email addresses with a view to them being put into use after the next meeting.

## 11. To consider installing CCTV - Stoke Ash

Cllr Tancred reported he had carried out some investigations into setting up a cctv camera at the village hall. It would be possible and would not be expensive. It was understood some parishioners were however not in favour. It would be the intention to put a camera at the rear of the village hall for security reasons. District Cllr Weller added it would be preferable to capture access points and advertise that cctv was in operation. A cctv policy would need to be in place stating who would have access to the footage and on what basis it was being

used. Cllr Tancred stated he would put a piece in the parish magazine informing parishioners it was the intention to install cctv at the village hall for security reasons and provide a report for the next meeting.

**12. To consider a Parishioners' Transport Scheme - deferred**

**13. Report and action on flytipping at rear of Roman Way, Stoke Ash**

It was reported that as the flytipping was on private land MSDC Environmental Health were unable to take action. The landowners solicitors had been contacted. The majority of the debris had been cleared within 2 days and clearance of the remaining pieces would be monitored. Thanks were recorded to Cllr Mrs Lane and Cllr Tancred and the resident for clearing the land.

**14. Report on Christmas events 2025**

Cllr Tancred reported arrangements were going well, approximately 12 children would be attending the Childrens' Christmas Party, presents had been purchased and a professional entertainer booked.

Arrangements for the Trailer and Father Christmas weekend were also going well, there would be roast chestnuts, bbq'd items and mulled wine. Arrangements for the New Year's Eve party were ongoing.

Cllr Mrs Maisey reported the Carol Service at St George's would be going ahead on Saturday 13 December at 4pm. Thanks were recorded to all those involved in organizing the events.

**15. Neighbourhood Watch report** – a written report from Cllr Kember reported on a burglary in Thwaite and the suspect vehicle related to it.

**16. Thwaite Community Projects Group**

1. Allotment Lettings – pending preparation of plots.
2. Pruning fruit tree and coppice hedging on allotment land – work pending.
3. Report on grant application to fund planting fruit trees on community/allotment land – members agreed this was a nice idea for the area but the ongoing maintenance would render the project unfeasible.
4. St George's Hall – report on zoom meeting with the Diocesan Solicitor

A report on the meeting had been circulated to councillors. In summary the meeting had been attended by Cllr Pullham, Cllr Leggett, Mr James Hall of Birketts solicitors and Dawn Gillett, Diocesan Representative. Having informed Mr Hall that Stoke Ash & Thwaite Parish Council were of the view, having consulted with Thwaite Parishioners, the best way forward for the building was that it be sold for development, Mr Hall stated the building had been purchased for the benefit and good of the community, and that specified use including any covenants imposed by the Church Commission would have to remain. To pursue selling the building for development, the Parish Council would need to seek advice from the Church Commission as to whether they would waive the covenants and specified use. The query raised by Cllrs Pulham and Leggett as to whether the Church Commission would buy back the building and take over responsibility for maintenance, this question could not be answered.

The large grassed burial plot at the front of St George's which had no evidence of graves or grave Stones was raised. Mr Hall stated the area was the responsibility of the Church of England with regard to burials and any requests for burial should be made to the Church of England and not to Stoke Ash & Thwaite Parish Council or the Thwaite Projects Group.

The conclusion of the zoom meeting was that Cllrs Pulham and Leggett would approach the Church Commission for advice on the above. In the meantime the building was to be kept in good repair and water tight so as not to contravene the covenants.

Mr Hall stated should he be required to give any further advice this would be at his usual fee.

5. St George's Hall - to consider and approve annual insurance cover and premium – the insurance renewal documents had been circulated prior to the meeting. The renewal premium totalled £315.87. No amendments to the cover were suggested. Cllr R Maisey proposed payment of the renewal premium, seconded Mrs C Maisey – unanimously agreed.

**17. Finance**

1. To consider s.137 donation requests – a request for support funding had been received from the Mid Suffolk Citizens Advice Bureau – the request was declined at the present time.
2. Accounts for Payment/receipts received

| Date     | Payee               | Purchase/Service                          | Amount  | Vat    | Total   | Agreed/Decld | Ch no. |
|----------|---------------------|---|---------|--------|---------|--------------|--------|
| 10/10/25 | Information Comm    | Annual Data Protection fee                | £52.00  | -      | £52.00  | Agreed       | 100604 |
| 27/10/25 | RBL                 | Poppy Wreath                              | £50.00  | £50.00 | £50.00  | Agreed       | 100605 |
| 20/11/25 | Comm Action Suffolk | Setting up website Gov.Uk domain name and | £270.42 | £54.08 | £324.50 | Agreed       | 100606 |

|          |                        | councillor/clerk<br>email addresses     |         |        |         |        |        |
|----------|------------------------|---|---------|--------|---------|--------|--------|
| 20/11/25 | Comm Action<br>Suffolk | Website Hosting fee                     | £55.00  | £11.00 | £66.00  | Agreed | 100607 |
| 20/11/25 | Clerk                  | Sal-expen Sept – Nov<br>2025            | £819.84 | -      | £819.84 | Agreed | 100608 |
| 10/10/25 | E.On                   | OSR electricity 1 – 30<br>Sept 2025     | £17.64  | -      | 17.64   | Agreed | 100333 |
| 20/11/25 | E.On                   | OSR electricity 1 – 31<br>Oct 2025      | £22.29  | -      | £22.29  | Agreed | 100334 |
| 20/11/25 | Zurich<br>Insurance    | St George's annual<br>insurance renewal | £315.87 | -      | £315.87 | Agreed | 100335 |

Cllr Tancred proposed payment of the above accounts, seconded Cllr Maisey – unanimously agreed.

Bank balances:

Thwaite Comm Projects at 30/10/25 £5,418.23

Stoke Ash & Thwaite PC BPA at 30/9/25 £26,290.93

Stoke Ash & Thwaite PC Comm a/c at 31/10/25 £1,096.63

3. Finance Report including approval of Cil Return 31.3.25

Cllr Rosling proposed approval of the Cil Return 31.3.25 showing a nil sum held by the council, seconded Cllr Maisey – unanimously agreed.

The budget and precept figures would be prepared for consideration and approval at the January 2026 meeting.

18. **To consider for adoption the following policy documents 2025-26:**

Standing Orders

The updated model Standing Orders had been circulated prior to the meeting. No queries were raised.

Cllr Tancred proposed approval, seconded Cllr Mrs Lane – unanimously agreed.

Financial Regulations deferred to the next meeting.

19. **Clerk's report/correspondence**

MSDC – availability of community grant funding – information circulated.

MSDC – Community Governance Review consultation, response date 27/11/25 – document circulated.

20. **Chair's report** – the chair thanked Councillors, District and County Councillors for their help and support.

21. **Any other business for information exchange/agenda requests** – none.

22. **Date of next Parish Council meeting: Thursday 15 January 2026, 7.30pm at Stoke Ash Village Hall**

Meeting closed 9.55pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

**Summary of Action points:**

|                    |   |  |
|--------------------|---|--|
| 17.5.18            | Storage of PC documents at<br>Ipswich Record Office   | TP   |
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| 21.11.24           | St George's Hall –  | TP/GL to obtain advice from Church<br>Commission re. potential sale of the<br>building |
| 21.11.24           | OSR – Improvement Project   | Pending St George's future.  |
| 18.6.20            | Review Emergency Plan   | A revised MSDC template had been<br>requested. RK                                      |

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| 18/7/24  | Replace 6-8 reflective bollards Church Lane/Wickham Road junction  |  |
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## County Councillor Report – November 2025

### Devolution and the new Mayoral Authority for Norfolk and Suffolk

October's Suffolk County Council meeting voted to give the government their consent to create the Norfolk and Suffolk Combined Authority, which will be led by a mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk. Both Norfolk County Council and Suffolk County Council are involved in creating the new authority, which will have powers for the two counties including economic development, transport, skills and employment, public safety and housing and strategic planning. The authority will be led by the mayor, with four other members, two appointed by Suffolk County Council and two appointed by Norfolk County Council, and decisions will be made by majority, but the majority must include the vote of the mayor or the deputy mayor if the mayor is not present. The authority can also have associate members (for example, somebody from a local college or university) or a non-constituent member, for example from a district or borough council. As previously reported, the election of mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk will be held on Thursday 7 May 2026. So far, the candidates that have been announced are Caroline Topping (Green), who is currently the Leader of East Suffolk Council, and Tim Passmore (Conservative), who is currently the Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk. The role of the Police and Crime Commissioner will be undertaken by the mayor after they are elected. It is likely that Labour, Liberal Democrat and Reform UK candidates will be announced in the next few months, plus any independent candidates who decide to stand.

### Get Suffolk Working Plan

October's Cabinet voted to approve the draft Get Suffolk Working plan which was prepared by the council's Skills team. This is the local version of the government's Get Britain Working initiative and aims to support people of working age who are not currently working to get into employment and address barriers they may face to employment, for example poor health, lack of transport, low qualifications and digital exclusion. Once the plan is approved by NHS partners in Suffolk and the Department of Work Pensions (DWP), a Get Suffolk Working Partnership Board will be created to oversee the work. The plan includes the launch of the Connect to Work programme, which will be funded by up to £9.5m from the DWP over five years (the amount of funding received depends on level of participation in the scheme). This programme is to provide tailored

training, support and job placements and match people with suitable employers based on their preferences, strengths and previous work experience.

Get Britain Working plans will become the responsibility of the mayor of Norfolk and Suffolk and the mayoral authority once in place, so Suffolk County Council is working with Norfolk County Council to make sure their plans are aligned.

You can read more about the Connect to Work programme here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/jobs-and-careers/support-finding-employment/connect-to-work>

## **Dental Services in Suffolk**

At Health Scrutiny Committee on 8 October, colleagues from the NHS joined the meeting to update the committee on improving dental services in Suffolk. This is not a council service, and health partners from the two ICBs that cover the county (Suffolk and North East Essex, Norfolk and Waveney) ran through their progress to increase access to NHS dentists, increase the number of urgent appointments available and ensure that there are enough dental practices across the county. They are also undertaking outreach work on oral health and preventing issues with children and older adults. Both ICBs are reporting that they have managed to increase the number of adults and children seen by dentists, and they are working on changes to their contracts with dental providers to support a focus on highest priority patients. People who need a dentist appointment can contact NHS 111 to get one, as well as contacting dental practises directly.

There are a lot of changes coming up in the health service soon, including the NHS 10 Year Plan which was published earlier this year, and from 1 April 2026, Norfolk and Suffolk will have one ICB. This means that plans for dentistry in the region, like other services, may be subject to review.

## **Budget Survey**

The council has launched its annual budget survey where it asks Suffolk residents their opinions and priorities for how it should spend money in the 2026-2027 financial year. The consultation tries to provide some context on its financial position as well as asking for feedback which will be included in the budget-setting process. The first look at the new budget will be early January 2026, with councillors voting on the proposed budget in its February full council meeting. The consultation has been open since 14 October and will close on Tuesday 25 November, and can be accessed using this link: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/budget-council-tax-and-finance/the-budget-for-suffolk>

## **Nature Recovery Strategy Map Now Online**

County councils in Norfolk and Suffolk have launched their respective Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS). These aim to address the region's decline in nature, identify ways to help it recover and deliver wider benefits such as reducing flood risk.

Norfolk County Council and Suffolk County Council have worked closely together, and formed the [Norfolk and Suffolk Nature Recovery Partnership](#), to identify common themes to address the decline in nature and opportunities to enable it to recover.

The two authorities join 46 other responsible authorities in England, appointed by The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to lead on preparing a LNRS.

Together all these strategies will form a national 'nature network', proposing actions such as the creation of wetlands, restoration of peatlands, planting of trees and hedgerows, and more sustainable management of existing woodlands and other habitats like grasslands.

## **New Water Infrastructure Proposed**

A new consultation on proposals from Essex and Suffolk Water for a new pipeline network and underground drinking water reservoirs, is reaching out to over 100 towns and parishes across north-east Suffolk.

The developing projects are designed to ensure future supplies of drinking water for the East of England, one of the driest regions in the UK. It will help to alleviate the shortage of water supply for new businesses and new homes in north-east Suffolk.

Essex and Suffolk Water's "Suffolk Water Recycling, Transfer and Storage Project" is made up of two key elements, the development of a new Advanced Water Recycling Plant, north of Lowestoft, capable of producing 11 million litres per day of purified recycled water, and strategic network enhancements that will support a more reliable and resilient water supply for the region.

A network of proposed pipelines, connecting existing infrastructure to proposed pipelines and buried reservoirs, will reach from Bungay down to Leiston and Saxmundham and as far west as Eye. The project includes two underground drinking water service reservoirs, located near Eye and Heveningham.

### **Norwich to Tilbury Grid Proposal**

Suffolk County Council is finalising its objections to National Grid's Norwich to Tilbury pylon project as official Examination of the scheme nears – and is encouraging parish councils and local communities to be registered to have their say.

At its Cabinet meeting on 4 November 2025, members will be asked to approve the county council's Relevant Representations to the Planning Inspectorate during Examination – maintaining its long-held, staunch opposition to the scheme.

The Examination period, expected to take place early in the new year, is a chance for those affected by the scheme to share evidence, objections or support. The process is designed to be transparent and inclusive, allowing community voices to be heard.

The county council's objections primarily include:

- a clear preference for alternative options, in particular cable undergrounding, or possibly an offshore solution
- to formally and strongly request National Grid pausing the proposals, to enable the effective consideration of the alternatives

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## **Social Media and Helpful Links**

Follow us on:

**Twitter** - [Suffolk Green, Lib Dem & Independent Group \(@SuffolkGLI\) / Twitter](#)

**Instagram** – [https://www.instagram.com/suffolkgli\\_group/](https://www.instagram.com/suffolkgli_group/)

**Facebook** - [Suffolk GLI - Green, Liberal Democrat & Independent Group | Facebook](#)

**Website** - [Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group – The GLI Group at Suffolk County Council \(suffolkgli.wordpress.com\)](#)

Cost of Living help and advice: <https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/family.page?familychannel=6>

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|--|---|
| <p>Biodiversity and Nature Recovery</p>  | <p>The UK's biodiversity duty is a legal obligation, reinforced by the Environment Act (2021). All public authorities in England must integrate the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity into their core functions and must adopt policies and objectives for biodiversity action, take action to achieve these, and review their efforts at least every five years.</p> <p>Mid Suffolk District Council declared a biodiversity emergency in 2019. A Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), arising from the work of cross-party Working Group. The majority of the actions from the first BAP were delivered, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping of our tree cover – on average 8.5% against national average of 14.5%</li> <li>• Planting thousands of trees and hedges</li> <li>• Surveys of our wildlife sites</li> <li>• Creating new wildflower meadows</li> </ul> <p>The Norfolk &amp; Suffolk Local Nature Recovery Strategy (launched two weeks ago) identifies species and habitats of particular importance to the county, and the threats to them, it helps to build a picture of the scale of the challenge with arresting biodiversity decline; the causes and measures needed in response. A budget of £1.8M to deliver on the BAP for 2025/28 was approved by cabinet on 11 November 2025 and focusses on a broader range of habitats and species, and also recognises the co-benefits that the BAP can deliver on issues such as water quality, flood management and public health and well-being. Final approval is pending at Full Council on 27 November 2025.</p> |
| <p>Armed Forces Covenant</p>   | <p>Appropriate in this month of Remembrance, Mid Suffolk District Council have achieved the bronze award for the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme. This award acknowledges the Council's continued support for the armed forces community - from veterans and service personnel to their families, reservists and cadets.</p> <p>It follows on from the Council's re-statement earlier in the year on its commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant.</p>   |
| <p>Historic England says retrofitting historic buildings can be fundamental to achieving net zero.</p> | <p>Mid Suffolk District Council, working closely with Historic England, have just introduced a new Local Listed Building Consent Order – the first rural council in the country to achieve this.</p> <p>It makes sensitive improvements quicker and easier:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Secondary glazing on historic windows</b> - Grade II listed buildings can now have secondary glazing installed on historic windows without needing consent from the council, subject to certain conditions.</li> <li>• <b>Replacement of windows in Grade II listed buildings</b> – Where original windows have already been replaced after receiving listed building consent, they can be replaced again, subject to conditions.</li> <li>• <b>Replacement of an existing window in a modern extension to a listed building</b> - Windows in Grade II listed buildings can be replaced, or have secondary glazing installed, if they have previously received listed building consent, subject to conditions.</li> </ul>   |
| <p>Foodbank</p>  | <p>Sustainable Communities Food fund: Our Sustainable Communities Food Fund provides grants to small scale food initiatives such as community pantries, fridges and food pop-ups. Details will be available on the Council's website.</p>   |
| <p>Call for Development sites</p>  | <p>The Call for Sites runs until 5pm on 9 January 2026, with the exception of Ipswich, which ends on Monday 15 December 2025. This invites submissions of land to be put forward for consideration to be included in Local Plans - for uses such as housing, employment, sports and leisure and community purposes.</p> <p>These are not planning applications, and no site put forward will automatically see development take place. The process involves a form to be completed by anyone wishing to submit sites.</p>   |

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|---|---|
|   | <p>The form can be completed online, by email or by post:<br/> <a href="https://www.babergh.gov.uk/w/call-for-sites">https://www.babergh.gov.uk/w/call-for-sites</a></p>  |
| <p>Locality Awards</p>  | <p>Any requests for funding must be completed by Jan 2026 so if you have a project that you feel would qualify for funding please contact me.</p> <p>Further information: <a href="https://midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/locality-awards">https://midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/locality-awards</a></p>   |
| <p>Essex &amp; Suffolk Water: Water Recycling, Transfer and Storage Proposal (NSIP)</p> | <p>Essex &amp; Suffolk Water is currently undertaking a major infrastructure project called the <b>Suffolk Water Recycling, Transfer and Storage Project</b> that includes plans for a new underground drinking water reservoir and pipelines near Eye.</p> <p>This development is part of a wider £1.5 billion investment to ensure future water supply in the region, which has been identified as a "seriously water-stressed area". A temporary moratorium on new non-domestic water connections is currently in place in the Hartismere Water Resource Zone, which includes our area, due to the lack of available water.</p> <p>Key details of the project related to our area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>New Reservoir:</b> One of two proposed new underground drinking water service reservoirs is planned near Eye airfield.</li> <li>• <b>Pipelines:</b> A network of new pipelines is proposed to run as far west as Eye, connecting existing infrastructure to the new reservoirs and a new Advanced Water Recycling Plant near Lowestoft.</li> <li>• <b>Purpose:</b> The project aims to provide a more reliable and resilient water supply for homes and businesses, lifting the current restrictions on business growth in the area.</li> <li>• <b>Nationally Significant:</b> The project has been designated a "Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project," requiring a Development Consent Order.</li> </ul> <p><b>Current Status:</b> A public consultation on the proposals (including potential locations/corridors) is currently running until Wednesday, December 10, 2025. A preferred pipeline route and infrastructure locations are expected to be announced at the end of 2026, with a further consultation planned for 2027.</p> <p><b>Essex &amp; Suffolk Water are hosting drop-in public events at locations across the county. Remaining events take place in Leiston (22/11), Beccles (26/11) and Lowestoft (29/11). The information available at the events is replicated online at <a href="http://www.suffolkwaternetnetwork.co.uk">www.suffolkwaternetnetwork.co.uk</a>.</b></p> |

Cllr Tim Weller

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