

Mid Suffolk District Councillor Report for Bacton Ward - August 2026

(Bacton, Cotton, Finningham, Westhorpe and Wyverstone)

Mid Suffolk named as award finalist	Mid Suffolk District Council have been shortlisted in the Political Purpose awards, in the category of Planning for Nature Recovery. This follows the council's purchase of 30 acres of land in Palgrave, Thorndon and Stowmarket for nature recovery, as well as setting a budget of £1.8m to support community initiatives in this area.
Community Infrastructure levy allocated	The latest round of CIL allocations has seen funding approved to projects right across the district, including work to turn the redundant Stowmarket fire station into a space for community organisations, a compost toilet and path for St Nicholas church at Bedfield, solar panels for Needham Market Community Centre and Battisford village hall and improvements to a bridleway between Akenham and Henley.
Food action plan	As part of our work to support the local food economy, Mid Suffolk cabinet agreed a package of measures, including generous grants, to support small scale food producers and connect them to consumers and markets. There are also plans to hold a local food summit at the Food Museum on Monday Oct 19 th .
Free community days out	Families across Babergh and Mid Suffolk can enjoy two free community fun days this summer, with a packed programme of activities on offer for all ages. Delivered by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, the events will take place between 10am and 2pm at Belle Vue Park in Sudbury on Wednesday 12 August, and at Stowupland Village Hall on Wednesday 19 August.
Major business moves to Gateway 14	June saw the opening of Assan Panel UK's new £45 million manufacturing facility at Gateway 14 in Mid Suffolk. The project will create 105 skilled jobs. Assan Panel makes insulated panelling to improve the energy efficiency of large-scale buildings.
Plans approved for Bacton Middle School	Planning committee in July approved the reserved matters for the former Bacton middle school site (actually in Wyverstone parish). After further investigation for any archaeological remains, work is expected to start soon on delivering 50 homes and an all-weather sports pitch. The site is owned by Suffolk County Council so any profit from the development will go towards providing the council's services in the future. There will be a payment of community infrastructure levy, 15% of which will go to Wyverstone parish council
New waste collections	The new 3-weekly pattern of collections, with food waste being collected every week, seems to be working well with only occasional missed bins. All the info and FAQs are on the council's website here: https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/changes-to-bin-collections If you have a problem, e-mail the waste team at recycling@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk or call the council number below – or contact me as a last resort – details below.

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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, or Ipswich Street in Stowmarket Mon-Fri – no appointment is needed.