

District Councillor Report: Andy Mellen – Bacton ward

(Bacton, Cotton, Finningham, Westhorpe and Wyverstone)

December 2024

Council meeting	A full council meeting took place on the 21 st November, which included discussion of the council's treasury management. The Green administration also introduced a motion urging the government to rethink the decision to cut the Winter Fuel Allowance for most pensioners. After debate, this was agreed by councillors across the chamber, and as a result, a letter will be written to the chancellor.
Fees and Charges updates	Updates to Fees and Charges across the district were approved in this month's cabinet meeting and will take effect on 1 st April 2025. A full list of alterations are available on the council's website – most charges are being raised by only 1.7% and some fees are actually coming down .
Community Funding	Mid Suffolk's website now has a new community funding page, which aims to make it much easier for local community groups to understand and apply for grants and funding. So if you are in need of some funding for a project, it's worth going to the www.midsuffolk.gov.uk home page and clicking the 'Access community funding' button.
Summary of Waste Recycling over Christmas & New Year	There are a few alterations to the waste and recycling collection schedule over Christmas. As usual, there are also arrangements for recycling Christmas trees in January. The information can be found on Mid Suffolk's website, using the following link: Christmas waste collections - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk
Potential new Local Government reform	There has been national press speculation over a change in local government structures across Suffolk. The White Paper has yet to be published, being expected in December, although there has been speculation over the district and county councils being abolished and replaced with a unitary authority (with combined powers of a district and county council) covering all of Suffolk. More information should be
Tackling Social Housing Stigma	Mid Suffolk council, along with their partners in Babergh council, signed up to a new campaign to stop social housing stigma. This was done in the form of a council workshop, which looked at the best methods to tackle social housing inequality and negative stereotypes associated with it
Provision of affordable housing	Mid Suffolk and Babergh held a summit for registered providers of social housing in Stowmarket, to hear from them and improve delivery of affordable housing in new developments

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