

District Council Report Helmingham, 20th July 2026

Waste collections	We have now completed 6 weeks of the new bin collection schedule and two full cycles. It was very challenging for the new crews to get all the bins collected during the heat wave. Last week they collected 153 tonnes of food waste which was a slight decrease on the previous week. The Waste team are now continuing to improve on • Delivering the final new bins and food waste caddies. • Rolling out new bins to communal bins stores and properties , completed by close of play today. • New food collection drivers and loaders productivity and quality • Pushing up the food waste daily completion rates (avoiding the need to mop up and roads the following morning)
Scoping Consultations for the Joint Local Plan	Residents, businesses, community groups and stakeholders are being invited to help shape the future of Babergh and Mid Suffolk as the councils launch the first stage of consultation on their new Joint Local Plan. The Consultation opened on 5th June and will run until 31st July. Details of the consultation can be found here https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/joint-local-plan-scoping-consultation
Armed Forces Day held in Stowmarket 27th June 2026	Hundreds of people gathered in Stowmarket last Saturday to celebrate Suffolk Armed Forces Day. The free event was put on by Mid Suffolk District Council in partnership with Stowmarket Town Council. The day began with a parade, and this was followed by musical performances as well as the opportunity to take part in a variety of family friendly activities. It was a great event and enabled people to celebrate and support all members of our Armed Forces – both currently ones as well as veterans.
Gateway 14 news	A £45M manufacturing facility opens at Gateway 14. Assan Panels opened their first manufacturing facility in the UK. The new factory has the capacity to produce up to 4.5 million square metres of insulated wall and roof panels each year, enough to supply around 450 large warehouses, factories and distribution centres annually. The official opening was attended by representative from about 250 local businesses and community representatives.
Suffolk Wine trail	Mid Suffolk District Council, together with Babergh and West Suffolk Councils, has created a new Suffolk Wine Trail, hosted on the Visit Suffolk website, to help boost wine tourism and the new generation of vineyards in Suffolk.
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.
Locality budget	The 2026-27 Locality budgets have now been launched so please let me know of any funding requests for community projects in Helmingham. Details can be found on the website https://midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/locality-awards . It is usually a good idea to contact one of us to discuss your application before submitting in.

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Residents urged not to miss out on heating oil help	Mid Suffolk District Council has joined forces with local Citizens Advice services to reach residents who may be missing out on financial help with heating oil. The councils are now writing to residents who heat their homes with oil and may be eligible for help but have not yet accessed it. Heating oil support can be accessed locally through Suffolk County Council's Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF), which replaced the Local Welfare Assistance Scheme on 1 April 2026. Residents struggling with essential costs or heating oil may be eligible for a crisis payment or a specific heating oil payment.
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