

District Councillor Report: Helmingham Parish Council

September 2026

The 'Big Conversation' – a chance to fix social care challenges.	Mid Suffolk and Babergh urge people to have their say in fixing adult social care. This follows the landmark review from the 'Casey Commission'. Can take part using this link: The Big Conversation on Care The Casey Commission .
Progress with SHELF project at Chilton Fields	The new 3G sports pitch and athletic track at Stowmarket High School were completed last week as part of the SHELF project. This received funding from the FA, Premier League and Football Foundation as well as MSDC. Everyone Active will be managing bookings for the use of these new facilities from next month.
Support for community energy projects	Mid Suffolk has allocated £500,000 to support communities to improve energy resilience, lower bills and cut carbon emissions. This will benefit communities that are just thinking about embarking on sustainable energy solutions, and also support those that have a project which is stuck or part way through.
Gateway 14 news	Mid Suffolk District Council's Stowmarket Innovation Gateway, backed by Freeport East, offers office spaces for high growth start-ups, collaboration and innovation areas, meeting rooms, a café and high-quality training spaces. It will be a hub for firms with a particular focus on the green economy, digital and AI technology. The project has been delivered in partnership with Universities of Suffolk and Essex, West Suffolk College, Suffolk New College and Colchester Institute who will be delivering a programme of professional development courses to address the region's skills gap. The workshops and courses are open to all adults with local employers receiving direct access to higher-level training that used to mean travelling outside the district
Local housing for local people	MSDC Cabinet has agreed to introduce a Parish Connection Priority for new affordable and social rented homes secured through S106 agreements.
Financial assistance for heat pumps	Grants of up £9,000 are now available for households to convert older oil or gas heating systems with Heat Pump systems. Air source heat pumps typically use three to four times less energy than a traditional boiler to heat a home and produce fewer emissions than a gas, oil or LPG boiler, for a cleaner, more sustainable home. Residents of Suffolk can check their eligibility and register their interest on the Switch Together website.
Derelict Fisons site at Bramford.	MSDC has stepped in to install CCTV to deter anti-social behaviour at the derelict Fisons site in Bramford. There have been a number of serious fire and vandalism incidents over many years. The site owners, Paper Mill Lane Properties are responsible for the security, but MSDC decided to take action themselves whilst exploring future options for the site with the owners. Unfortunately the planning permission for redevelopment of this site has now lapsed and it's future is uncertain.

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Locality budget	I have funds available in my Locality budget and look forward to receiving applications for activities and facilities to benefit communities in the Stonhams Ward.
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Cllr Nick Hardingham

Nicholas.hardingham@midsuffolk.gov.uk

07848007758