**Parish Report – April 2024**

Councillor Nicky Willshere Email: [Nicky.Willshere@Midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Nicky.Willshere@Midsuffolk.gov.uk)

Rattlesden Ward Mobile: 07793610542

**Mid Suffolk named UK Council of the Year at prestigious awards ceremony**

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have taken the top honour at a prestigious local government awards ceremony.

**Upcoming elections and referendums**

The next election within our district is on Thursday 2 May, and deadlines to register to vote, apply for a postal vote and get appropriate voter ID are fast approaching. More details about this election, including relevant links and information about all deadlines can be found on the council’s website.

**£3.8m pledged for energy efficient council homes**

Work to make council homes warmer and bring down energy bills for tenants across Babergh and Mid Suffolk received a £1.6m boost in government funding during March. The funding is to be added to the £2.25m already committed by the councils to install energy saving measures in social housing, taking the total investment pledged for retrofitting and decarbonising to £3.85m across both districts.

**Councils pledge further help to prevent homelessness**

More than 1,500 households at risk of homelessness have been helped to keep a roof over their heads by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils since 2019, with both councils pledging further support as part of their joint homelessness reduction and rough sleeping strategy.

**Council wants clarity from developer over major solar farm proposal**

Mid Suffolk District Council says a developer must provide more clarity around its plan for a ‘nationally significant’ new solar farm in the district.

**Grid reinforcement can’t come at any environmental cost**

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have formally objected to National Grid’s plans for more electricity pylons between Bramford and Twinstead – saying the impact on the countryside is too great.