**Parish Report – June 2025**

Councillor Nicky Willshere Email: Nicky.Willshere@Midsuffolk.gov.uk

Rattlesden Ward Mobile: 07793610542

**Annual Council Meeting**

At the Mid Suffolk Annual Council meeting a new chair and Vice chair of Mid Suffolk council were elected.

Cllr Keith Scarff a long serving Stowmarket Liberal Democrat Councillor, town, district and county is the new chair. Keith has selected Stowmarket Relief Trust as his charity to support for his year in this office. Green Cllr Lorraine Baker (Chilton ward) is the new vice chair.

**Local government reform and devolution**

District and borough councils believe that Suffolk would be best served by more than one unitary council. They have submitted their interim report, which sets out the benefits of a multi-unitary model. In a letter sent earlier this month to all Suffolk councils, the government offered clear encouragement for the districts and boroughs to continue developing their proposals.

This is the most dramatic change to local government in 50 years, and the Leaders of the borough and district councils are committed to ensuring that every community is involved in shaping the new councils and their services.

As part of the wider engagement work the district and borough councils are carrying out, residents, businesses, community groups and other organisations can now have their say on what is important to them, in the areas in which they live and work.

<https://midsuffolk.govocal.com/en-GB/projects/have-your-say-suffolk>

**A new street cleaning taskforce has hit the streets of Mid Suffolk to tackle litter, fly tipping, and graffiti across the district**

Mid Suffolk District Council’s new ‘respond, enforce and clean team’– REACT – have hit the district’s roads.

The two-strong team are ‘first responders’ to reactive cleansing incidents such as fly tipping, littering and graffiti across Mid Suffolk and are easy to spot in their special REACT van.

As well as tackling issues, they will also play a role in education and enforcement, including:

• advising on street cleansing issues

• patrolling problem areas

• encouraging bin use and better recycling

• gathering evidence and issuing warnings and notices

REACT increases the council’s capacity to respond to urgent and reactive street cleaning issues across the district.

The new service is being funded through £360K of re-invested income from Gateway 14 - the council-owned business, innovation, and logistics park in Stowmarket.

**A reminder that I have now been issued with this year’s Locality Budget to support activities and groups in the Rattlesden Ward.**