**Parish Report – October 2025**

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**Local Government Review**

Three Councils for Suffolk bid has been submitted to the Government for consideration alongside the bid for one Suffolk a decision is expected in the new year.

It is expected that there will be some further consultation from National over the next few weeks.

**The Living Well in Winter grant supports local organisations**

Including town and parish councils, village hall and playing field committees, sports clubs and centres, charities, social enterprises, community shops and community interest companies – to deliver accessible, inclusive spaces and affordable activities that help people stay connected throughout winter.

Last year, the scheme funded 25 projects across both districts (12 in Babergh and 13 in Mid Suffolk), ranging from warm spaces and coffee mornings to movie showings and dance classes.

Now, the grant window has reopened, with funding available for initiatives that promote social connections, physical and mental wellbeing, and access to welcoming community hubs.

Eligible projects might include lunch clubs, after-school clubs, low-cost family sports sessions, craft workshops, community cafes, or any other initiative that brings people together and supports residents through the colder months.

Up to £2,000 can be applied for and applications must be submitted **by Sunday 19 October.**

Information about a range of grants that are available can be found on the Mid- Suffolk website

[**https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/community-funding**](https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/community-funding)

To find out more information about the Rural Business Growth Fund, [visit the Heart of Suffolk website](https://heartofsuffolk.co.uk/invest/business-support/grants-and-funding/rural-england-prosperity-fund-2/).

**Council commits £4.8m to create 300 new high school places**

Mid Suffolk District Council has pledged £4.8m to create hundreds of new places at Stowmarket High School.

The school currently has capacity for 900 students aged 11-16, but Suffolk County Council, which is responsible for education provision, estimates an additional 300 places are required in the next four years.

The council’s cabinet approved £4.83m of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) towards an expansion project.

The CIL award was one of a number agreed, along with funds for a new play area in Thorndon and replacing play equipment in Coddenham.

CIL funding is paid by developers building homes within the district, which the council then reinvests in eligible infrastructure projects.

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