**Parish Report – July 2025**

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**Communities in Babergh and Mid Suffolk are set for another summer**

This year, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are partnering with Abbeycroft to deliver Community Fun Days at four locations across the districts – Sudbury, Hadleigh, Thurston and Stowmarket.

Families that attend one of the events can look forward to a wide range of activities, from bouncy castles and axe throwing to arts and crafts and dancing.

In addition to the activities, there will be numerous information stalls from local organisations and charities, providing access to valuable resources, support and information.

The events are scheduled to take place between 10am and 2pm at:

• Sudbury, Belle Vue Park – Monday, 21 July

• Thurston, New Green – Thursday, 24 July

• Hadleigh Pool and Leisure Centre – Friday, 25 July

• Stowmarket, Recreation Ground – Monday, 28 July

Each Community Fun Day is free to attend and has activities for all ages – simply turn up on the day. However, children that receive means tested free school meals are able to pre-book some activities and order a free lunch by visiting <https://www.abbeycroft.org.uk/community-fun-days/> .

**Residents in Rattlesden can now look forward to an extra warm welcome – thanks to £33k of funding for a new heat and light chandelier system from Mid Suffolk District Council.**

At a recent meeting of Mid Suffolk District Council’s cabinet, councillors agreed to award £33,750 of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding to Rattlesden Parochial Church Council for its Rattlesden Church warmth project.

The village’s Grade I listed St Nicholas’ Church already hosts a wide range of activities including toddler sessions, a bereavement group, coffee mornings, concerts, and exhibitions. But church leaders say it is difficult to keep users warm and comfortable in the historic building – parts of which date back to the 13th century – once cold weather sets in.

The funding will go towards the installation of a nine-chandelier heat and light system – a more environmentally sustainable replacement for its current expensive and inefficient under-seat heaters – transforming the building into a comfortable, warm, and welcoming space for use by the whole community and surrounding parishes.

**Changes to CIL Applications**

CIL Applications are now open all year around

**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.**