

District Councillor Report – Harry Richardson

2 November 2025

<p>Call for Sites</p>	<p>Babergh, East Suffolk, Ipswich, and Mid Suffolk councils are beginning work on new Local Plans, which will guide future development, housing, employment, and infrastructure in their areas. As part of this, a ‘Call for Sites’ is now open, inviting landowners and others to submit land for possible inclusion in these plans. The submission period runs until 5pm on 9 January 2026 (15 December 2025 for Ipswich).</p> <p>Submitting a site does not guarantee development; each proposal will be assessed and considered through public engagement before any decisions are made. The councils have coordinated their timetables, with Babergh and Mid Suffolk preparing a joint plan, East Suffolk replacing its previous plans, and Ipswich updating its 2022 plan. More details are available on each council’s website.</p>
<p>Local Listed Building Consent Order</p>	<p>Mid Suffolk has many listed properties, which often have poor energy efficiency due to features like single glazing. To help owners make improvements, Babergh and Mid Suffolk councils, with Historic England, have introduced a new Local Listed Building Consent Order—the first of its kind in a rural area.</p> <p>This order allows certain upgrades, such as installing secondary glazing or replacing windows in Grade II listed buildings, without needing individual consent, provided specific conditions are met. This change aims to make sensitive improvements easier and quicker, supporting both heritage and environmental goals.</p>
<p>Older generation encouraged to get active</p>	<p>A campaign celebrating older people’s fitness achievements is underway, running from 5 October (Silver Sunday) to 17 November. Stradbroke Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre and Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre in Stowmarket are encouraging older residents to participate in a variety of activities. The operator, Everyone Active, already sees over 20,000 senior attendances each month nationwide.</p> <p>Local members, like 91-year-old Maureen Cotton from Stradbroke, demonstrate the benefits of staying active—she attends two fitness classes weekly and can hold a two-minute plank. The campaign highlights how exercise can improve quality of life for seniors</p>
<p>Reminder: Grant funding opportunities</p>	<p>Babergh and Mid Suffolk grants and funding team will be hosting a free funding summit on Thursday 6 November at Blackbourne Community Centre, Elmswell, from 9am to 2.30pm. The event will help community organisations access the funding they need and is being delivered in partnership with Suffolk Community Foundation, Community Action Suffolk, Suffolk County Council and the National Lottery Community Fund.</p>

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