

## District Councillor Report: Earl Stonham

### September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025

Council Meeting	There was no scheduled full council meeting held last month. The next meeting will take place on the 25 <sup>th</sup> September.
Published plans on three unitaries	The council released draft proposals on its proposed 3-unitary model, which included splitting Suffolk into a “Western”, “Central & Eastern”, and “Ipswich and Southern”. As neither Mid Suffolk nor Babergh comfortably fits into this model, this would see the two councils effectively broken up across the 3 councils. A full website on the 3-unitary model, including the proposed map effecting these changes, is available here: <a href="#">Welcome – Three Councils For Suffolk</a> There will be a public meeting for residents to ask questions and discuss the proposals on September 10 <sup>th</sup> , from 6-8pm, in the Food Museum marquee.
Introduction of new electrical recycling banks	12 new electrical recycling banks (6 in Mid Suffolk, and 6 in Babergh) have been installed across the two districts. This is part of a new scheme of just under £800k to help reduce e-waste across the district. More information about where these banks are can be found on MSDC’s website <a href="#">Twelve new electrical recycling bins for Babergh and Mid Suffolk - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk</a>
Crowfield Rose	150+ people attended a public meeting held by Crowfield Parish Council on 18/8 to discuss the planning application for a traveller’s site behind the pub. It was attended by the planning case officer, the enforcement officer for the site, myself and Cllr Teresa Davies from Debenham. I joined the enforcement officer on a site visit on the 21 <sup>st</sup> , and he is making another visit on 1/9. I am away, but I hope Cllr Davies has been able to join him.
Stowmarket Health, Education and Leisure Facility(SHELF)	Full Council and Cabinet have agreed to fund Phase 2 work with £5.2M. This will include building the new sports pavilion (which already has planning permission) and improving parking at Chilton Fields.
Food Museum	Council has agreed to underwrite a funding gap for the Museum Branching out programme. This will include a number of capital projects aimed at increasing visitor numbers, better inclusion for all people,, protecting the environment and heritage as well as becoming more financially sustainable.
Rural Business Fund grant	Over £415k has been allocated for grants to support rural businesses across Mid Suffolk and Babergh. This can go towards projects which contribute to farm diversification, improved rural sustainability over the long term or to Net Zero.