

## STOWLANGTOFT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**MONDAY 21 OCTOBER 2024 AT 7.30PM  
THE COMMON ROOM, St GEORGES Rd**

Present: Cllrs D'Lima (Chair), Bourne, Catchpole, Cuff and Marsh. A Osman (Clerk) was also in attendance along with ten members of the public.

52 **Apologies for absence.** Cllr's Suggett and White sent apologies which were accepted.

53 **Declarations of Interest.** None.

54 **Highways Matters:**

A1088 Bridge Closure. The meeting noted an update given by Suffolk Highways on 17 October that had been previously circulated. Cllr Cuff read out the update for the benefit of the public in attendance. The key points were:

- Preventative Measures. In addition to signage installed at the start of the works, a 30mph mandatory temporary speed limit has been put in place on Kiln Lane and Langham Rd. The meeting reflected that this should have been done from the start.
- Impact of Driver Behaviour. Suffolk Highways acknowledged that the bridge closure has resulted in drivers using sat nav created diversions that focus on Kiln Lane. The meeting was disappointed that despite this risk being highlighted continually by the Parish Council at the A1088 Bridge Liaison Group meeting prior to the closure, more robust traffic management actions were not taken at the start of the works.
- Further Kiln Lane Preventative Measures. The meeting welcomed the decision by Suffolk Highways to implement No Entry signage at the north end of Kiln Lane to prevent southbound traffic. This is due to be in place on 4 November 2024 and will remain in place until the bridge is re-opened. The meeting noted that this measure should also reduce the damage to verges that has led to the edge of the tarmac highway being revealed in some places with associated increased risk to drivers. It was also recognised that making Kiln Lane predominantly northbound may increase vehicle speeds. Exemptions will be given to agricultural vehicles and authorised vehicles such as buses.
- Reactive Maintenance on Kiln Lane. The meeting noted that since the start of August, 20 reactive repairs have been completed and none are outstanding. The road will continue to be regularly inspected and local residents are encouraged to use the Suffolk Highways Reporting tool to report future defects (<https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/>).
- Highways Works Following Bridge Re-opening. The meeting observed that Suffolk Highways had begun discussions on what can be done once the bridge was re-opened to ensure Kiln Lane was returned to a 'reasonable' condition. It was agreed that timely clarity on this issue was needed to ensure that residents understood what the future situation would be.
- Installing a Permanent 30mph limit and 'Quiet Lane' Status. The update repeated the current Suffolk County Council policy on speed limits that currently prevents Kiln Lane being made 30mph permanently. The Clerk reported that work was ongoing to turn Kiln Lane into a 'Quiet Lane' once the bridge works had completed. It was agreed that the Parish Council would request an exemption to the speed limit policy to allow a

permanent 30mph limit on Kiln Lane and that both this and the Quiet Lane designation should be provided by the County Council at no cost as part compensation for the community impact of the bridge repair works.

- Damage to Property and Business. Suffolk Highways indicated that they have a responsibility to maintain the highway and can be held liable for compensation for injury or damage if they have not fulfilled their statutory responsibilities in relation to this, they cannot be held responsible for the actions of drivers. If local residents and businesses consider that Suffolk Highways have not fulfilled their statutory duties to maintain the highway, a highways insurance claim can be made by visiting <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/making-a-highways-insurance-claim>.
- Delay on A1088 bridge repair. The ongoing delay to the bridge repair due to the condition on newly installed piling was noted and an urgent indication of when work would restart and what this meant to the end date was to be sought.

After significant discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would write to Suffolk County Council to reiterate community concerns about the ongoing A1088 Bridge works; this was to include the key areas covered by the discussion on the Suffolk Highways update plus the issue of rubbish and damage to kerbs on The Street due to passing HGVs. The **Clerk was to produce a draft for out of meeting agreement** with Cllrs.

Kiln Lane Junction Markings. It was **agreed that Cllr Bourne would report the faded markings** at Kiln Lane/Walsham Rd junction on the Suffolk Highways reporting tool.

SpeedWatch. Cllr Cuff reported that he was looking to discuss a new SpeedWatch location on Kiln Lane with Suffolk Police.

- 55 **Minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2024.** Cllr Catchpole proposed that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2024 be approved. Cllr Bourne seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

56 **Matters arising from the last meeting:**

Minute 41: 16 September 2024: Churchyard Grass Cutting. The meeting noted that the previously agreed funding for churchyard grass cutting (£200) had not yet been used. Cllr Cuff reported that he was still looking at options for this.

Minute 41 16 September 2024: Quiet Lane Scheme Funding – Stowlangtoft Estate. Cllr Catchpole noted the urgency of clarifying any contribution from the Stowlangtoft Estate to help fund the proposed Quiet Lane scheme on Kiln Lane and **agreed to provide this at the next meeting.**

Minute 44 16 September 2024: 2<sup>nd</sup> Dog Bin. The Clerk reported that he was awaiting final confirmation of the proposed site on the grass corner of Church View/The Street from the landowner, Mid Suffolk District Council. Once this was complete, the 2<sup>nd</sup> dog bin would be purchased which Cllr Cuff agreed to take receipt.

Minute 47 16 September 2024: Quiet Lane Scheme. **Cllr Cuff agreed to provide an update of the proposed quiet lane proposal in the next Newsletter** and to indicate that any comments on this proposal by residents can be sent to the Clerk via email

57 **County Councillor Report.** The meeting noted the contents of the County Councillor’s report that had been previously circulated.

58 **District Councillors Report.** The meeting noted the contents of the District Councillor’s reports that had been previously circulated.

59 **Admin and Finance:**

Finance Report. The meeting noted the financial report (current bank balance of £5,393.36, projected outturn at the end of the FY of £1,500 current account and £1,500 savings account), circulated before the meeting. Included in this figure was a Community Infrastructure Levy payment of £1976.58. Payments authorised:

Gipping Press	£81.00
SALC Payroll Service	£22.80

The Chair agreed to authorise payments.

Newsletters. The meeting agreed to provide a further £100 grant towards the cost of village newsletters.

60 **Councillors’ Forum:**

Vacancy. The Chair reported the resignation of Cllr White as he was moving out of the area. This would create a vacancy which the Clerk confirmed was currently the subject of a Notice of Vacancy issued by Mid Suffolk District Council.

Community Fund. The meeting noted the situation with reducing number of signatories for the Community Fund and that Cllr Cuff would discuss the issue with Mr Godfrey. It was **agreed that Cllr Cuff would arrange for an update on Community Fund** in the Newsletter

61 **Public Forum.** Covered at Minute 54.

62 **Date of next meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Monday 18 November 2024 at 7.30pm The Common Room, St George’s Rd.

If any planning applications or urgent actions are identified after the November meeting, these will be considered at a short meeting on Monday 16 December 2024 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting concluded at 8.40pm.

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Chair

# Parish Report – October 2024

**Councillor**

**Andy Mellen**

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## **Recycling and Waste Collection Changes**

At Cabinet on Tuesday 10 September, we heard about the changes the council is preparing to make to prepare for the new recycling and waste collection requirements set out in the Environment Act 2021. This new law means that district and borough councils must additionally collect food waste, glass and cartons from residents by 2026, and also collect plastic film from 2027. It is up to each district and borough council how they choose to arrange their waste collection schedule, and they will be communicating these changes to residents soon. However, the county council also needs to make changes as it is responsible for storing and processing waste and recycling after it is collected. The council will be spending around £4.535m, allocated from its reserves, to update waste transfer stations in the county where waste is taken after it is collected. The council will also need to set up a new contract for anaerobic digestion of the food waste.

## **Financial Monitoring Report for 2024-25**

We also heard at Cabinet on 10 September about the council's latest financial forecast for 2024-25, and so far the year seems to be going better than last year, with a projected overspend of £1 million compared to last year when the council was forecasting an overspend for 2023-24 of £29.3 million. Some services are still overspent, for example costs for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and care purchasing in adult social care services. Areas that are predicted to come in under budget have helped balance this out. However, the council's reserves, the 'savings' it holds for a rainy day, are taking another big hit this year and are due to reduce by £22.2 million. This is a rate of spending by the council which is unsustainable even for a few more years. Like other councils in the same position, we will be hoping for an improved funding settlement from the new government.

## **Funding to Improve Home Energy Efficiency**

My group were disappointed that the council is projecting to return £5 million of funding to the government which could have been used to improve the energy efficiency of homes in Suffolk. The Warm Homes Suffolk Scheme is now closed, but the council has heard that a similar scheme may be on its way and we would encourage residents who are eligible to apply. The previous scheme enabled people to buy extra insulation and undertake other improvements to improve the energy efficiency of their homes, which will also reduce the amount they are paying to heat them. We will have more information on future schemes at a later date and will provide further information then.

## **Suffolk Devolution Deal Withdrawn**

Following the change in government, the devolution deal which had been tabled for Suffolk has now been withdrawn, as has the deal for Norfolk which was along similar lines. Devolution would have provided the county with extra funding and power to make more decisions locally, for example transport and adult education. Although this is being reported as a snub for the county, my group feels that devolution deals offered by the new government are likely to be more ambitious, and will

avoid the possible decision deadlock caused by a directly elected leader being from a different political party to the majority of councillors.

### **Arts and Culture Project Funding**

The council has launched its new £500,000 Culture Project Fund to support local arts and museum projects across the county. This is the bidding system for arts funding for the financial year 2024-25 which was announced by the council's administration as part of the budget process in early 2024, and will see a larger amount of smaller grants for projects and organizations compared to previous years. The fund offers three tiers of grants:

**Small grants** up to £1,500

**Medium grants** up to £15,000

**Large grants** up to £50,000

Eligible applicants include arts organizations and museums, skilled freelancers, registered charities, community interest companies, non-profits, and social enterprises based in Suffolk. For more information on deadlines and award dates, or to find out how to apply, please visit

[www.suffolk.gov.uk/cultureprojectfund](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/cultureprojectfund)

or contact the Arts & Museums Team at [cultureprojectfund@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:cultureprojectfund@suffolk.gov.uk).

### **Apply for Primary and Secondary School Places**

Parents and carers can now apply for a place in the normal year of entry at a primary (including infant and junior) school and secondary school for September 2025. The deadline for applications to secure a place at a secondary school is Thursday 31 October 2024 and for primary school places, including infant and junior schools, the deadline is Wednesday 15 January 2025. All applications received by the closing dates are processed at the same time using the schools' oversubscription criteria to prioritise applications when necessary. Late applications are processed after all of those received on time.

SCC advise that parents and carers think about how their child will travel to school before they apply for a school place. They can check which is their child's nearest suitable school on our Nearest School Checker because it might not be their catchment area school:

<http://nearestschool.suffolk.gov.uk/>

Advice and guidance about the school application process is available here:

[www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions)

### **Follow us on:**

**Twitter** - [Suffolk Green, Lib Dem & Independent Group \(@SuffolkGLI\) / Twitter](#)

**Instagram** - [https://www.instagram.com/suffolkgli\\_group/](https://www.instagram.com/suffolkgli_group/)

**Facebook** - [Suffolk GLI - Green, Liberal Democrat & Independent Group | Facebook](#)

**Website** - [Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group – The GLI Group at Suffolk County Council \(suffolkqli.wordpress.com\)](#)

Cost of Living help and advice:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/family.page?familychannel=6>

Benefits advice and support:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/adult.page?adultchannel=0>

Flood preparation advice: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/suffolk-fire-and-rescue-service/fire-and-rescue-safety-advice-in-the-community/preparing-for-flooding>

Flood recovery advice and support: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/about/flood-recovery-information-for-suffolk>

# District Councillor Report: Thurston Ward

1<sup>st</sup> October 2024

Survey of residents	<p>The deadline for the Mid Suffolk Council informal has been extended to 31<sup>st</sup> October. This is an informal survey so if you have any ideas, please get in touch with either of your district councillors or visit the website here <a href="https://baberghandmidsuffolk.govocal.com/en-GB/projects/tell-us-mid-suffolk">https://baberghandmidsuffolk.govocal.com/en-GB/projects/tell-us-mid-suffolk</a></p>
Thurston By-election	<p>Harry Richardson (Conservative) was elected as the new ward councillor for the Thurston Ward on 24<sup>th</sup> September.</p>
Simpler recycling	<p>MSDC have now agreed how they will adapt their waste collection service in line with the new government regulations. From 2025 there will be weekly kerbside food waste collections. Each household will receive a food waste bin for collection as well as a caddy to use in the kitchen. This will reduce the amount of waste in the black bins, so from 2026 we will move to twin-stream recycling so each household will have 2 recycling bins (one for card and paper, the other for plastic, glass and cartons) and a black bin. These will be collected on a 3-week cycle.</p>
Heart of Suffolk Big Weekend	<p>The ballot is now open for our first ever Heart of Suffolk Big Weekend, in which residents can win prizes by entering a free ballot. This new event has been organised to highlight our culture, leisure, and visitor attractions, and to encourage local residents to explore what's on offer. Details can be found here <a href="https://www.heartofsuffolkbigweekend.co.uk/">https://www.heartofsuffolkbigweekend.co.uk/</a>. The draw is open until Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September.</p>
Shaping our Economic Strategy	<p>BMSDC officers are hosting a series of economic development workshops across the district. They are seeking the expertise and insights of key local stakeholders including business leaders, council partners, voluntary services, policymakers, academics and beyond to help develop our forward-thinking economic strategy. . Anyone wishing to participate should register online for the following sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October, The Mix, Stowmarket</li> <li>• Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, New Green Centre, Thurston.</li> </ul>
Local issues	<p>The Fishwick junction in Thurston is still causing concerns with residents due to the number of accidents and “near misses” David is still trying to get the traffic lights reinstated while the junction is being redeveloped.</p> <p>The A1088 bridge closure is causing serious problems along Kiln Lane in Stowlangtoft. County Councillor Andy Mellen is working with Stowlangtoft PC and Highways. There are plans to turn Kiln Lane into a designated “Quiet Lane” in the future.</p>
Locality funds	<p>Owing to Austin’s resignation, the usual 50/50 split of locality awards has not been possible. Now that Harry has been elected, where possible Harry &amp; David will revert back to split funding.</p>
Informal councillor chats	<p>David will be at New Green café (Thurston) on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October between 12:30 &amp; 14:00 .</p>

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Cllr Harry Richardson  
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07842 322913

## District Councillor Report: Thurston Ward

1<sup>st</sup> October 2024

Collection Calendar	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3
Refuse			
Recycling			
Food			
Garden			



## District Councillor's Report – October 2024

### Council updates

#### Refuse and recycling

At Mid Suffolk's Council meeting on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September, it approved the following changes to waste collection, commencing from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026: refuse collections every three weeks instead of fortnightly; an increase in food waste collection to weekly; and separate recycling for glass, cartons, and plastic films.

The latter two components were mandated by the Environment Act 2021, however the former was not; the Act was intended to stop local authorities from introducing three-weekly or monthly refuse collections but Mid Suffolk District Council has decided to adopt this approach regardless.<sup>1</sup>

I have included as an appendix a graphic that outlines the new waste collection pattern.

- Council housing motion

Mid Suffolk also passed a motion expressing a desire to see greater funding allocated from central government, with the following specific points:

- Establish a new fair and sustainable Housing Revenue Account model – including an urgent one-off cash injection, and long-term, certain rent and debt agreements.
- Reform unsustainable Right to Buy policies
- Remove red tape on existing funding
- Announce a new, long-term Green & Decent Homes Programme
- Fund the completion of new council homes

In agreeing the motion, the Council committed to the following:

1. Writing to the Secretary of State and our local Members of Parliament to inform them that this motion has been passed and urge them to take urgent action.
2. Continuing to work with partner councils to lobby Government for the changes required, taking a collaborative approach to better highlight the issues we all face.
3. To continuing raising awareness of the challenges, and our calls for government action, in local media.
4. Encouraging local housing associations to work more closely with the Council to increase the supply of affordable housing.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/simpler-recycling-collections-and-tougher-regulation-to-reformwaste-system>

## Local updates

### Thurston by-election

After the by-election on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September, I am delighted to return as your District Councillor and look forward to working with you again. My thanks must go to all those involved in the organising and running of the by-election, both Council staff and volunteers, and to Oscar and Nathan for putting themselves forward to represent our community.

I hope this report has been helpful. If you have any further queries then please do contact me via the details below.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Harry". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Cllr Harry Richardson**

Conservative Councillor for Thurston ward\*

Mid Suffolk District Council

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*\*Jointly with Green Councillor David Bradbury.*

**Appendix: new waste collection pattern**

<b>Collection Calendar</b>	<b>Week 1</b>	<b>Week 2</b>	<b>Week 3</b>
<b>Refuse</b>			
<b>Recycling</b>			
<b>Food</b>			
<b>Garden</b>			

<sup>1</sup><https://www.gov.uk/government/news/simpler-recycling-collections-and-tougher-regulation-to-reformwaste-system>