

# Your briefing notes for town and parish councils



Babergh & Mid Suffolk Councils

## **Local Government Reorganisation – latest**

We are still awaiting the Government's promised feedback on our interim plan for local government reorganisation, submitted in March, but in the meantime we continue to work with the other district and borough councils to progress proposals for either two or three unitary councils to meet the differing needs of our county's diverse communities.

An important part of this process will be seeking the views of our town and parish councils, and the residents, businesses, organisations and communities across our districts.

We will be in touch over coming weeks with further information and would be grateful for your help to spread the message locally. Please look out for more details soon.

## **New regional mayor can bring benefits – but local views must be heard, councils say**

The Government's proposed new Mayor for Suffolk and Norfolk can bring benefits to the region, but local communities must be fairly represented.

## **New-look grant sees more than £580k given to community projects**

From filmmaking workshops to mental health support for young people, dozens of community projects across Babergh and Mid Suffolk have received a share of more than £580,000 as part of a new grant from the district councils.

## **HOWZAT! A net result for new sports facilities in Stowmarket**

Members of Stowmarket Cricket Club joined councillors from Mid Suffolk District Council this week to celebrate their new cricket nets – part of the council's investment in a range of improved sport and wellbeing facilities for the town.

## **Free leisure centre memberships for those living with Parkinson's**

Leisure centres in Mid Suffolk are offering free memberships to people living with Parkinson's.

## **New grant offers significant funding for sporting opportunities across Mid Suffolk**

Sporting infrastructure in Mid Suffolk is set for an overhaul thanks to a new grant offering significant investment in major projects.

## **Cash injection for communities in Babergh and Mid Suffolk**

Town and parish councils in Babergh and Mid Suffolk are set to receive more than

£813,000 in developer contributions to help community infrastructure keep pace with housing growth.

### **£100k awarded as culture prioritised in Mid Suffolk**

Preserving East Anglian traditions, supporting dance-based dementia sessions and getting children involved with theatre and the arts are among the ways Mid Suffolk District Council is investing in the district's culture.

### **Solar partnership brings boost for businesses**

A new pilot partnership is set to turn solar energy into savings for businesses in Babergh and Mid Suffolk.

### **Free compost for Babergh and Mid Suffolk residents**

Green-fingered residents in Babergh and Mid Suffolk can collect free compost in May as part of a drive to get people growing.

### **Free access to leisure facilities for community champions**

Unsung community heroes across Mid Suffolk are being urged to step forward for a groundbreaking new scheme offering free access to local leisure facilities.

# PROGRESS POWER COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

Administered by Mid Suffolk District Council's Community Grants Team

The Progress Power Community Benefit Fund is a three-year funding package secured as part of the development of the Progress Power Station (gas-fired power station) on the former Eye Airfield site.



Funding is available for community groups towards a wide range of community projects and activity, including environmental and wildlife projects, community regeneration and improving access to facilities and services for children and young people.

## Application Process

There are three application windows per year, each open for eight weeks and closing at the end of February, June and October:

- Window 1 opens 1 May and closes 30 June
- Window 2 opens 1 September and closes 31 October
- Window 3 opens 1 January and closes 28 February

## Who can apply?

Grants can be applied by community groups or projects within the following parishes:

- Eye
- Yaxley
- Mellis
- Brome & Oakley
- Thrandeston

Applicants are able to apply for a grant of between £250 - £10,000 for projects which demonstrate a wide community benefit and are fully inclusive. Two-year funding (up to a maximum of £20,000) is also available for those projects which can demonstrate a need for continued funding.

During 2025/26 the Grant Panel are particularly keen to attract applications from projects and activities that support Children and Young People.

For further details on how to apply for funding please see the following website:  
[www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/community-funding](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/community-funding) or contact the Grants team as detailed below:

Email [BMSDCGrants@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:BMSDCGrants@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk)  
For more information, queries or to submit completed applications

drax



Babergh &  
Mid Suffolk  
Councils

Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX  
Telephone: (0300) 1234 000  
[www.babergh.gov.uk](http://www.babergh.gov.uk)  
[www.midsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk)

# Grant Funding Surgeries

Babergh and Mid Suffolk  
Community Grants Team

## What's On?

### SPEAKERS

The Community Grants Team will share information about funding and support available for community groups in Babergh and Mid Suffolk. We will also hear from guest speakers from

- Community Action Suffolk
- The National Lottery
- MSDC Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Team

### Q&A SESSION

After the presentations our speakers will be available for a Q&A session – have your questions ready!

### 1 to 1 FUNDING SESSION

Attendees can schedule a 1 to 1 funding session appointment on the day with members of the Community Grants team

## Look out for our upcoming events

Mellis Memorial Hall	14 <sup>th</sup> May	10:00-12:00
Eye Town Hall	14 <sup>th</sup> May	14:00-16:00
Norton Village Hall	5 <sup>th</sup> June	10:00-12:30
Great Blakenham Village Hall	10 <sup>th</sup> July	10:00-12:30
Stowmarket Cedars Park	9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	10:00-13:30
Sudbury Town Hall	16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	10:00-13:30
Hadleigh Town Hall	23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	09:30-12:00
Shotley Village Hall	23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	14:00-16:30

Email us to book your place:

[BMSDCGrants@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:BMSDCGrants@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk)



**Babergh &  
Mid Suffolk  
Councils**

Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX

Telephone: (0300) 1234 000

[www.babergh.gov.uk](http://www.babergh.gov.uk)

[www.midsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk)