

District Councillor report October 2025

- On the 25th it was decided that the Mid Suffolk District Council would support the ‘Three Unitaries for Suffolk’ proposal. This was wholly expected. The proposal was also supported by the other Councils in Suffolk and as now been forwarded to the Government.

In November a Government initiated and led public consultation is envisaged but as of yet it remains unclear how this will be done.

The Government, in this case represented by Steve Reed, will very likely make a decision in March 2026. Either it will be a three Unitary solution or a single Unitary covering all of Suffolk. Of Interest is that we see the same in Norfolk, County Council wanting one single and the District Council wanting more than one, most of them going for three. Also of interest is that the arguments about the population sizes of the proposed Unitaries are based on today’s numbers of people. By 2045 the expected rise in population amounts to about 33%.

The number of Councillors would be between 60 and 70 per Unitary and around 140 if there were to be a single Unitary.

Risking being repetitive I’ll mention the three Unitaries proposed, ‘Western Suffolk’ with Bury as the hub, Central and Eastern Suffolk with Lowestoft as the hub and Ipswich and Southern Suffolk. Our area, Central and Eastern, presently has a population of around 260,000 (2021 it was 253,416). In 2045 this is predicted to be 336,334. The LGR is, hopefully, going to be in place for far longer than that.

Country wide the expenditure for SEND children are shooting through the roof, County Councils all over the country are accumulating debts in the millions. Suffolk County council is the second worst in the country when it comes to this expenditure. Far higher than average SEND children in relation to the population (you can’t blame the CC for that) but also a substantially higher cost per child as well.

- Any Parish wishing to do so is invited to ask for a ‘CGR’, a Community Governance Review. Requests may be submitted between the 27th of October and the 7th of November. Forms and further info can be asked for on cgr@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk. The precise terms of refence of this Review will be decided on the 23rd of October at the MSDC meeting.

This will be the last opportunity before the event of LGR (Local Government Reform).

Amongst the items up for discussion are expected to be grouping rearrangements, requests for mergers and number of Councillors. At present ,in a Parish of less than 500 5 - 8 Councillors are recommended, 501 – 2500 6 to 12 Councillors needed and for a population of 2501 – 10000 the number amounts to 9 – 16.

On the Mid Suffolk Council website timelines and so forth can be perused.

- Consultations about improvements to our local water supplies will soon commence. On the 2nd of October there was a presentation by Essex and Suffolk Water outlining two NSIPs (Nationally Strategic Infrastructure Project). One is ‘the Essex and Suffolk Water transfer, recycling and storage project. Two storage reservoirs proposed, near Eye and one near Lodgewood. The exact locations are to be discussed widely and consulted upon. Pipelines need to go east to west, again, to be consulted upon.

The other one is the construction of a Winter Storage reservoir, (the North Suffolk Reservoir). This will hold at least 30,000 Mega litres. The water is envisaged to come from the winter water flow in the Waveney river.

The first public consultation will take place between the 29th of October and the 10th of December. This will concern everything except the Winter Reservoir. Parishes will be contacted the week before. On the 6th of November there will be one consultation event in Wilby Village Hall, on the 12th one in Eye and on the 19th Laxfield will host one too. All in all there will be eight.

On top of this there will be eight so called Consultation Hubs, where information is to be on display. The Eye library is one, one in the Framlingham library.

Further consultation are due to follow. DCO (Development Consent Order) application in the first half of 2028.

Re the very large reservoir the first public consultation is planned for early 2026. DCO application late 2028/early 2029.

This water supplier serves 300,000 and we are the driest area the UK.

Yours Sincerely,
Anders Linder