

District Councillor Report: Andrew Mellen, Bacton Ward (Bacton, Cotton, Finningham, Westhorpe & Wyverstone)

May 2025

Devolution Update in council meeting	At last month's extraordinary council meeting, we discussed the council's response to the government consultation on the proposed new mayoral authority for Norfolk and Suffolk. The response, which included both positive and some negative comments, was approved. The next steps in the process are for the government to respond to the consultation, we then expect the two county councils to give the go ahead and the election of the new mayor will happen in May 2026.
Local government reorganisation	The government sent a letter at the end of April to all Suffolk's council leaders, setting out the next steps in the process. They have asked for more detailed information and this is being prepared and has to be agreed and submitted by the 26 th September. A survey will shortly be launched to take in the views of residents about the shape of future local government in Suffolk.
New grant offers for Mid Suffolk sports facilities	Over £750,000 of the Community Sports Infrastructure Grant has been set aside for new sporting facilities across Mid Suffolk, including either building new or upgrading existing infrastructure. More information can be found on Mid Suffolk's website: New grant offers significant funding for sporting opportunities across Mid Suffolk - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk
£100k for new Mid Suffolk culture fund	A funding grant of over £100k has been approved to promote Mid Suffolk's culture, including support for children in arts and theatre. This also includes support for both the Food Museum and the John Peel Centre in Stowmarket, which are closely linked with the council.
Free compost event	Mid Suffolk District Council are giving away free compost during International Compost Awareness Week (4-10 th May) to raise public awareness about the benefits of composting. The most local collection event is at Needham Lake, Sunday 11 th May from 8am. Attendees are only allowed a maximum of 2 bags each on a first-come, first-served basis.
Locality budget 2025/26	The next round of locality funding is now available, so I am able to consider applications for grants to community organisations. The total amount per councillor has increased to £10,000. Full details available https://midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/locality-awards
Councillor drop-in sessions	I am available to meet residents and discuss any issues of concern – either at parish council meetings, the Cotton community café and Wyverstone village café and other community events – or give me a call or an e-mail: contact details below.

Cllr Andrew Mellen

Andrew.Mellen@midsuffolk.gov.uk

07790 992619