

Parish Report – March 2026

Councillor Nicky Willshere
Rattlesden Ward

Email: Nicky.Willshere@Midsuffolk.gov.uk
Mobile: 07793610542

Tech donation gives new life to old devices and gets rural communities online

FCC Environment (FCC) has donated 10 refurbished laptops to the Rural Coffee Caravan, a local charity dedicated to tackling isolation and supporting residents across rural communities.

FCC, which runs the 11 recycling centres in Suffolk on behalf of Suffolk County Council, has worked in partnership with Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils - which play an active role in bringing together local organisations to improve digital access.

Together they identified opportunities to ensure the donated devices benefit residents in most need and improve access for those in rural areas.

The donated laptops will be distributed to residents who are not able to afford a device, helping to bridge the digital divide and improve access to vital online resources.

Volunteers at the Rural Coffee Caravan will also support recipients to feel more confident using devices and getting online safely, as part of their wider programme of digital support.

<http://ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk/>

Mid Suffolk Cosy Homes

What is the Cosy Homes Initiative?

Cosy Homes is an energy efficiency initiative dedicated to making private sector homes in Mid Suffolk:

- warmer
- more economical to heat
- more environmentally friendly

The initiative aims to help residents in the district improve the energy efficiency of their home - which will help them save on energy usage and reduce their carbon footprint.

If you are interested in finding out more, please email the Cosy Homes team cosyhomes@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Who is the Initiative for?

The Initiative is available to:

- homeowners
- private tenants
- landlords with fewer than five properties in Mid Suffolk

What is the Initiative offering?

The Cosy Homes Initiative will include a free retrofit assessment of your property. This will determine which of the measures listed below are suitable to install in your home - or whether any additional remedial measures are needed.

You'll also receive funding to cover the installation of all recommended measures and remedial works (up to £5,000).

The insulation measures covered include, but are not limited to:

- Loft insulation
- Cavity wall insulation
- Mechanical ventilation
- PV panels

Eligibility criteria

Residency: Available to Mid Suffolk residents who are homeowners, private tenants or landlords (who own fewer than five properties within the district)

Financial: Households with an annual income below £80,000, and less than £40,000 in savings

EPC Rating: Properties with a current EPC rating of D

Council Tax: Properties within Council Tax bands A-E

Income considerations

We will assess the total household income, taking into account all members of the household.

The initiative is being revisited to encourage greater uptake and will potentially include solar panels.

Council Tax increases.

It was agreed at Full Council in February that an increase would be applied to council tax for the forthcoming year of 2.9% this equates to approximately 10p per week.