

# Parish Report – December 2025

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## **Wishing you all a Happy Christmas**

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### **Young people in Mid Suffolk are to be given ‘a voice for change’ after councillors gave cross-party support this week for the creation of a new Youth Council.**

The new group is aimed at getting young people involved and engaged with politics – providing a real opportunity for Mid Suffolk Youth Council members to help shape their local communities.

The go ahead was granted by councillors at Mid Suffolk District Council on Thursday, following a motion outlining the current disconnect between young people and politics – highlighted in a recent Electoral Commission survey.

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### **Mid Suffolk District Council has committed £1.8 million over the next three years to accelerate work which enhances biodiversity and nature – in a bid to safeguard the environment for generations**

The investment is a major step towards reversing habitat loss and supporting wildlife across the district.

Both Mid Suffolk’s cabinet and full council have agreed portions of the funding. This will come from a new dedicated biodiversity and nature recovery budget and 2025/26 reserves respectively.

Approval comes alongside a revised Biodiversity Action Plan covering the five years up to 2030, which received cross-party endorsement.

The plan focuses on priority habitats and species in Mid Suffolk.

Around half of the funding is going towards a new community Nature Recovery Grant fund.

The fund will be split equally between both community-led projects and for the restoration of rivers and their catchments.

This will support others to deliver nature recovery on their own land.

Further details are expected over the coming year.

Targeted projects are also included, such as:

- restoring ecosystems
- creating, enhancing and protecting wildlife corridors and habitats
- expanding tree and wildflower planting

The council will also continue to work collaboratively with Suffolk Wildlife Trust and other local partners to deliver its vision.

## Call for Sites

Babergh District Council, East Suffolk Council, Ipswich Borough Council and Mid Suffolk District Council will shortly start preparation of their new Local Plans.

The new Local Plans will set out a strategy identifying sites for development and set policies against which applications for planning permission are determined, alongside national planning policies and Neighbourhood Plans.

These will provide a blueprint for the future of each area - ensuring residents and communities have sufficient housing, employment and inward investment, that environment and heritage is protected, and the right infrastructure is in place.

As part of the early preparatory work, the councils are working together to launch a 'Call for Sites', beginning Monday 20 October. The Call for Sites runs until 5pm on **9 January 2026**.

This invites submissions of land to be put forward for consideration to be included in Local Plans - for uses such as housing, employment, sports and leisure and community purposes.

These are not planning applications, and no site put forward will automatically see development take place.

The process involves a form to be completed by anyone wishing to submit sites. The form can be completed online, by email or by post.

Each suggested site will be considered by planning teams before it is decided whether it goes forward as a proposed Local Plan site allocation. Decisions about preferred allocations will be based on a range of evidence and assessment, as well as through public engagement.

[Call for Sites \(20 Oct - 9 Jan 2026\) - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk](https://www.babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk)

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## National Consultation

The formal government consultation on the Untary proposals for Suffolk is open.

**The consultation on the two proposals received from your invitation area will be available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/suffolk-local-government-reorganisation> until 11 January 2026. Responses to the consultation should be submitted through the department's platform 'Citizen Space' in the first instance, though responses can also be made by email and post. Artificial Intelligence will be used to assist officials to analyse the responses received, as set out in the consultation documentation.**