

# Your briefing notes for town and parish councils



Babergh & Mid Suffolk Councils

## Council leaders back 'Suffolk to the Power of Three' option as part of local government reorganisation consultation

Suffolk residents, businesses and local organisations are being urged to take part in a once in a generation opportunity to shape how council services are delivered for their local communities.

The Government's statutory consultation on LGR is now open, but people only have until **11 January** to respond, so we would be grateful for your help in ensuring that your communities are aware.

The consultation seeks views on the two proposals submitted for Suffolk: the Three Councils for Suffolk case submitted jointly by the district and borough councils, and One Suffolk, submitted by Suffolk County Council.

You can find out more on [the Three Councils for Suffolk website](#), including the benefits of our case for businesses, residents, town and parish councils and for the voluntary and community sector.

In addition to our case in full, there are also [Q&As](#) which may help you respond to queries from residents. The site also includes a link to the [One Suffolk website](#) to ensure awareness of both cases.

## Major milestone reached in the construction of £18million Stowmarket Innovation Gateway

Construction work on a 'transformational' state-of-the-art skills and innovation centre at Gateway 14 in Stowmarket has reached a key milestone.

## Council's £1.5m fund to boost town centre reopens after first round awards

A £1.5million fund to enhance Stowmarket town centre has been reopened for new applications – following a successful first round of funding.

## Highly anticipated new 3G football pitch gets the go ahead thanks to funding boost

A new 3G football pitch is set to be delivered in Stowmarket after funding from the Premier League, The FA and Government's Football Foundation was secured.

## Bobby dazzler of an opening for Stowmarket's new community darts venture

Darts legend Bobby George proved Stowmarket has hit the bullseye with its new community darts venue when he joined local VIPs and dignitaries for the opening of The Bull Room.

### **£90,000 to support community projects near Gateway 14**

Community organisations located near the Gateway 14 development are being offered a funding boost to help launch and grow local projects.

### **Suffolk residents urged to apply quickly for free home energy upgrades**

Suffolk residents living in properties which are not energy efficient, could be eligible for funding to make their homes warmer and reduce their energy bills, thanks to Warm Homes Suffolk.

### **Grants with upcoming deadlines**

Two grants have deadlines coming up on 18 January 2026, so community organisations will need to get their applications in soon if they wish to receive a grant from either the Mid Suffolk Culture Fund or the Community Development Fund. All the information about both funds can be found by [visiting our community funding page](#).

### **Mid Suffolk Rural Support Fund**

A reminder that the Mid Suffolk Rural Support Fund is still open for applications. This is a fund created to support towns and villages outside of Stowmarket. More information can be found on the [Mid Suffolk website](#) and we attach a poster to the email to clerks in the hope that you may be willing to promote the fund within your communities.

### **Starting 2026 with fully funded training to strengthen local organisations**

Community Action Suffolk is offering four fully funded training courses designed to strengthen the capacity of local organisations and build strength for the future. Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have supported this training by making use of the Shared Prosperity Fund. Find all the training sessions on the [Community Action Suffolk website](#).

### **Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan progress overview**

Sustainable Suffolk has shared the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan progress overview, giving an insight into the work done since the plan was published in 2021.

Included within the document is a breakdown of lots of work carried out by partner organisations, which includes our council.

[Visit the Sustainable Suffolk website](#) to find out more, or [read the progress overview document](#).