

District Councillor Report: Framsdén

April 2025

Death of Cllr Rachel Eburne	It is with great sadness to announce that the Deputy Leader of Mid Suffolk Council, cabinet member for finances and resources, and Councillor for Haughley, Stowupland & Wetherden, Rachel Eburne, sadly passed away on the 14 th March after a long illness. Since being elected as a councillor back in 2010, Rachel was a key champion within her local community and was deeply committed to Mid Suffolk. She will be deeply missed by us all.
Devolution and local government re-organisation updates	All District and Borough Councils in Suffolk have published their joint proposals on how local government in Suffolk should be re-organised. This proposal is for two or three unitary authorities across the county, but the exact boundaries for these authorities is yet to be determined. Letters to this effect have now been sent and acknowledged by the Secretary of State. Now more detailed business plans for the proposed new authorities will need to be finalised and agreed.
CIL charging structure	Both Babergh and Mid Suffolk agreed for updated CIL charging structure proposals to go out for 6-week public consultation. The CIL charging rates had not been changed since the Councils brought in CIL back in 2018. It is proposed that these are now increased and have been viability tested before going out to consultation. Details of the proposed new charging structure can be found on the website in due course.
Boost for warm, safe council homes	In a process to help bring down energy bills for residents and to make council houses warmer, the government has offered the council £2.9m as part of the Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund. This, in addition to Mid Suffolk's Cosy Homes scheme, should allow those with lower incomes to access cheaper energy bills, whilst also improving energy efficiency across homes.
Locality budget 2025/26	The next round of locality funding is now live so we are able to accept applications for grants. The total amount per councillor has increased to £10,000. Full details available on the website https://midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/locality-awards .
BMSDC response to devolution	Whilst acknowledging the potential benefits of a Combined Norfolk and Suffolk Mayor, one of the major concerns in the Districts' response was a loss of local representation and of the centralisation of power, as the proposed model gives substantial authority to the Mayor while limiting the formal influence of local residents and leaders, particularly in key areas such as housing and planning Appendix A - BMSDC Devolution consultation response.pdf

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