

## District Council Report for Battisford and Ringshall Ward

Including Barking, Battisford, Great Bricett, Ringshall, Offton and Willisham

June 2025

### Annual Council Meeting 2025

The 15<sup>th</sup> May annual council meeting for Mid Suffolk confirmed new appointments for the council. Cllr Keith Scarff was appointed as Chair of the Council, and Cllr Lorraine Baker as Vice Chair.

### Future of Local Government Survey

Mid Suffolk District Council – together with Babergh, East Suffolk, West Suffolk District and Ipswich Borough Council – are to put forward their representation to the Government stating preference for two or three smaller and more localised ‘unitary’ councils.

Our view contrasts with Suffolk County Council’s preference for a single unitary to cover the whole of the county. MSDC believes this would be too large to work effectively and too remote for local residents to be heard. The LGA has found no conclusive evidence in the research literature to support the idea that larger unitary councils are more efficient or cost-effective. However, it is clear that increasing the size of the council has a detrimental impact on public contact, engagement and trust in councillors and officers<sup>1</sup>.

Before making its final representation to Government, MSDC wants to hear the views of residents, businesses and communities as to the opportunities these changes could bring, and to ensure as far as possible that they will be shaped by local needs and priorities. A survey has now been launched - please share your views by completing the survey via this link: <https://midsuffolk.govocal.com/en-gb/projects/have-your-say-suffolk> or ring Mid Suffolk District Council on 0300 1234000 to request a paper copy.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.local.gov.uk/lga-independent/our-work/publications-independent-group/political-and-governance-implications>

### New Street-cleaning Task Force in Mid Suffolk

A new service is being funded through a £360K income from Gateway-14 to respond to issues such as fly-tipping, littering and graffiti across Mid Suffolk. Alongside encouraging bin use and better recycling, they will also be working to improve enforcement by patrolling areas where needed, gathering evidence and issuing warnings and notices. The team of two can be spotted in their ‘REACT’ van.

### Locality Awards

The 2025/26 round of funding has attracted some early enquiries and applications. I welcome enquiries from local community groups. Please contact me to discuss further or for an application form.

**Dr Dan Pratt**

Ward Member for Battisford and Ringshall

**Lead Member for Nature Recovery**

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