

District Councillor Report: Stonhams ward

June 2024

Upcoming general election	The next parliamentary general election will take place on Thursday 4 th July. The next scheduled MSDC Council meeting on 27 th June has been cancelled due to the purdah period. Other meetings may also be cancelled for political reasons.
Annual Council meeting	The Annual Council meeting was held on 22 nd May. The new Chair is Cllr Dan Pratt and his chosen charity for the forthcoming year will be The Food Museum in Stowmarket. Cllr Keith Scarff was appointed as Vice Chair. There were very few other changes to committees.
Community Infrastructure Levy payout	The Neighbourhood CIL payout of over £500k was distributed last month. The Neighbourhood CIL funds are for parishes to spend on infrastructure within their parishes, but they are still able to apply for further funds from the developer contribution. The next bid round for applications to the district for CIL funds opened on 31 st May. The decisions will be taken to the Cabinet meeting in the autumn.
Swimming pool improvements	Babergh and Mid Suffolk have been awarded funding to improve the carbon footprint of the swimming pools. Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre received £180k to fund pool covers, and micro filtration units
Food Waste collections from 2026	Funding to begin food waste collections in Babergh and Mid Suffolk has been agreed. The service will launch in 2026 as part of a national requirement from central government. There is approximately £250k shortfall in the funding allocated from central government. The plan will be for every household to receive a new 23-litre food waste bin, as well as a smaller 5-litre caddy for use in the kitchen. The food waste will be collected on a weekly basis.
Free Compost events	To coincide with International Compost Awareness Week 5 th to 11 th May, the district council held a series of compost giveaways across the district to support residents with a garden, allotment, or window box to grow their own plants. There is an additional event on June 23 rd 7am to 11.45am at Meadlands social club, Needham Road, Stowmarket, when loose compost will be given out. Residents to bring their own shovels, plus up to two bags per car, and can help themselves on a first come, first served basis. More information about composting can be found at https://getcomposting.com and https://www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk .
Tenant satisfaction	The results from a recent tenant satisfaction survey are not very promising with many tenants rating the service from the Council as poor. A programme of activities is being prepared, including a better system for booking appointments with the service team

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