

District Councillor Report – Harry Richardson

1st March 2026

<p>Suffolk County Council elections</p>	<p>As you may be aware, the elections to Suffolk County Council on Thursday 7 March will now be going ahead as planned following a legal challenge by the Reform UK political party.</p> <p>The elections will be organised and conducted by Mid Suffolk District Council in the usual way and more details on deadlines for postal vote applications, proxy vote applications, etc. can be found on our website: https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/elections</p>
<p>Mid Suffolk Council Tax</p>	<p>Mid Suffolk’s Council Tax will rise by 2.99% in 2026/27 following a decision on 26 February. Mid Suffolk is currently forecast to achieve a surplus of £3.6m for the next financial year. A proposed budget amendment by the Mid Suffolk Independents to freeze Council Tax was rejected by 22 votes to 6.</p>
<p>Objections to pylons</p>	<p>The National Grid is proposing 159km of new overhead power lines between Norwich and Tilbury, along with 21km of underground cabling and several compounds linking the two. Public hearings on the plans are underway.</p> <p>At a recent hearing in Ipswich, Mid Suffolk District Council urged a pause on the project so alternative options—such as an undersea route or fully underground cabling—can be properly considered, citing significant concerns about environmental, community and business impacts.</p>
<p>Tech recycling</p>	<p>FCC Environment has donated ten refurbished laptops to the Rural Coffee Caravan to support digitally excluded residents in rural Suffolk. Working with Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, the organisations identified those most in need to ensure the devices improve digital access.</p> <p>The laptops will go to residents who cannot afford their own, and volunteers from the Rural Coffee Caravan will help recipients gain confidence using technology and staying safe online.</p>

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