District Council Report for Battisford and Ringshall Ward

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

November 2026

Local Nature Recovery Hub

The Suffolk and Norfolk Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) have launched the Local Nature Recovery Hub - Local Nature Recovery Hub. This new website features an interactive mapping tool that tracks local nature recovery initiatives and provides details on individual projects. Additionally, the platform lists several funding opportunities for nature recovery projects in our district.

Housing Inspection Report

Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC) has been awarded a C2 housing rating by the Regulator of Social Housing. This is the second-highest grade on a national four-tier scale (C1–C4) and represents the highest score of any district or borough council in Suffolk. The judgement highlights the strong progress the council has made since 2023, when MSDC self-reported failures regarding safety checks for gas and electricity. However, 13% of MSDC's homes do not meet the Decent Homes Standard, which requires properties to meet basic criteria for safety, repair and insulation. An improvement program is already underway to ensure all homes meet this next year, in our aim to achieve the C1 standard.

Town and Village Centre business Improvement fund

Businesses across Mid Suffolk can now apply for grants worth up to £10,000 to improve shopfronts, improve accessibility and implement energy efficiency upgrades. Funding can support a range of improvements, including accessible doors and ramps, customer facilities, security measures, solar panels and other equipment to support business growth or environmental performance. More information can be found here: https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/mid-suffolk-town-village-centre-business-improvement-fund

Changes to Planning Application 'Call-in' Process

Government planning reforms have removed the ability of district councillors to 'call-in' planning applications in their ward areas to be decided by planning committee. In September, Councillors voiced their concerns in a letter to the Government that these changes leave communities with less say over new developments in their area.

Living Well in Winter Grants

The Living Well in Winter Grant is now in its fourth year to help local organisations deliver accessible, inclusive spaces and affordable activities during the colder months of the year. Applications are now open until 27th November. Further details can be found here: https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/community-funding

Dr Dan Pratt
Ward Member for Battisford and Ringshall
Lead Member for Nature Recovery
E: daniel.pratt@midsuffolk.gov.uk
T: 07775389193