**Parish Report – February 2025**

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**Devolution**

A joint extraordinary meeting of Mid Suffolk and Babergh councils will be held 10 February to hear the outcome of Ministerial decision in response to Suffolk County’s request to be considered for early unitary status.

**Local Nature Recovery Strategy**

A public consultation is about to be underway (March 2025)

This is a joint Suffolk and Norfolk strategy being tabled. The Environment Act 2021 sets out new legislation that requires the production of new spatial strategies for nature recovery called Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

The LNRS will also be used to:

• provide information to farmers and land managers to help them choose

which Countryside Stewardship and Sustainable Farming Incentive options

are appropriate for their land

• help groups of farmers and land managers shape nature recovery priorities

for their area, and to encourage collaboration across holdings and landscapes

• identify opportunities for Landscape Recovery project proposals, and to

provide evidence to support their application and project development

• help Government when considering applications for funding for specific

nature recovery activities, by acting as criteria in applications

• help responsible authorities and/or local partnerships leverage and

target funding for environmental projects to areas where they could have

the most impact for nature and the wider environment

• inform how DEFRA arms-length bodies carry out existing functions to

better support nature recovery – for example, by drawing on LNRS priorities

and proposals when providing land management advice to farmers, or when

selecting locations for nature-based solutions such as natural flood

management and tree planting

• inform the development and implementation of Protected Landscape

management plans, by identifying locations and measures that will drive

delivery of the agreed targets and outcomes set out in these plans

**Food Waste Vehicle Procurement and Simpler Recycling Update**

Costings for upgrading the refuse collection system are being put to the Cabinet this month, the options include sharing vehicles with Babergh District Council to share costs.

The proposals are to purchase 9.5 diesel vehicles

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**Residents Parking Zone – Stowmarket**

Mid Suffolk are proposing to support Suffolk Council in funding a design phase of residents parking solution in Stowmarket. Problems have continually increased largely due to the increase of use of the rail travel / commuters looking to avoid high costs of parking at the station.