

District Council Report for Battisford and Ringshall Ward

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

April 2026

Local Government Reorganisation

The government has decided that there will be 3 unitary authorities in Suffolk. While detailed boundaries are still being finalised, the three unitary councils, West Suffolk, East Suffolk, and South Suffolk and Ipswich are planned to be in place from May 2028. Elections for the new shadow authorities will take place in May 2027, with the new councils formally taking over responsibilities from May 2028. The idea of the transition period is to enable detailed work for reorganisation to take place, and services will be delivered as usual throughout the process.

Funding for Neighbourhood Plans

Government funding for Neighbourhood plans has been withdrawn. MSDC has now introduced funding to support Parish Councils in the preparation of Neighbourhood Development Plans / Reviews, which seek to allocate sites for housing development that make an agreed contribution to meeting the district-wide housing needs. There is a limit of £20,000 for any specific Neighbourhood Development Plan.

A14 Litter

Work has started on a clear up of the A14. Two trucks of rubbish were cleared from the side of the A14 between junctions 49 and 50, for Tot Hill and Stowmarket while the road was closed for work.

3G football pitch and athletics track

Works to deliver a brand new 3G football pitch and mini athletics track in Stowmarket are due to start in the coming weeks. The project is being funded by contributions from Mid Suffolk District Council, the Premier League, The FA, the Government's Football Foundation as well as S106 developer contributions. Being built in the grounds of Stowmarket High School, the 3G pitch and athletics track will be available for community use with Everyone Active managing the facilities and associated booking system outside of school times.

Riverside land purchased for the benefit of future generations

Mid Suffolk District Council has purchased almost eight acres of land in the heart of Stowmarket to preserve it as a future riverside haven for nature and wildlife for future generations. The land, between Takers Lane and the River Rat, adjoins the council's existing open space at Pikes Meadow – unlocking potential for a new riverside walk, connecting Combs Ford and Gipping Way. This is part of the Council's aim to enhance biodiversity and nature, but it also provides public green space, as well as safeguarding the land from future development.

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