Parish Report – November 2026

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LGR Update

29 October 2026 the Minister Jim McMahon, made a statement to the House of Commons confirming that the Government has completed the first phase of their review. They have satisfied themselves that the criteria and process for LGR are robust and aligned to the new Government's priorities.

They are therefore now putting in place arrangements to make a fresh decision in relation to Suffolk. We do not yet know exactly when the final decision will be made but Government's intention is that it will be within the next four months at the latest.

Once that decision has been made then shadow elections for the new unitary councils in all areas will take place in May 2028, ahead of those councils going live on 1 April 2029.

The Government also confirmed today that in Suffolk we will receive, in the next few weeks, £1.35m as a contribution towards the costs of LGR, including the costs of their delay.

Grants available

Community groups across Mid Suffolk can apply for grants of up to £30,000 to create or expand local food-growing projects thanks to the **Community Growing Fund.**

The **Living Well in Winter grant** is now in its fourth year and exists to help local organisations deliver accessible, inclusive spaces and affordable activities during the colder months.

And businesses can now apply for grants worth up to £10,000 to spruce up shopfronts, improve accessibility and implement energy efficiency upgrades thanks to Mid Suffolk's new Town and Village Centre Business Improvement Fund.

I would urge all councillors to make relevant organisations and businesses aware of these opportunities; there is more information on our website.

Better Recycling Update

Better Recycling changes that were introduced across Mid Suffolk – and the rest of Suffolk – in June. Across Babergh and Mid Suffolk, up to October 2nd our residents have now diverted over 2,825 tonnes of food waste from rubbish bins.
This food waste is recycled into biofuel and biofertilizer.

Joint Local Plan Update

Gateway 1 Self-Assessment (21 October 2026)
As we prepare the new Joint Local Plan, we need to pass through three gateways. These help us show our progress and check that we are ready to move to the next stage.

Gateway 1 is a self-assessment of the work we have done to prepare for the new Local Plan. Find out more information on the Gateway 1 assessment page.
https://www.babergh.gov.uk/w/gateway-1-self-assessment-summary

Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) (October 2026)
Following our call for sites we have published a Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment as evidence to support the new Joint Local Plan. The SHELAA identifies and assess potential sites for housing and economic development that were submitted to us for consideration.

The SHELAA does not allocate sites for development, and it has no planning status. It is an evidence base document to support the Joint Local Plan and can also be used by Town and Parish Councils developing Neighbourhood Development Plan.

This document supersedes the SHLAA published in 2025.

Appendix 1 - BMSDC Unsuitable Sites
Appendix 2 - Babergh Residential Sites

Appendix 3 Mid Suffolk Residential Sites
https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/documents/d/asset-library-54706/appendix-3-mid-suffolk-residential-sites-pdf

Appendix 4 - Non-Residential Sites
https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/documents/d/asset-library-54706/appendix-4-non-residential-sites

Rattlesden Ward Residential Sites

Drinkstone			
SITE ID	**Location**	**Proposed Dwellings**	**RAG rating**
HE2390	Green Farm, Rattlesden Road, Drinkstone, Bury St. Edmunds,	8	G
HE23797	Land west of Gedding Road, Drinkstone Green	20	A
HE23925	Street Farm, Drinkstone, Bury St. Edmunds,	10	R
Felsham			
HE24055	Land Adjacent to Pond Cottage Opposite Felsham Playing Field, Lower Green, Felsham,	8	R
HE24043	Land East of Bury Road, Felsham	28	R
HE24063	Lower Green Farm, Lower Green, Felsham, Bury St. Edmunds,	140	R
Hessett			
HE23965	Land on South Side of Spring Farm, Manor Road, Hessett	5	G
HE24108	Land at Heath Road, Hessett, Bury St Edmunds,	5	G
Rattlesden			
HE23528	Ridges, High Town Green, Rattlesden, Bury St. Edmunds,	3	R
HE23068	Land west of School Road, Rattlesden	25	G
HE23957	Land North of Stowmarket Road, Rattlesden	15	A
HE24038	Land south west of Lower Road, Borley Green (nearest postcode IP14 3DS)	9	A
HE23960	Land North of High Street, Rattlesden	30	A

Joint Local Plan Engagement Strategy (21 October 2026)

The Councils has published an Engagement Strategy. This Engagement Strategy sets out how the Councils will involve communities, businesses, Town and Parish Councils, statutory bodies, infrastructure and service providers, neighbouring authorities and other stakeholders throughout the preparation of the Joint Local Plan.

https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/documents/d/asset-library-54706/babergh-and-mid-suffolk-joint-local-plan-engagement-strategy-oct-2026

A reminder that I have now been issued with this year's Locality Budget to support activities and groups in the Rattlesden Ward.