

Parish Report – September 2026

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Apologies in advance that I will be on my annual leave from 5th September – 20th September and not available to attend meetings or accessing emails, which I will pick them up on my return.

Suffolk residents can get a free proposal to replace ageing heating systems with heat pumps

All of Suffolk's public sector organisations have come together to help residents in Suffolk replace ageing gas, oil or LPG boilers with a heat pump combining a £7,500 or £9,000 government grant, depending on current heating fuel, with group-buying savings on installation.

Over the past few years, energy bills have been unpredictable, serving as a reminder of just how exposed household budgets can be to forces entirely outside our control. But now, Suffolk's public sector organisations are partnering with Switch Together, a community group-buying scheme, to help residents in Suffolk move away from ageing and inefficient heating systems.

Through the government's Boiler Upgrade Scheme, eligible homeowners in England can receive a grant of £7,500 toward an air source heat pump, or £9,000 for households currently heating with oil or LPG. The grant is applied for upfront by the installer, so residents do not need to claim it back or repay it.

The Boiler Upgrade Scheme is open to homeowners and small business owners in England who are replacing a fossil fuel heating system and hold a valid Energy Performance Certificate with no outstanding major insulation recommendations. It is not means-tested, so there is no income threshold to qualify. The scheme is currently scheduled to run until 31 December 2027.

Switch Together works by bringing residents together so that installers compete to win their business, securing better installation prices than most homeowners could negotiate alone. Once registered, residents receive a free, no-obligation personal offer, and their installer handles the grant application on their behalf. Switch Together's group-buying savings apply on top of the government grant.

Every installation is carried out by a Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) accredited installer. Switch Together works only with MCS-accredited professionals, so residents are covered from the first quote to the finished installation.

Mid Suffolk District Council has received national recognition for its work to boost biodiversity – investing in land for nature recovery and a legacy of tackling climate change for generations to come

Mid Suffolk District Council has been shortlisted in Nature 2030's Political Purpose Awards, in the 'Planning for Nature Recovery' category.

The award recognises those taking positive action to embed nature as part of everyday life, such as:

- ensuring planning decisions deliver greener towns and cities, healthier communities
- creating or enhancing space for wildlife to thrive

The council's recent initiatives have included:

- setting aside a £1.8m Nature Recovery Budget and investing in 30 hectares of land in Thorndon, Palgrave and Stowmarket, specifically for nature recovery, with extensive public engagement helping to shape local management agreements.
- the expansion of the council's meadow management programme, replacing mown grass with long grass and wildflowers.
- tree and hedge planting, including the creation of community orchards.

The council also continues to run its popular Tree for Life scheme, where a free tree is gifted to parents who welcome a new child into their family.

A promotional poster for FiveDinners. The background is bright yellow. At the top left, the text 'Get FREE meal plans' is written in a mix of bold sans-serif and script fonts. To the right, a green speech bubble contains the text 'PROVIDED FREE BY YOUR COUNCIL - NO CATCH! YOU WON'T BE CHARGED!'. Below the main headline, three questions are listed: 'Fed up of deciding what to cook every night?', 'Want to save money on food shopping?', and 'Want to eat healthier?'. These are followed by the phrase 'Then this is for you!'. Below this, a paragraph states: 'Get a new personalised meal plan & shopping list every week designed just for you - for FREE'. A QR code is shown with the text 'Scan the QR code:' to its left. To the right of the text is a photograph of a man in a dark jacket holding a bowl of food. At the bottom left, the text 'Share with your friends and family - download or save this image to show them the QR code or visit -' is present. At the bottom center, the website 'FiveDinners.com/MyCommunity' is displayed. The 'FiveDinners' logo is positioned to the right of the QR code.

Get FREE meal plans

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Want to save money on food shopping?

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Consultations

This is your chance to tell Government what you need and want to see in the future. We must all take this opportunity.”

It is being undertaken by the [Independent Commission on Adult Social Care, also known as the Casey Commission](#) and led by Baroness Louise Casey.

In addition to members of the public submitting their views via an [online platform](#), the campaign will seek the views of people who work in adult social care and those unable to take part online.

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