

District Councillor Report: Walsham Le Willows

September 2024

Gateway 14 Business Park	<p>Gateway 14 is a business park on the edge of Stowmarket owned by Mid Suffolk Council and is part of Freeport East. It will create several thousand jobs.</p> <p>We have been trying to focus the development on Green jobs and in August work started on a distribution and assembly base for Bauder (Green roofing company). Another company in the sustainable building sector, Assan Panels, who specialise in environment building panels are also locating to Gateway 14.</p> <p>We have also secured over £16m to develop a skills and innovation centre for the district focusing on high tech companies and development of Green skills.</p>
New sports facilities in Stowmarket	<p>Work started on improved sports and wellbeing facilities on land surrounding Stowmarket High School and Chilton Fields</p>
Suffolk authorities join forces to urge government to save council homes	<p>All the Suffolk District Councils have joined forces with more than 100 others in England to call for the new government to save council homes. The coalition's warning that unless more is done soon, most council landlords will struggle to maintain their existing homes adequately or meet the huge new demands to improve them, let alone build new homes for social rent.</p>
Simpler recycling	<p>The Government has legislated for councils to align their recycling and waste services with new nationwide Simpler Recycling requirements by 31st March 2026.</p> <p>This will probably result in the introduction of new twin stream kerbside recycling collection service and change to three-weekly refuse collections, in conjunction with weekly food waste collection. The details are currently being signed off.</p> <p>So, there will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food waste – weekly• Recycling paper and card – every 3 weeks• Recycling other materials including glass – every 3 weeks• Refuse collection – every 3 weeks
Upgrade to Wattisfield Road Public Rights of Way Route finally signed off	<p>This is the retrospective sign off of the project to improve the off-road link between residential areas on Wattisfield Road and the street near Clarkes to the Sport Club. This will also allow easier access for the school. In its present condition, the route becomes muddy, slippery and inaccessible for pushchairs, wheelchairs and people with mobility issues during the winter months and after periods of heavy rain. The new surface will make the route fully accessible throughout the year.</p>
Bus service	<p><u>Temporary bus service</u></p>

The temporary service up to Dec 27th has been beset by service failures and lateness. Hopefully these will be resolved soon.

Bus service after Dec 27th

We have now collected the survey data from residents so at least we have some data on what residents actually want.

We now need to get Suffolk County Council on board to support a timetable that matches the requirements. This isn't going to be easy. There is further funding available but SCC are claiming it can't be used for existing routes which are deemed to be unprofitable.

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