

District Councillor Report: Walsham Le Willows

January 2025

Mandatory housing numbers	<p>The Government are now proposing new mandatory housing targets for each local authority area. It is now highly likely that there will need to be a process to revisit the current housing numbers for each town / village in the district. Further information to follow soon.</p>
Potential new Local Government reform	<p>On Dec 16th 2024, the Local Government White Paper was published confirming the intention to have a single mayoral authority for Norfolk and Suffolk with an elected mayor. District Councils will be abolished and replaced with unitary authorities (with combined powers of a county and district council) The exact structure of unitary authorities in a given geography was not defined.</p>
Recent CIL awards	<p>£500k for sports and wellbeing facilities in Stowmarket.</p> <p>£188k to expand Thurston Community College.</p> <p>A further £6k will go to Network Rail to progress the next steps of the Thurston rail improvements and level crossing project.</p>
New jobs in the area	<p>There are quite a few new jobs being created in the Stowmarket area.</p> <p>Bauder LTD, which makes sustainable roofing, is building a warehouse on Stowmarket's Gateway 14 business development, creating 20 jobs.</p> <p>Assan Panel, which makes building materials, is opening a £45m plant, also at the Gateway 14 site, and will be looking to fill 100 "highly-skilled" jobs.</p> <p>Retailer The Range has already announced it is looking for 1,000 employees for its warehousing operation, also based at Gateway 14 on the outskirts of the town.</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c786926j947o</p>
New bridge at Stowmarket station	<p>This is a Greater Anglia project but is something the District Council has been lobbying for - news of a new footbridge at Stowmarket station.</p> <p>https://www.railadvent.co.uk/2024/12/new-design-of-modular-bridge-being-installed-at-suffolk-station.html</p>
Simonds Bus service	<p>We are still awaiting confirmation of the new timetable from Simonds but this is expected any day.</p>

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