

District Council Report for Battisford and Ringshall Ward

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

September 2026

Chalkeith Nature Reserve established in Barking Parish

The recently formed Needham Market-based charity Chalkeith Conservation have completed the purchase of a 20-acre site on the southern periphery of Needham Market. The site includes many established habitat including woodland, scrub, ancient hedgerows and chalk grassland that is particularly uncommon for this part of Suffolk. The charity will seek to enhance the chalk grassland habitat whilst maintaining it as a place for local residents to enjoy. There will be public engagement events and volunteering opportunities in the coming months. The project was supported by the Mid Suffolk Community Nature Recovery Grant.

Local Affordable Housing for Local People

MSDC Cabinet has agreed to introduce a 'Parish Connection Priority' for new affordable and socially rented homes secured through S106 agreements. This means residents that have grown up in or lived in a village will now be given priority when waiting for a home, and help them remain close to their support network. The local connection priority will be balanced against housing need.

Financial Assistance for Heat Pumps

Households seeking to convert older oil or gas heating with heat pump systems can now apply for a grant of up to £9,000. Air source heat pumps typically use three to four times less energy than a traditional gas or oil boiler to heat a home and produce fewer emissions. Residents of Suffolk can check their eligibility and register their interest on the Switch Together website.

'The Big Conversation' – A chance to fix social care challenges

Mid Suffolk District Council urges people to have their say in fixing adult social care. This follows the landmark review from the 'Casey Commission'. You can take part using this link:

<https://caseycommission.co.uk/bigconversation/>

Derelict Fisons Site in Bramford

MSDC has stepped in to install CCTV to deter anti-social behaviour at the derelict Fisons site in Bramford. There have been several serious fire and vandalism incidents over many years. The site owners, Paper Mill Lane Properties are responsible for the security, but MSDC decided to act themselves whilst exploring future options for the site with the owners. Unfortunately, the planning permission for redevelopment of this site has now lapsed and its future is uncertain.

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