



Changes to Bin Collections & New Weekly Food Waste Collections

From 2026 Mid Suffolk District Council will introduce an increased recycling scheme. People will be able to recycle more items in their existing household recycling bin, including glass and cartons such as Tetra Pak.

This additional recycling, combined with new weekly food waste collections, will have a significant impact on recycling rates, allowing over 58% of the waste that residents currently have to put in their black rubbish bin to be recycled instead.



A separate bin, box or bag will be provided for paper and cardboard. This separation, known in the waste industry as 'twin-stream collections', would ensure this isn't affected by other items in the bin, improving its recycling value and quality.

Unusable or expired items that residents will also be able to put in their food waste bin, include:

- leftovers
- meat, fish, and bones
- tea bags and coffee grounds
- bread, pasta and rice
- eggshells and dairy products
- fruit and veg peelings

This reduced amount of general rubbish, in particular food items which are most likely to cause bins to smell, means the councils will move to more cost-effective three-weekly rubbish bin collections from 2026.

Current Bin Collection

Collection Calendar	Week 1	Week 2
Refuse		
Recycling		
Garden		

New Bin Collection

Collection Calendar	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3
Refuse			
Recycling			
Food			
Garden			



The Community Gardens Project is now live!

There has been a desire for some areas of land owned by Mid Suffolk District Council to be used as a community space, for wildlife, ornament or food production. The Community Garden Project has been set up to achieve this and also formalise any spaces that are already being used by others, in hopes that this will increase biodiversity.

There are some concerns regarding the project, which include viability (will support dwindle leaving areas unmanaged), suitability (visibility, local use and conditions), responsibility (the person(s) needs to be fully responsible of the area). Once the space has been allocated to avoid any confusion, conflict and limitations on what can be done within a space, Mid Suffolk District Council will have no responsibility in managing the area.

For more information contact Mid Suffolk District Council directly.

Project Updates



Stowmarket Town Council

Stowmarket Town Council Staff, Councillors and Volunteers planted over 2000 crocus bulbs at the Crown Street roundabout. These flowers will bloom from late winter to early Spring. Next October, Stowmarket Town Council plan to plant more bulbs there to further improve the area.

On Tuesday, December 3rd, six mature trees will be planted at the Recreation Ground as part annual Community Tree Planting Day, with the Volunteers of Stowmarket helping the Town Council staff.

Planning has commenced for the 2025 environmental events, which includes Keep Stowmarket Tidy Week and Team Up to Clean Up, both scheduled for early April, as well as the second Stowmarket Go Green Go Wild event, following the success of the first one last year.





Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC)

Mid Suffolk District Council have now completed all meadow management cutting, there are no plans to cut again until Spring 2025. As part of the scattered orchard scheme, Mid Suffolk District Council are to replace any trees that have been damaged before Christmas.

Pickerel Project

The Pickerel Project volunteer numbers are growing, this has allowed for numbers to split in to multiple groups to focus on several concerns; including litterpicking, maintenance and accessibility along the footpath. Recently boardwalks were repaired using Councillor Keith Welhams Locality Fund.



Rattlesden River Valley Network

Amateur moth enthusiasts observing and recording moths in the Rattlesden River Valley have recorded lower numbers in 2024, however the diversity of species has increased from previous years. They believe this is due to rainfall and climate change.

The team have reported an inaccessible footpath (no.22) along the river to The Public Rights of Way team, unfortunately the reply was that there is no budget available to fix this, the network are trying hard to maintain the path themselves.

Stow Stories

Stow Stories is now in the digital phase, with hopes that this will be able to go live in December 2024.

Suffolk Tree Wardens

Land owner tree pack applications are still open and receiving applications.

Suffolk Tree Wardens urge the public to report any trees associated with housing and business development tree planting projects in the area that seem unhealthy. They will reach out to the developers, who will ensure the trees are replaced in the following season.



Red Gables



Focusing on accessibility towards Red Gables, Volunteers of Stowmarket (VOS) have been working with Town Rangers along Hollingsworth Road and Lockington Road. The next step is to add raised beds along Lockington Road which Volunteers of Stowmarket will maintain. VOS are dedicated and passionate, really taking pride in their town.

Red Gables are looking forward to ensuring Stowmarket Christmas Fayre is as eco friendly as possible, using bio degradable cups, reducing soft plastics and encouraging the charities taking part to do the same.

They sponsored the 'Environment & Heritage Champion Award' at Stowmarket Town Awards 2024, where Colin Lay was privileged to present Judith Thompson with the award.



Stowmarket Eco Future Group



The 'Green Your Eats' recipe book is now available, copies can be found in many locations within the town centre, such as The Mix, The John Peel Centre, Doctors surgeries, Community Centre. The recipe book encourages the reader to explore plant based eating, using leftovers and reducing food waste.

Stowmarket Eco Future Group are welcoming new members to the Climate Cafe. The Cafe offers a chance to meet with like-minded people and share information and ideas, and some of the feelings we have around climate change. The next one taking place on:

- Wednesday 16th October from 7:30pm at John Peel Centre, Market Place.



Food Museum

The Food Museum have made improvements to their Orchard Areas, undertaking a massive deweed and mulching using the sheared sheep wool. They've also been building connections with Suffolk Traditional Orchard Group, offering grafting and pruning workshops to train the next generation of orchard enthusiasts.

Next Meeting

Wednesday 12th February 2025 at 7pm, via Microsoft Teams

For more information about the Stowmarket Environment Forum please contact us on 01449 612060 or email communities@stowmarket.org