



Redgrave Parish Council Email Bulletin

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May 2026

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting (APM) took place on 5th May. We welcomed three guest speakers. The first talk was a joint presentation by Robert Hobbs, Corporate Manager, Strategic Planning, and Nikita Goodrich, Planning Officer, at Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils. Their presentation covered the development of the new Joint Local Plan, progress on the ongoing Call for Sites (including the responses relating to Redgrave), Neighbourhood Development Plans (including indicative housing requirements), and the current planning decision-making process. There are currently 8 Call for Sites identified in Redgrave and it was made clear that the village would be offered the opportunity to comment on these after the initial assessment has been completed by District Council staff later this year (see also later item on the Call for Sites under the Neighbourhood Plan Review).

The second talk was from Andy Lawrence, Secretary of the Redgrave Community Society Ltd (RCS), which oversees our village pub, The Cross Keys. As many residents will know, the pub is community-owned and is currently leased to Stephen Larder, who manages the day-to-day operation and pays rent to the Society. The Society, however, retains responsibility for maintaining the Grade II listed building - both a privilege and a significant financial commitment given the ongoing upkeep required. The Society currently has around 240 members and new members are always welcome. Andy emphasised that the long-term future of the pub as a community asset depends on continued local support, particularly through residents purchasing shares in the RCS. He also encouraged residents to speak with new arrivals to the village about becoming shareholders. More broadly, everyone in the village can help this vital asset to thrive by supporting it regularly - whether for drinks, meals or events. The latest RCS newsletter is attached to this bulletin.

Redgrave Neighbourhood Plan (RNP) Review

A meeting was held of the Neighbourhood Plan Review Steering Group on 9th April. Also present were a group of village residents acting as Locality Representatives and Andrea Long as consultant to the group. Most of the original Redgrave Neighbourhood Plan remains robust and requires only minor updates but the chapters on Housing and Environment require more substantial revision, to reflect changes since 2022 and to ensure alignment with current national and local policies. Regarding any future housing, the RNP principles are for small-scale proportionate development which reflect the character of the village, to be located

within or adjacent to the settlement boundary, with a preference for infill and well-integrated sites of appropriate scale and housing mix (especially smaller homes).

There are currently 8 'Call For Sites' identified in Redgrave. The Call For Sites process is an invitation from Mid Suffolk District Council to landowners, developers and community groups to suggest pieces of land that could, in theory, be suitable for future development. This helps Councils understand what land is potentially available to meet housing targets before they start to form proposals in their Local Plan as to where such development should be. The 8 Call for Sites identified in Redgrave are currently going through this process. This does not mean that development will take place. Each site will go through detailed assessment and there will be further publicity and consultation before any decisions are made. Further information on any of these potential sites will be published as part of this Review process. The Steering Group noted that the RNP must be in general conformity with the Mid Suffolk Local Plan and support delivery of strategic housing requirements.

Investment in Special Educational Needs

Suffolk County Council has recently secured £1.4m of Department for Education funding (to be match-funded) to build additional Ofsted approved accommodation for children with complex needs in Saxmundham. SCC and Unity Schools Partnership will open a new SEND school in Saxmundham for 126 students with severe learning difficulties. Also a new specialist school on Glastonbury Road in Bury will provide 90 places for students aged 14 to 19 with special educational needs and disabilities. This will be run by Eastern Education Group and funded by the Department for Education. The new school will become a centre of excellence and hub for SEND guidance, offering expertise to mainstream schools.

New Waste and Recycling System

Just a reminder that the new system for general waste and recycling commences on 1st June. There will be no change to the garden waste collection system. During May each household will receive a detailed information pack and new collection calendar from BMSDC. In the meantime further information and FAQs can be found here [Future changes to bin collections - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk](https://www.babergh.gov.uk/midsuffolk.gov.uk)

The BBC's 'The Repair Shop On The Road'

This programme is currently looking for meaningful objects at the heart of communities. The series seeks items that tell a powerful local story and represent a shared history, identity or moment in time for a village or community group. This could include historic objects linked to local heritage, items from community spaces such as village hall, sports clubs or places of workshop, objects tied to a local lost way of life or a landmark in need of specialist restoration. The programme is particularly interested in objects recognised or used by the wider community with stories that span generations and would benefit from expert restoration to bring them back to life. If selected the programme's craftspeople will travel to the local area to restore the item on site helping to preserve local history for future generations. If you are interested and have an item that fits the brief please contact Ricochet at repair@ricochet.co.uk with photos, a short description and why the object is important to the local community.

Changes to Employment Rights

Since February 2026, upgraded employment rights have begun to take effect. These changes are being introduced gradually across 2026 and 2027 giving employers time

to prepare and ensuring employees have clear information about their new rights. Whether you are an employer preparing for these changes or an employee wanting to understand your rights, you will find guidance on the new rights here [New employment rights: Guidance for businesses and workers](#)

Norwich to Tilbury National Grid Project

You can sign up to have a say during the Examination stage of this project, even if you have previously submitted feedback. You must register to engage in this stage. You can register to have your say here [Register to have your say about a national infrastructure project - National Infrastructure Planning](#) You must sign up before **15th May 2026**.

Planning Applications

We will list here any new planning applications because by the time they appear in the Parish magazine it is sometimes too late for comments. To find details of any application, go to the planning section of BMSDC website, link below, scroll down to the bottom of the page, enter the planning reference and press "search". [Simple Search \(babermidsuffolk.gov.uk\)](#)

DC/26/01703 - Dennis Farmhouse, Half Moon Lane. Conversion of garage and workshop to home office and gym. Comments by 19th May.

Andy Warnes
Chairperson, Redgrave Parish Council

This bulletin is published in addition to the minutes of Parish Council meetings. Full minutes are available on the Parish Council noticeboard, website and Facebook pages and a summary report is published in the Parish Magazine. Minutes, bulletins and lots of other useful information about Redgrave can also be found at [Welcome to Redgrave » Redgrave Village \(onesuffolk.net\)](#)