

**SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT FOR
GREAT WALDINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
9th MARCH 2026.**

Hope this finds you well. Please find below the latest news from the County Council:

Council Elections to take place on 7 May 2026

Following the legal challenge by Reform UK, HM Government has now confirmed elections for the County Council will take place in May, and there will be no postponement for capacity reasons, as requested by the Conservative Administration at Suffolk County Council.

Arrangements for the election will be announced in March and April in respect of polling stations and other matters of election management.

County Council Tax to Rise by 4.99%

On Thursday, Full Council voted to raise the County Council's share of council tax by This decision raises the tax for a Band D property by £82.26 per annum, bringing the annual payment to £1,731.69 from £1,649.43 with a 2.99% increase in the base and 2.00% in the Adult Social Care Precept. This is the maximum permitted under law without a referendum. This was supported by the Conservatives and all Lib Dems, Greens and Independents. Reform UK voted against and Labour abstained.

Reform UK proposed an alternative budget of a 4.00%, with a 2.00% increase in the base and 2.00% in the Adult Social Care Precept. This would have pumped £4.66 million back into the Suffolk high street, residents' savings accounts, helped residents to pay down debt or make contributions to our voluntary sector. Efficiency savings, confirmed by the Monitoring Officer and Responsible Finance Officer as legal, would have been made by reducing non-frontline personnel and reducing long levels of sick leave, where possible. This was unsuccessful with all other parties voting against.