

Appendix C – County Cllr. Penny Otton’s Report to Full Council –

- Cost of Living help and advice:
<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/family.page?familychannel=6>
- Benefits advice and support:
<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/adult.page?adultchannel=0>
- Flooding - Like everyone else this was probably the worst we have seen. The clean-up will now begin with SCC and Mid Suffolk cleaning the roads and debris. Thanks to all you helped those in trouble. I have sent details of how SCC is dealing with areas worst hit and how anyone effected can claim £500 to help the costs, There is also money available to help householders do work to prevent flooding in the future. I am working with Beyton about the flooding of Thurston road. My group are putting a motion to full council this month asking for more work and investment in flood prevention
- Flooding Investigations and Repairs - Following the recent Storm Babet flooding around the county, Suffolk County Council teams have pumped away 4.7m litres of water, cleared 8,412 drains of storm debris and removed over 100 trees blocking roads. In addition to this, as the lead local flood authority, Suffolk County Council has a duty to investigate the causes of flooding and take action to prevent future floods, and have announced that £1m will be spent on investigating the Storm Babet flooding and improving the county’s resilience for further storms and excess rainfall. Additionally, it will be administering the funding recently announced by the government whereby owners of flooded properties are able to apply for up to £5,000 to protect their homes and business from future flooding. Details of how to apply will be shared once they are known.
- Extra £10m Investment in Residential Roads - At Cabinet on Tuesday 7 November, we heard the details of the council’s additional £10m investment in resurfacing urban and residential roads, which was announced in May after the local elections. The council plans to use reporting of poor road surfacing on quieter residential roads and cul de sacs where residents live to plot a programme of repairs from now until the end of March 2025. My group also had a recent meeting with the council’s new contractor for highways to discuss how works would be undertaken in future. The council’s new highways contractor is called Milestone, and the new contract began on 1 October 2023.
- Fishwick Corner - following the last accident I have contacted West Suffolk Police and have received some accident data and waiting for further info. These have been sent to highways to support our case for instant safety measures.
- Yellow Lines - I have chased this up
- A14 Slip Road – met with SCC Highways and Beyton PC to see if there can be a STOP sign rather than give way. There have been several accidents there.
- Gritting: important to report any missed roads
- Network Rail - Steve Merry has handed over the traffic survey to Andrew Bramwell. I have stress that this must be done at the busiest time and not when TCC is on holiday
- New Highways Contract for Suffolk Roads - At Scrutiny Committee on 23 November my group had the opportunity to examine the new Highways contract with Milestone, which began on 1 October 2023. The contract promises better communication with councillors and Suffolk residents and contains incentives for the new contractor to work efficiently – for example, undertaking other works needed in the same geographical area when they are called out. The committee agreed to review the performance of the contract in 12 months.
- Suffolk Adult Care Rated Good - Suffolk County Council’s adult social services were inspected by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in August and September, and the judgement is that services are good. Areas for improvement included equity in experiences and outcomes, and gaps in dementia and nursing care provision. Delays in getting through to the Customer First phonenumber – the main first point of contact for social care – were also highlighted for improvement.
- VERY BEST WISHES FOR 2024 AND WISHING YOU ALL A HAPPY CHRISTMAS

Appendix D - District Cllr's Report to Full Council – Cllrs. David Bradbury and Austin Davies

- MSDC Meeting - Mid Suffolk District Council meeting held in November and the BMSDC Joint Local Development Scheme and BMSDC Joint Local Plan was passed. This sets out the planning policy for the District. Joint Local Plan, Part 2 which included the settlement boundaries for all our towns and villages, is being prepared.
- MSDC has launched its 'cozy homes' initiative which makes insulation available to appropriate households in our District. It is for:
 - Residents of Mid Suffolk: Whether you are a private tenant, a homeowner, or a landlord with fewer than five properties, this scheme is for you.
 - Financial Criteria: Your household income should be less than £60,000 per year, with savings not exceeding £16,000.
 - EPC Rating: Your home should have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating between D and G.
 - Council Tax Banding: Your property should fall within council tax bands A to E.It covers loft insulation (including loft clearance), cavity wall insulation, draft proofing and possibly also other forms of insulation where appropriate.
- Planning - MSDC legal challenge to the Planning Inspectors decision to approve the Gladman application will be heard in the New Year. Supported the application for a new telco mast in Tostock (Ticehurst area).
- Network Rail - Thurston Parish Council's view on level of District CIL to be committed has been passed to the MSDC Cabinet. Final report due by the end of November (not arrived yet).
- Thurston Community College - The fitness suite should be available for community use.
- 20's Plenty - David attended a 20s Plenty seminar. Plenty of useful information is available that will allow villages to request lower speed limits – for example, speed surveys should not be required these days as SCC has access to the "connected vehicle data" which shows the speeds for all roads in a parish also any new residential developments could be requested to have a 20mph limit applied as a condition of planning.
- A14 - Continuing to support the Tostock campaign to have the village speed limit further along Church Road and additional restrictions in Norton.
- Locality grants - We would welcome applications, particularly from Tostock and Stowlangtoft Parishes.

Briefing Note for town and parish councils – from Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils

- [Blueprint for districts' development adopted by councils](#) - Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have formally adopted their Joint Local Plan - the blueprint for the districts' future development until 2037.
- [New unit for The Range completed at Gateway 14](#) - A new 1.17 million square foot warehouse unveiled in Stowmarket.
- [Free insulation upgrades in new £2m Mid Suffolk initiative](#) - Hundreds of people could qualify for free home insulation upgrades under the council's new £2million initiative.
- [Extra £1.6m set for council home repairs and improvements](#) - Additional funds will help clear backlog of work which mounted during Covid pandemic.
- [Financial aid for flood-affected properties in Suffolk](#) - Financial support is going out to residents whose properties flooded during Storm Babet.
- [£1.4m to tackle criminal exploitation in Suffolk](#) - Suffolk Public Sector Leaders have awarded £1.4m in funding to the Safer Stronger Communities Board to tackle criminal exploitation in the county.

Appendix C and D – Minutes of 06.12.2023

- [Council urges green energy developers to listen to communities](#) - Mid Suffolk District Council is urging developers to listen to the concerns of local communities.
- [Time to make our listed buildings ready for the future?](#) - Consultation into new measures which would streamline sensitive energy efficiency upgrades.
- [Call for land to support nature recovery](#) - Both Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are calling on local landowners to help them increase the districts' tree coverage and improve biodiversity.
- [Councils launch new winter grant to tackle social isolation](#) - The councils have launched a new grant to help communities this winter.
- [Postal and proxy voting changes](#) - Changes to postal and proxy voting came into force on 31 October 2023, and will apply to all elections in England.
- [Residents have their say over potential boundary changes](#) - Mid Suffolk District Council is carrying out a community governance review. The council has been asked to consider possible changes with electoral arrangements for Onehouse and Stowmarket, and Battisford and Combs. **NB: The consultation period has now been extended to January 10.**