

## **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT NOVEMBER 2023**

Households and businesses that suffered internal flooding between 19 - 25 October 2023 due to Storm Babet may be eligible for:

- A grant (£500 for homes and £2,500 per business) to assist with initial recovery costs.
- Households and businesses that suffered internal flooding between 19 -25 October due to Storm Babet may be eligible for 100% discount to council tax / business rates for a minimum of 3 months.
- Flooded property owners will also be able to apply for up to £5,000 to help make their homes and businesses more resilient to future flooding. Suffolk County Council is working to set this scheme up at the earliest opportunity, but it is not currently available.

Suffolk County Council is working in partnership with Babergh and Mid-Suffolk, East Suffolk, Ipswich and West Suffolk councils to ensure these discounts and payments start during November.

Reporting your flood damage is the first step to receiving a potential payout.

If you have experienced flooding to your property as a result of Storm Babet, you need to:

1. Visit: <https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk>
2. Click on: 'Report It'
3. Then click: 'Drainage and Flooding'
4. Then click: 'Flooding inside residential / non-residential property'
5. Please include as much information as you have, there is also an option to upload photos.
6. Once your report has been submitted, Suffolk County Council officers will contact you to gather further information and prioritise those locations that meet the criteria for an official investigation.
7. Someone from the district or borough council will then contact you to arrange payment, if eligible.

For those who aren't able to submit their report online, please call 0345 606 6171.

## **Flood Action Week: 20-26 November**

On 20 November, the Environment Agency (EA) will launch this year's Flood Action Week which is taking place until 26 November.

It aims to increase awareness of the risk of flooding and flood preparations, as knowing what to do in a flood can significantly reduce the impact of flooding.

There are three main themes for the public:

- The impact of climate change and the importance of knowing your flood risk
- Sign-up to flood warnings and know what to do when it floods
- Build longer term flood resilience with a focus on protecting your home through property flood resilience

The EA has produced [a Dropbox toolkit to help councils amplify the message](#). Councils are encouraged to post content on their social media channels during Flood Action Week.

Councils are also encouraged to follow EA's social media accounts listed in the toolkit and engage with the content throughout the week.

If you have any questions, please contact: [FCERMCommunications@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:FCERMCommunications@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Prepare for flooding guide:  
<https://www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding>

Statics:  
<https://we.tl/t-OLDO1C2SZP>

Videos:

<https://we.tl/t-sxVPPnlfv7>

Other content (including article, headers, email signature, posters): <https://we.tl/t-OulHonmppt>

## **CIL Boost for Communities**

Town and parish councils in Babergh and Mid Suffolk received more than £1.3 million in developer contributions last month. Of this £1,028,795.26 will be allocated to 40 town and parish councils in Mid Suffolk. These neighbourhood CIL awards are in addition to the £15m of CIL funding given to specific community projects across the districts since 2018.

## **Community Climate Action Roadshows**

Six of these events have recently been held, in Hadleigh, Subdbury, Holbrook in Babergh and Stowmarket, Eye and Bramford in Mid Suffolk. Over 270 residents popped by to chat to our councils, local groups and organisations about climate action tips, initiatives and opportunities in their area. I dropped in on the event at Bramford Village Hall on 28<sup>th</sup> October and the event appeared to be well-attended with numerous stalls and interested members of the public.

## **Pride in Your Place**

The deadline for MSDC's 'Pride in Your Place' grant has been extended. Towns and parishes across the district now have a further month to apply, with the deadline extended to November 30. Sarah-Jane Hatt from Community Funding has the details. An application form can also be found on the Council's website.

## **Safe Suffolk Renters**

This is an initiative to support private sector tenants, landlords and other stakeholders. Five Suffolk councils working as Suffolk Housing Board achieved £2.2m of Government funding. The project is already speaking with key stakeholders and staged a landmark conference for private sector landlords at the University of Suffolk in Ipswich on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

## **Councils set out commitment to increase EV chargers**

At a cabinet meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, councillors voted to approve a draft plan which describes their ambition to increase EV chargers. Thanks to a grant from the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles the councils are currently installing almost 30 new EV charge points across the districts. The plan looks at the current provision and identifies where more charge points may be required in future. This information will support councils when applying for external funding. It is hoped that this future infrastructure will help to lower emissions and improve air quality in line with the council's net zero emissions targets.

## **Have your say on polling arrangements**

People are invited to give their views on polling arrangements during the latest 'Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations' consultation which closes on Thursday 30 November 2023.

Arthur Charvonia, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Chief Executive and Returning Officer, said

"It's important for democracy that polling stations meet the needs of all voters who choose to vote in person. If residents have any views or have experienced anything which they think could be improved, I urge them to let us know."

The consultation will also include town, parish, district and county councillors, MPs and political parties that are active in either district.

There is an online feedback form on the council's webpage or people can email [elections@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:elections@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk) or write to

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils  
Electoral Services  
Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road,  
Ipswich, IP12 2BX.

The webpage also includes a full list of polling districts, places and stations in Babergh and Mid Suffolk.

*Adrienne Marriott*  
*Blakenham District Councillor*  
*20/11/23*