**Parish Report – November 2023**

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**Storm Babet**

Hugh Thank You to all those who have helped their neighbours or strangers during the impacts of the storm, my sympathy to everyone who has been flooded or suffered damage.

Mid Suffolk are applying for additional financial support for homes and business effected by the storm from the additional government support announced.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-support-for-flood-hit-areas>

• Flooded households in affected areas can apply for up to £500 to give cash quickly to help with immediate costs.

• Households and businesses significantly affected by recent flooding will be eligible for 100% council tax and business rates relief for at least three months.

• Small-to-medium sized businesses in affected areas will be eligible for up to £2,500 from the Business Recovery Grant to help them return quickly to business as usual.

• Eligible flood-hit property owners will be able to apply for up to £5,000 to help make their homes and businesses more resilient to future flooding via the Property Flood Resilience Repair Grant Scheme.

Please encourage all those affected to report on the Mid Suffolk or County websites

**Corporate Plan Refresh**

I would like to remind everyone that there is still time for people to have their say on the council’s future direction and priorities. We have outlined the administration’s draft priorities, but want feedback from the community – are these priorities right, what else could we do, what have we missed?

The survey is live until the 15th November.

**Free net zero advice**

We’re pleased to have partnered with Groundwork East to deliver free, impartial, expert advice to help businesses and organisations save energy, reduce their emissions and establish tailored decarbonisation plans.

This new Net Zero Business Advice Service will provide free support to help businesses, the voluntary sector and other organisations understand their greenhouse gas emissions, set a plan to reduce these and access grant funding to implement carbon reduction actions.

More information about Net Zero Business Advice can be found on our website.

**Safer Suffolk Renters**

This new initiative aims to improve life for landlords and tenants in the private rented sector. We are joining forces with Suffolk’s other district and borough councils to deliver this ground-breaking project.

‘Safe Suffolk Renters’ is designed to create a better understanding of the pressures and problems in the sector, and to improve standards - particularly in the worst private rented homes in the area. To achieve this, the project team will consult widely with tenants, landlords and stakeholders in the county.

A conference taking place at the University of Suffolk in Ipswich on 3rd November is free for any landlord to attend. Details are also available on our website. Similar conferences for tenants and stakeholders will follow.

**Cosy Homes insulation project**

In the last budget it was agreed, to set aside £2 million for insulation and other home energy saving measures. Officers have been working hard to design the scheme, and I am pleased to say that we will be launching this initiative, called “Cosy Homes” next month.