# **Parish Report –December 2024**

# **Councillor**

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**THE SHELF; ( SPORT HEALTH EDUCATION LEISURE) the plans for the health and well being site at Chilton fields Stowmarket including the details of the CIL bid have been sent to all relevant councillors and am sending to you for your info**

**SUFFOLK LIBRARIES; as yest still no decision on the new contract.**

**FREE HEALTH CHECKS; details sent to clerk.**

**DEVOLUTION; council leaders discussing possible change to Suffolk local government in line with current government , including abolishing of districts and boroughs and creating new unitary authorities and a directly elected mayor. Still much to be decided.**

**RAILINGS AT BOTTOM GEDDING HILL; pleased to see now repaired, should they be painted?**

**Loft Insulation Offer for Suffolk Residents**

For the second year running, Suffolk’s Public Sector Leaders are providing funding to help Suffolk residents make their homes warmer and save money on their energy bills by providing discounted loft insulation - The Suffolk Loft Insulation Offer enables homeowners in Suffolk to receive a 50% discount (up to £200) and free delivery on orders of 200mm or 370mm wide eco-friendly thermal insulation rolls from High Loft, the UK's leading eco loft insulation brand. Last year, the project enabled the insulation of over 5,000m² of roofs in Suffolk, and this year the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership wants to double that figure. The offer is open to anyone in Suffolk and will only close once the allocated funding has been spent. Visit <https://highloft.co.uk/pages/suffolk-council-200-loft-insulation-contribution> and fill in the form to receive your discount code.

**More Home Energy Efficiency Schemes**

The council’s new £3m fund for interest-free loans to residents wishing to undertake home energy efficiency upgrades that was mentioned in last month’s parish report is now active, and applications can now be made at <https://www.lendology.org.uk/warm-home-suffolk-loan>. Energy efficiency upgrades such as insulation, solar panels, batteries, glazing, or heat pumps are possible with loans from £2,000 to £15,000 to be repaid over a maximum of seven years at 0% interest.

A Suffolk Retrofit Assessment Voucher Scheme is also launching, funded by Suffolk Public Sector Leaders, whereby homeowners in Suffolk will be able to apply for a voucher that covers the cost of a professional retrofit assessment on their home property. Residents who own a home with an EPC band of below C can take up the offer of a voucher to claim an assessment from a PAS 2035 Retrofit Assessor who will identify the best measures for their home, for example insulation, draft proofing, ventilation repairs, low carbon heating or solar panels. The assessment report will also incorporate analysis of the cost vs benefit of implementing the suggested improvements. The assessment is free for those with properties smaller than 98m2, with a maximum additional charge of £30 for larger properties bigger.

Homeowners can check to see if their property has an existing Energy Certificate with an EPC band and record of their property size at [gov.uk/find-energy-certificate](https://www.gov.uk/find-energy-certificate). They can apply for the vouchers by visiting [suffolkenergyassessment.co.uk](http://www.suffolkenergyassessment.co.uk). Applications are open now, and vouchers will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Council Budget Consultation**

Suffolk County Council has launched a public consultation prior to decisions on the budget for the next financial year, 2025-26, which are due to be made in the next few months. This is an opportunity for residents and businesses to share their views on proposed Council Tax changes and spending priorities, as well as giving information on how the council manages its finances, the cost-saving measures already in place, and how the council might generate more money to support essential services. The council can increase its budget in two main ways: by receiving more funding from the government or by increasing Council Tax. The survey asks residents which council services they use and to indicate which council services they consider most important to them. The consultation will close on Monday 16 December, and if you want to participate, visit [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/2025\_26\_budget](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/2025_26_budget). The results of the consultation will be included in a final report when the council sets its budget is set in February 2025.

VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY 2025

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**Website** - [Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group – The GLI Group at Suffolk County Council (suffolkgli.wordpress.com)](https://suffolkgli.wordpress.com/)

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>

Flood preparation advice: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/suffolk-fire-and-rescue-service/fire-and-rescue-safety-advice-in-the-community/preparing-for-flooding>

Flood recovery advice and support: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/about/flood-recovery-information-for-suffolk>