

## Mid Suffolk District Councillor's Report – Occold Parish Council, November 6<sup>th</sup> 2023

<p>Flooding</p>	<p>After Storm Babet and Storm Ciaran, the Council has been working hard to help residents in affected homes and businesses. This has included organising the removal of flood damaged items, and helping people to find temporary housing if needed.</p> <p><b>Reporting flooded homes:</b> Householders are urged to report flood damage via Suffolk County Council's reporting tool <a href="https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/">https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/</a> (To make a report: select 'Drainage and Flooding', and then 'Flooding inside a residential property' or 'Flooding inside a commercial business.')</p> <p><b>Flood recovery:</b> The Government has announced financial support for flooded homes and businesses. We are waiting for further details and will share information on how to apply as soon as we can. Please see: <a href="https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/storm-babet-information">https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/storm-babet-information</a>.</p> <p>For other flood recovery information, see the County Council page: <a href="https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/about/flood-recovery-information-for-suffolk">https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/about/flood-recovery-information-for-suffolk</a></p>
<p>Solar and low carbon energy</p>	<p>A 'position statement' on low carbon energy was agreed at Mid Suffolk's Council meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> October. In absence of Government policy, the Council cannot make planning policy regarding renewable energy such as solar farms or solar PV on roof-tops. We can only provide this statement of intent that sets out how we wish to see developments proceed.</p> <p>In January next year we expect to produce a full Supplementary Planning Document on this, which takes longer to put together as it has to be consulted on and provide relevant evidence.</p>
<p>Sustainable transport</p>	<p>At the same meeting it was agreed to form a working group to review sustainable integrated transport in the district – particularly for walking and cycling. The working group will support the work of Council officers on 'active travel' projects in the district.</p>
<p>Cosy Homes launch</p>	<p>The <i>Cosy Homes</i> initiative is being launched on 15<sup>th</sup> November. Eligible households will be able to apply for energy efficiency measures in their own homes (including privately rented). Full details available soon. Particularly vulnerable households can continue to access grants for insulation and other measures through the Suffolk-wide scheme, <a href="http://www.warmhomesuffolk.org">www.warmhomesuffolk.org</a></p>
<p>Council housing repairs</p>	<p>The new Administration is focussing on the backlog of housing repairs; this will be dealt with via a separate contractor, allowing the in-house team to concentrate on day-to-day repairs.</p>
	<p>Mid Suffolk District Council has set out planned priorities for the District, outlining what we'd like to do and how we'd like to work with residents. As part of this, we have launched a <u>consultation process</u> giving residents the opportunity to have your say about our initial ideas.</p> <p>We hope to hear from as many people as possible, including some groups that seldom get involved - as well as businesses and Town and Parish Councils. The <b>consultation ends Nov 15 2023</b>. The link to the survey and the outline of priorities can be found at: <a href="https://babberghandmidsuffolk.citizenlab.co/en-GB/projects/setting-the-future-direction-of-your-councils">https://babberghandmidsuffolk.citizenlab.co/en-GB/projects/setting-the-future-direction-of-your-councils</a></p>
<p>First 'State of the District' Report</p>	<p>Mid Suffolk has produced its first State of the District Report, with data and insights on a range of issues including health, wellbeing, education, the economy and environment. The report can be found at the same website link, above.</p>
<p>Pride In Your Place grant - extended</p>	<p>The deadline for the Pride In Your Place award has been extended for an additional month (to end-November). Grants of £250-£400 (depending on community size) are available to support small projects to improve our communities.</p> <p>For full details of this and other grants, see: <a href="https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/web/mid-suffolk/w/mid-suffolk-district-council-funding">https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/web/mid-suffolk/w/mid-suffolk-district-council-funding</a></p>