



District Councillor Report: Walsham Le Willows Parish Council

November 2023

Flooding	<p>After Storm Babet, the Council has been working hard to help residents in affected homes and businesses.</p> <p>Householders are being urged to report flood damage via Suffolk County Council's reporting tool.</p> <p>The government has announced some financial support and we are waiting to see how this can be distributed.</p> <p>Mid Suffolk District Council will be reviewing their processes that are currently in place for dealing with this type of emergency situation.</p> <p>Affected businesses should also contact Mid Suffolk to register for support. Please visit www.midsuffolk.gov.uk for full details.</p>
Solar farms	<p>At Mid Suffolk's Council meeting on 26th October, a position statement on Solar Farms was agreed.</p> <p>This stated that solar farms should not be based on prime agricultural land and the landscape impact on our communities needed to be taken into account.</p> <p>In the absence of clear 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 a statement of intent in terms of how we wish to see developments proceed. 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>
Sustainable transport	<p>At the Council meeting it was also agreed to form a working group to review sustainable integrated transport in the district – particularly for walking and cycling. It is hoped to review this in relation to commencing schemes in villages in the district.</p>
	<p>The Cosy Homes initiative is being launched on 15th November. Eligible households will be able to apply for energy efficiency measures in their own homes, including if privately rented. <i>This insulation assistance will be free of charge to the resident.</i></p> <p>Full details to be available soon.</p> <p>Our message is helping people to save energy, save money and reduce their carbon footprint.</p> <p>Particularly vulnerable households can continue to access this via the wider Suffolk scheme, www.warmhomessuffolk.org</p>

<p>Council Housing</p>	<p>At the moment we provide a very poor level of service for maintaining our housing stock and have a very low level of tenant satisfaction.</p> <p>The new Administration at Mid Suffolk is focussing on the backlog of housing repairs that are needed. This backlog will be dealt with via a separate contractor allowing the in-house team to concentrate on day-to-day repairs.</p> <p>We are also investing heavily in the repairs and maintenance service for our Council stock.</p> <p>We have engaged external partners to monitor our service moving forward.</p>
<p>Homelessness strategy</p>	<p>Our vision is that rough sleeping is rare, brief and non-recurring and that homelessness is routinely prevented through early and upstream intervention.</p> <p>We are carrying out a general review of our service which will be validated by Shelter to ensure we are offering the best service possible.</p> <p>We use our own temporary accommodation, so we don't have the cost issues for hotels etc. that a lot of other local authorities have.</p>
	<p>Mid Suffolk District Council's consultation process to get residents' feedback on the planned priorities for the District is still in progress. We are hoping to engage with as wide a section of the district as possible, including some groups which seldom get involved, as well as businesses and Town and Parish Councils. There is an online survey gives you the opportunity to have your say about our initial ideas – see link below.</p> <p>https://baberghandmidsuffolk.citizenlab.co/en-GB/projects/setting-the-future-direction-of-your-councils</p>

Cllr Richard Winch
richard.winch@midsuffolk.gov.uk
07931 709486