

# Parish Report – DEC 2023

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**Councillor**  
Penny Otton  
Thedwastre South

## **FLOODING!!!**

**Like everyone else this was probably the worst we have seen. The clean up will now begin with SCC and Midsuffolk cleaning the roads and debris. Thanks to all you helped those in trouble.**

**I have sent details of how SCC is dealing with areas worst hit ,and how anyone effected can claim £500 to help the costs, There is also money available to help householders do work to prevent flooding in the future**

**There will now be a review of areas where if work had been done the problem may not have been so bad. I have sent details of the problem for the resident on Chapel Lane**

**My group are putting a motion to full council this month asking for more work and investment in flood prevention**

## **Flooding Investigations and Repairs**

Following the recent Storm Babet flooding around the county, Suffolk County Council teams have pumped away 4.7m litres of water, cleared 8,412 drains of storm debris and removed over 100 trees blocking roads. In addition to this, as the lead local flood authority, Suffolk County Council has a duty to investigate the causes of flooding and take action to prevent future floods, and have announced that £1m will be spent on investigating the Storm Babet flooding and improving the county's resilience for further storms and excess rainfall. Additionally, it will be administering the funding recently announced by the government whereby owners of flooded properties are able to apply for up to £5,000 to protect their homes and business from future flooding. Details of how to apply will be shared once they are known..

## **Extra £10m Investment in Residential Roads**

At Cabinet on Tuesday 7 November, we heard the details of the council's additional £10m investment in resurfacing urban and residential roads, which was announced in May after the local elections. The council plans to use reporting of poor road surfacing on quieter residential roads and cul de sacs where residents live to plot a programme of repairs from now until the end of March 2025. My group also had a recent meeting with the council's new contractor for highways to discuss how works would be undertaken in future. The council's new highways contractor is called Milestone, and the new contract began on 1 October 2023.

**EXTRA FUNDS FOR ROAD SIGNS; I now have an extra £3000 for replacing road signs and other highways issues.**

## **Budget Monitoring**

Cabinet reviewed the quarter two monitoring report for the council budget at Cabinet on Tuesday 7 November, with a net overspend of £11.4m now predicted for 2023-24. Budget pressures for the year include placements for children in care, special educational needs (SEND) and adult care. the council has predicted £7m more in business rate income than forecasted, and £10m of income is expected from the Energy from Waste facility at Great Blakenham from selling energy back to the National Grid.

## **Libraries Consultation**

The council is consulting on the new library service for the county as the contract with the current provider ends in May 2025. A consultation has been launched to gather views from residents about what they value about the current service and what they think should be developed, especially in terms of outreach and mobile libraries used in the county. If you would like to share your views, you can access the consultation at the following link: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/LibraryConsultation>

[I have paper copies if needed by anyone unable to use the online survey](#)

## **New Highways Contract for Suffolk Roads**

At Scrutiny Committee on 23 November my group had the opportunity to examine the new Highways contract with Milestone, which began on 1 October 2023. The contract promises better communication with councillors and Suffolk residents, and contains incentives for the new contractor to work efficiently – for example, undertaking other works needed in the same geographical area when they are called out. The committee agreed to review the performance of the contract in 12 months.

## **Suffolk Adult Care Rated Good**

Suffolk County Council's adult social services were inspected by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in August and September, and the judgement is that services are good,. Areas for improvement included equity in experiences and outcomes, and gaps in dementia and nursing care provision. Delays in getting through to the Customer First phonenumber – the main first point of contact for social care – were also highlighted for improvement.

VERY BEST WISHES FOR 2004 AND WISHING YOU ALL A HAPPY CHRISTMAS

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<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/family.page?familychannel=6>

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