

Appendix C – County Cllr. Penny Otton’s Report to Full Council –

- 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/what-to-do-in-a-flood>
- Flood recovery advice and support: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/about/flood-recovery-information-for-suffolk>
- Ixworth Road - Harry and I have been in touch to get the overgrown trees removed.
- Ixworth Road - am pleased street lights now working
- Rail Crossing - am staggered that the MP still not given a revised ate to meet. Have agreed the latest CIL BID but have asked if anyone has contacted SCC Steve Merry.
- Thurston Primary School Expansion - awaiting revised plans
- Thurston Community Library - have agreed £1,000 towards new chairs
- TCC - The DFE are meeting with Thurston PC on Wednesday at 6pm to discuss their plans. I was not invited neither was Pete Mumford. I may sit in.
- Devolution and the new Mayoral Authority for Norfolk and Suffolk - At Council on 2 October, Suffolk County Council voted to give the government their consent to create the Norfolk and Suffolk Combined Authority, which will be led by a mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk. Both Norfolk County Council and Suffolk County Council are involved in creating the new authority, which will have powers for the two counties including economic development, transport, skills and employment, public safety and housing and strategic planning. The authority will be led by the mayor, with four other members, two appointed by Suffolk County Council and two appointed by Norfolk County Council. As previously reported, the election of mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk will be held on Thursday 7 May 2026.
- Get Suffolk Working Plan - On 2 October, Cabinet voted to approve the draft Get Suffolk Working plan which was prepared by the council’s Skills team. This is the local version of the government’s Get Britain Working initiative and aims to support people of working age who are not currently working to get into employment and address barriers they may face to employment, for example poor health, lack of transport, low qualifications and digital exclusion. This programme is to provide tailored training, support and job placements and match people with suitable employers based on their preferences, strengths and previous work experience. Get Britain Working plans will become the responsibility of the mayor of Norfolk and Suffolk and the mayoral authority once in place, so Suffolk County Council is working with Norfolk County Council to make sure their plans are aligned. You can read more about the Connect to Work programme here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/jobs-and-careers/support-finding-employment/connect-to-work>
- Dental Services in Suffolk - At Health Scrutiny Committee on 8 October, colleagues from the NHS joined the meeting to update the committee on improving dental services in Suffolk. This is not a council service, and health partners from the two ICBs that cover the county (Suffolk and North East Essex, Norfolk and Waveney) ran through their progress to increase access to NHS dentists, increase the number of urgent appointments available and ensure that there are enough dental practices across the county. They are also undertaking outreach work on oral health and preventing issues with children and older adults. People who need a dentist appointment can contact NHS 111 to get one, as well as contacting dental practises directly.
- Recycling Centres Raise £500,000 for Charity - Re-use shops at Suffolk’s recycling centres at Bury St Edmunds and Foxhall have raised over half a million for local charity The Benjamin

Foundation, which operates the shops and provides families with childcare, mental health, youth and housing support. White goods play a key role, as The Benjamin Foundation repairs broken appliances and sells them on, which not only prolongs the life of the appliance, but also helps families access affordable household goods. The shop at Foxhall opened in 2016 and the one in Bury St Edmunds opened in 2020, and they have together repurposed over 4,200 tonnes of waste so far. Suffolk residents do not need to book a slot at the recycling centre to visit or donate to the shops.

- Budget Survey - The council has launched its annual budget survey where it asks Suffolk residents their opinions and priorities for how it should spend money in the 2026-2027 financial year. The first look at the new budget will be early January 2026, with councillors voting on the proposed budget in its February full council meeting. The consultation has been open since 14 October and will close on Tuesday 25 November, and can be accessed using this link: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/budget-council-tax-and-finance/the-budget-for-suffolk>

Appendix D - District Cllrs' Report to Full Council – Cllrs. David Bradbury & Harry Richardson

Report from Cllr. Bradbury – *due to a medical situation, no report is forthcoming for this month.*

Report from Cllr. Richardson -

- Call for Sites - Babergh, East Suffolk, Ipswich, and Mid Suffolk councils are beginning work on new Local Plans, which will guide future development, housing, employment, and infrastructure in their areas. As part of this, a 'Call for Sites' is now open, inviting landowners and others to submit land for possible inclusion in these plans. The submission period runs until 5pm on 9 January 2026 (15 December 2025 for Ipswich).
Submitting a site does not guarantee development; each proposal will be assessed and considered through public engagement before any decisions are made. The councils have coordinated their timetables, with Babergh and Mid Suffolk preparing a joint plan, East Suffolk replacing its previous plans, and Ipswich updating its 2022 plan. More details are available on each council's website.
- Local Listed Building Consent Order - Mid Suffolk has many listed properties, which often have poor energy efficiency due to features like single glazing. To help owners make improvements, Babergh and Mid Suffolk councils, with Historic England, have introduced a new Local Listed Building Consent Order—the first of its kind in a rural area. This order allows certain upgrades, such as installing secondary glazing or replacing windows in Grade II listed buildings, without needing individual consent, provided specific conditions are met. This change aims to make sensitive improvements easier and quicker, supporting both heritage and environmental goals.
- Older generation encouraged to get active - A campaign celebrating older people's fitness achievements is underway, running from 5 October (Silver Sunday) to 17 November. Stradbroke Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre and Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre in Stowmarket are encouraging older residents to participate in a variety of activities. The operator, Everyone Active, already sees over 20,000 senior attendances each month nationwide. Local members, like 91-year-old Maureen Cotton from Stradbroke, demonstrate the benefits of staying active—she attends two fitness classes weekly and can hold a two-minute plank. The campaign highlights how exercise can improve quality of life for seniors
- Reminder: Grant funding opportunities -Babergh and Mid Suffolk grants and funding team will be hosting a free funding summit on Thursday 6 November at Blackbourne Community Centre, Elmswell, from 9am to 2.30pm. The event will help community organisations access the funding

they need and is being delivered in partnership with Suffolk Community Foundation, Community Action Suffolk, Suffolk County Council and the National Lottery Community Fund.

November Briefing Note for town and parish councils – from Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils
Three councils for Suffolk business case submitted to the government

Plans to transform local services were agreed this week by Suffolk's district and borough councils, as well as cabinet members, and have been submitted to the Government.

Older generation encouraged to get active

This October and November, Mid Suffolk District Council's leisure provider, Everyone Active, is encouraging a greater number of over 60s to become physically and mentally active, with the launch of its Age is Just a Number campaign.

'A groundbreaking step forward' – Councils make listed building energy upgrades easier

A groundbreaking council initiative – one of the first of its kind in the country – will help owners of Grade II listed buildings make their homes more energy efficient.

Students debate climate issues at councils' second COP-style event

Ahead of global leaders gathering in Brazil for COP30 next month, students from schools across Suffolk have taken part in their own event to tackle real-world climate change issues.

Councils ask communities to identify potential development sites

Residents, developers, landowners, businesses and other organisations are being invited to submit locations which could be considered for planned future development.

Developer cash to support communities in Babergh and Mid Suffolk

Towns and parishes across Babergh and Mid Suffolk are set to receive more than £1m in developer contributions to help community infrastructure keep pace with housing growth.

Upcoming funding summit

The Babergh and Mid Suffolk grants and funding team is hosting a free funding summit on Thursday 6 November at Blackbourne Community Centre, Elmswell, from 9am to 2.30pm. The event will help community organisations access the funding they need and is being delivered in partnership with Suffolk Community Foundation, Community Action Suffolk, Suffolk County Council and the National Lottery Community Fund. Book online: [Conference Booking Form : AideCRM](#)

Anglian Water flood guidance

Anglian Water has created a leaflet to help people protect their homes from winter flooding. The information is particularly relevant due to the long, hot summer we have had this year. You can find the leaflet as an attachment on this email. Further flooding information and guidance can be found on our website.

Sustainable Communities Food Fund

Our Sustainable Communities Food Fund provides grants to small scale food initiatives such as community pantries, fridges and food pop-ups.

Between £250 and £5,000 is available and can be used for anything from the purchase of equipment and revenue costs to delivering training and workshops. Funding is awarded on a first come, first served basis, so please encourage groups to submit an application as soon as they can.