

### Palgrave Parish Council, February 2024

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**Flood Recovery** – The Floods team is in the processing of assessing flood reports received during Storm Babet. Section 19 of the [Flood and Water Management Act 2010](#) requires that councils investigate significant flooding. Due to the exceptionally high number of qualifying cases there will be a lag time before further action is taken. Locations where the council will be undertaking flood investigations follows:  
[www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/flooding-and-drainage/storm-babet](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/flooding-and-drainage/storm-babet)

Any new flooding should be reported with photographs and relevant dates to:  
<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/report-a-highways-issue>

**Budget Setting** – the Council cabinet has agreed its draft budget for 2024/'25, final approval will take place at full council on 15<sup>th</sup> February. The budget must respond to cost pressures from inflation and increased service demand and some difficult decisions have been necessary.

**SEND Services** – Suffolk's SEND services are provided through a Local Area Partnership which includes both Suffolk County Council and its NHS health service partners. The inspection was carried out jointly for the first time by both Ofsted and the CQC (Care Quality Commission). Results are at:  
<https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50238584>

**Cabinet Member Changes** - cabinet member Cllr Andrew Reid becomes cabinet member for SEND and Education. Cabinet member Cllr Bobby Bennett has been appointed cabinet member for Childrens and Young Peoples services. Two deputy cabinet members have been promoted to cabinet roles – Cllr Philip Faircloth-Mutton is now cabinet member for equality and communities and Cllr Craig Rivett is cabinet member for public health and public protection.

**Older Homes Retrofit Conference** - will be held on the afternoon of 6<sup>th</sup> March to offer advice, information about grants and loans, and case studies around increasing energy efficiency in older homes. This will take place at The Hold, Ipswich. The conference is open to Suffolk homeowners, landlords and building professionals. A session on damp and mould is scheduled in the morning. Tickets for both sessions including complimentary lunch can be booked at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/focus-on-damp-and-mould-and-retrofit-solutions-conference-tickets-779711677617>

**Progress with West Suffolk Hospital** – the Health Scrutiny Committee at its January meeting received an update on progress with the new West Suffolk Hospital building scheduled to open in 2030. Currently archaeological assessment is underway with trial trenching on the Hardwick Manor site, there have been some minor finds of archaeological interest.

**Locality and Community Grants** – My locality budget still has some funds, please ask if there are local projects which could benefit. Enquiries to the County Council concerning grants for community projects such as for the village hall may be made to Community Information Project Officer, Public Health and Communities. Phone no. 07860-832328, or [emma.currie@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:emma.currie@suffolk.gov.uk)

**Highways** – Reminder to please report any defective road signs or other defects with a photograph. All highways and flood issues should be reported on the web site: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/report-a-highways-issue>

Please get in touch with me if you have questions or comments: [Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk) Tel: 07714-597980 Twitter: @jesstfleming