


# District Councillor Report: Bacton ward

Bacton, Cotton, Finningham, Westhorpe and Wyverstone

November 2023

Flooding	After Storm Babet and other recent heavy rainfall, the Council has been working hard to help residents in affected homes and businesses. Householders are urged to report flood damage via Suffolk County Council's reporting tool. Government has announced some financial support and we are waiting to see how this can be distributed. Affected businesses should also contact Mid Suffolk to register for support. Please visit <a href="http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk">www.midsuffolk.gov.uk</a> for full details.
Solar and Low Carbon Energy	As Mid Suffolk's Council meeting on 26 <sup>th</sup> October, a position statement on Low Carbon Energy was agreed. At the moment Government policy is very much in favour of solar farms and the , the Council is unable to go against this. The position statement is as far as we can go, it shows our intent in terms of how we wish to see developments proceed. This statement is an interim stage prior to the adoption of a supplementary planning document in 2024.
Sustainable Transport	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. It is hoped to improve public transport, particularly in rural areas.
Home insulation	The <i>Cosy Homes</i> scheme 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 if privately rented. Full details to be available soon. Particularly vulnerable households can continue to access help via the wider Suffolk scheme, <a href="http://www.warmhomessuffolk.org">www.warmhomessuffolk.org</a>
Council housing repairs	The new administration at Mid Suffolk has discovered a massive backlog of housing repairs across our council homes. This will be dealt with via a separate contractor taking a proportion of the repairs, allowing the in-house team to concentrate on day-to-day repairs.
	The consultation to get residents' feedback on the planned priorities for the District is open until 15 <sup>th</sup> November. 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. Please have your say via our online survey: <a href="https://babergbandmidsuffolk.citizenlab.co/en-GB/projects/setting-the-future-direction-of-your-councils">https://babergbandmidsuffolk.citizenlab.co/en-GB/projects/setting-the-future-direction-of-your-councils</a>
Former Bacton Middle School site – full planning application	This site is owned by the County Council and gained outline planning permission for 50 homes in 2020. We now have the full reserved matters planning application to develop the rear of the site for homes, with the front of the site (apart from the access road) being retained for a future school should that need arise. There is also provision of an all-weather sports pitch
Locality Award	A reminder that this year's locality awards are still open for applications. Any group or organisation can apply for amounts of £250 or more. Please contact me for an application form.

Cllr Andy Mellen

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