

News from Yoxford Parish Council

December 2023

On the back of an ongoing task to clear up flooded properties from the end of October, the weather was against us yet again this month and sadly, some properties have flooded for a second time. It continues to be a challenging time for many in our community and so our thoughts remain with those who've been affected. Volunteers have helped out which means so much to those in need.

Village Matters

Update following the flood of October 27th

The flood grants procedure (from central government's 'Flood Recovery Framework') is underway. Funds are coming from central Government to Suffolk County Council and then to East Suffolk Council for distribution to applicants. District Cllr. Julia Ewart believes that initial payments should be out before the seasonal holiday BUT if you are concerned that you are not included, please be sure that you have filled out the initial grant application form, on top of the initial damage form to receive support (link to the Suffolk County Council Reporting Tool is below). The scheme closes at the end of the year so please check your account.

Floods must be reported to Suffolk County Council. The report tool can be found here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/flooding-and-drainage/report-a-flood-in-suffolk>

Homeowners, whose properties were flooded internally during Storm Babet, may be eligible for two grants; one is designed to support homeowners in making their properties more resilient to flooding (the Property Flood Resilience Repair Grant Scheme). Suffolk County Council is preparing the launch of the grant application process and detailed guidance. Further information will be available on the SCC website. All properties that have reported internal flooding will be contacted directly by SCC staff with details about how to access this grant.

The main contact number for East Suffolk Council's out of hours emergencies, including housing issues is **0800 440 2516**

The Suffolk County Councillor for Yoxford is **Richard Smith** and is the first line of contact if you need personal support above and beyond the ESC/Suffolk County Council help lines. He can be contacted by email: richard.smith@suffolk.gov.uk

Yoxford Parish Council knows that the significant disruption and upset that these floods have caused, continues to be experienced by many of those affected. If you have any requirements, please be sure to report the flood using the SCC reporting tool so that your property becomes eligible for grants/support. Please contact the Parish Clerk or any of your Parish Councillors for help.

Winter Jobs: You'll be able to see Yoxford's Volunteers out around the village in the coming days and weeks planting bulbs in readiness for spring. 🌻 Council will also be putting together a schedule for projects for the early months of 2024 so do get involved if you can spare the occasional hour or two. More news soon.

And, if you're able to do so, please keep the pavements outside your home as clear as you can. Contact the Parish Clerk for help if this is not possible on 07767987691 or parishclerkyoxford@gmail.com

Speeding traffic: Council has received a reply from County Cllr. Richard Smith to his letter asking him to support a review of road speed limit policy. He has said no to the request and will not support us to make our village safer, stating "...as long as I remain your County Councillor such a scheme through Yoxford will not have my support..." Council is considering its next steps. County Cllr. Smith's reply is on the village website for you to read: <https://www.yoxford.org.uk/>

Village Hall last 2023 events for your diary. Do join us if you can:

- **Pub Night** December 29th 6-11pm
- **Yoxflicks Film Night** January 19th
The Great Escaper with Michael Caine 7.30pm. Bar open.

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