

Hacheston Parish Council Newsletter

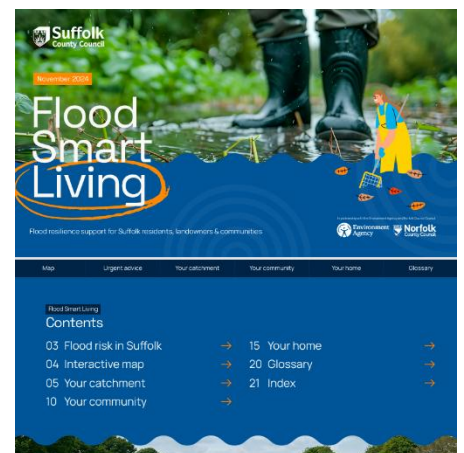
December 2025



Section 19 Flood Report & Flood Smart Handbook

Suffolk County Council has published their Storm Babet Section 19 Flood Report for Hacheston and Parham and links to access it can be found in the News section of our website.

They have also produced a guide to support local communities at risk of flooding. It provides a range of measures that could be implemented and gives useful advice and guidance to enable you to take the next steps in becoming resilient to flooding. You can read the handbook on Suffolk County Council's website:



<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/flooding-and-drainage/flood-management-in-suffolk/flood-investigation-reports>



COULD YOU BE A PARISH COUNCILLOR?

Are you passionate about what happens in your village?

Do you want to make a difference to the quality of life of local people?

Do you want to influence how local issues are dealt with?

Do you want to help shape the future of our community for the better?

The Parish Council can only be as effective, relevant and vibrant as the people elected to run it.

Hacheston needs capable, energetic and engaged councillors from a variety of backgrounds, to represent our community.

If you are committed about your village and want to help, we need you. Councillors can make a huge difference.

To apply to join or to find out more about the role, please email hachestonparishclerk@gmail.com

MAKE A CHANGE
BECOME A COUNCILLOR

Your Parish Councillors

James Hardy (Chair)

Linda Montgomery (Vice Chair)

Chris Hurlock

Terry Mee

Leslie Judd

Rev. A Perry

We currently have a vacancy for one more Councillor. Please get in touch if you would be interested in standing.

Please note our new web address:

www.hacheston-pc.gov.uk

Parish Council Meeting Dates 2026

All meetings will be held at 7pm in the Meeting Room of the Village Hall

Wednesday 21st January 2026

Wednesday 18th March 2026

Wednesday 20th May 2026

Annual Meeting of the Parish- with reports from village organisations

Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council

(Election of Officers, adoption of accounts, review of risk assessment etc)

Wednesday 22nd July 2026

Wednesday 16th September 2026

Wednesday 18th November 2026

Extra meetings will be held as required to discuss important issues.

Agendas will be published on the village website or notice board the week before the meeting.

All residents are welcome to attend and ask questions or raise matters of concern in the Public Forum near the start of the Meeting.

Digital Mailing List

The Parish Council has a digital mailing list to help keep residents informed about important village news, events and urgent updates.



Hacheston Village Emails

If you would like to join our digital mailing list to receive village-related news, information and events that we hope will be of interest please fill in your email address below.

You can unsubscribe at any point and we will not pass your details on.

Hacheston Parish Council

Email Address

Subscribe

By signing up, you'll receive occasional updates straight to your inbox. Whether it's road closures, council news or important planning applications, this is a simple and effective way to stay in the loop.

You can unsubscribe at any time, and emails will be sent via Mailchimp.

Please visit our website to sign up:

<https://hacheston-pc.gov.uk/village-newsletters/>

Please note, all future newsletters will be sent digitally, unless you request a printed copy. Please sign up to ensure you keep in the loop and continue to hear from us.

What is happening with devolution & local government reorganisation?

You may have heard the terms “devolution” and “local government reorganisation” mentioned recently. Suffolk is currently undergoing big changes, with proposals to give more decision-making powers and funding to councils at a local level. The aim is to bring services closer to communities, making them more responsive and effective.

The current plan is to replace the two-tier system (county council and district/borough councils) with one or more “unitary” councils delivering all the local services. This is known as local government reorganisation. We are also going through devolution and will be having an elected mayor for Suffolk and Norfolk, responsible for strategic decisions like transport, economic growth and regional planning. **Mayoral elections which were expected to be held in May 2026 have now been postponed until 2028.** We have not yet heard what will happen with County Council elections which were due to take place in 2026.

For residents, the hope is that things will become simpler– fewer councils to deal with, clearer responsibility for services and potentially more local influence. For Parish Councils like ours, the changes shouldn't have a major direct impact. However, we may be invited in the future to take on extra assets or responsibilities and we will keep residents updated as things progress.

Following public consultations, the proposals from Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council were submitted to the government in September. Suffolk County Council is proposing one unitary council across the county, and the district and borough Councils are pushing for three Councils. Residents are encouraged to give their thoughts on the proposals but the final decision will rest with central government. LGR presents the biggest change to local government in Suffolk for over 50 years- and the consultation gives stakeholders and residents the chance to have their say.

The consultation will run until 11th January and can be accessed here:

<https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/norfolk-suffolk/>



Automatic Car for Sale

The Parish Council was recently bequeathed a car and we would like to offer it for sale at a reduced rate to a Hacheston resident.

The car is a 2016 Suzuki Swift SZ4 Automatic, five-door, petrol, in silver, with a mileage of approximately 46,000 miles. It has been well maintained but is sold as seen as we can offer no warranty. It is located in

Framlingham.

We are inviting offers in the region of £6,200, to be received by 28th December.

If you are interested or would like to discuss the car further, please get in touch.

* * *

Avian Flu Detected Locally

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza has been confirmed at premises in Debach, and Hacheston is within the 10km surveillance zone.

More information on this can be found on our website, or here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/bird-flu-avian-influenza-latest-situation-in-england>

* * *

All Saints, Hacheston – Your Church is in Danger

You may not be aware that as a resident of Hacheston, long or short-term, whether you are of faith or no faith, you are entitled to be christened, married and buried in the churchyard of All Saints. It is **your** village church.

However, due to a dwindling number of people who are willing to support the church, it may be in danger of being closed. This would mean that as a village after approximately 950 years, you would no longer have a village church.

We are looking for a group of volunteers who might give some of their time to supporting the church by providing practical help, such as cleaning, the odd spot of DIY and helping to keep the churchyard tidy.

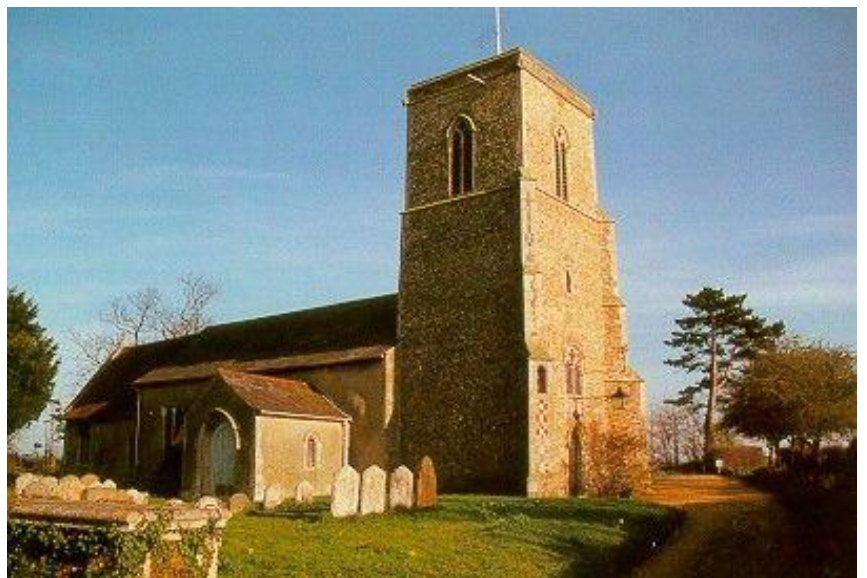
I would envisage that this would involve three or four sessions a year when we come together and form a working party to undertake essential maintenance.

If you would be interested in getting involved in any capacity, please contact Rev'd Ann Kember at: annkember58@gmail.com or on 07369 240252.

There will be a meeting of potential volunteers at the village hall at **6pm on Tuesday 27th January** and we really hope to see some of you there.

With thanks,

Rev'd Ann



Planning Updates

DC/25/2997/FUL Ancona Solar Farm

Planning Application consultation extended

DC/25/2997/FUL- Erection of a Solar Photovoltaic Installation of 20 MW output and all associated supporting infrastructure including, cable routing, inverters and transformers, fencing, CCTV, and landscaping for temporary period of 42 years

Land South Of Easton Lane Glevering Park House Glevering Estate IP13 0EX

Please note, this planning application has now been extended and East Suffolk Council are inviting responses until 27th February 2026.

To respond, please register with East Suffolk Council's planning portal or email planning@eastssuffolk.gov.uk quoting the application reference.

View and comment on a planning application



Revised Plans for DC/24/4527/FUL Land at Blomvyle Hall

This planning application recently been revised. The applicant has submitted revised plans which take into account the Parish Council's concerns regarding drainage and surface-water management.

Representatives of the developer attended our most recent Parish Council meeting, and we appreciate the constructive way they have engaged with councillors and the local community. Following this work, the site's drainage strategy has now been redesigned, and the drainage consultant advising on the scheme has stated that, if developed, the site would produce less surface-water run-off than it does at present.

Battery Storage Plant

We are still awaiting the planning application for the proposed battery energy storage facility next to the electricity substation opposite Garnetts Gardens. We have heard that it should be submitted to East Suffolk Council before the end of the year.

When the consultation period is live, the Parish Council will arrange a meeting so that residents can understand the proposals and share their views. This meeting will be publicised via our digital mailing list and on the Parish Council website.

Hacheston's Remaining CIL Funding

Hacheston Parish Council still has £15,000 of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding available. So far, we've used CIL money for painted 30mph road markings, two new Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs), and upgraded poles- all aimed at reducing speeding, which residents previously told us was a priority. Now we'd like your ideas on how the remaining funds should be used to benefit the village.

What is CIL?

The **Community Infrastructure Levy** is a charge paid by developers when new homes or certain buildings are built. A portion comes directly to parish councils to help improve local facilities and offset the impact of growth.

What can CIL be spent on?

CIL must be used for infrastructure or community improvements, such as:

- Footpaths or cycle routes
- Upgrades to village halls, play areas or community spaces
- Outdoor seating or landscaping
- Traffic-calming or parking improvements
- Drainage or flood-mitigation projects
- Defibrillators or safety equipment
- Bus shelters or public transport improvements

It cannot be used for routine maintenance or day-to-day running costs.

Share your ideas

This money belongs to the community- please tell us what you think the priorities should be. What improvements or new facilities would make Hacheston an even better place to live?

Send your suggestions via email hachestonparishclerk@gmail.com or pop them into the Village Hall post box.

Emergency Planning

The Parish Council is currently preparing a Village Emergency Plan to help us respond more effectively if the community is faced with another serious incident like experienced during Covid and Storm Babet. While we hope we never need to use it, having a plan in place means we can act quickly and support one another should an emergency occur.

The plan could be used to help in situations such as:

- **Prolonged power cuts**
- **Flooding**
- **The village becoming cut off by fallen trees or a severe traffic incident**
- **Contagious diseases**

To make this plan as useful and accurate as possible, we need to understand the resources, skills and equipment available within the village. A short form is attached to this newsletter, and we would be very grateful if residents could complete it and return it to the Village Hall post box. Your information will help us build a reliable list of volunteers and resources so we can respond quickly and safely if an emergency arises.

Thank you for taking a few minutes to support this important community project.

Prepare Yourself

Emergencies can happen in any form and at any time (day or night). Getting prepared and having a plan in advance means that you can deal with the emergency if it does happen.

In a newly launched website, the government is encouraging people to think about what they would do if they and those around them were exposed to risks ranging from floods to fires to power cuts. The website provides simple and effective steps people can take to be more prepared, at gov.uk/prepare.

The following website is a useful resource to help you plan for emergencies:

<https://suffolkprepared.co.uk/>

A few simple things you could do now to prepare for emergencies:

The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 defines an emergency as: an event or situation which threatens serious damage to human welfare in a place in the UK, the environment of a place in the UK, or war or terrorism which threatens serious damage to the security of the UK.

1. Sign up to the Priority Registration Services	+
2. Fire Safety	+
3. Make a household plan	+
4. Pack an emergency "Get Prepared" bag	+
5. Talk to your children about emergencies	+
6. Know your risk of flooding	+
7. Check in on others	+
8. Health advice	+

Sizewell C Community Funding – Could You Help Hacheston Benefit?

Funding is available for local projects through Sizewell C's community support initiatives. The Suffolk Community Foundation is managing funds aimed at supporting parishes affected by the development. This presents an exciting opportunity for Hacheston to access funding for community projects that could benefit our village.

Neighbouring parish Campsea Ashe secured £84,240 last year for their church project. There's potential for Hacheston to also benefit from this scheme but we need some volunteers to help lead the way on this.

Would you be interested in exploring these funding opportunities, possible projects and helping to prepare applications? If so, we'd love to hear from you. This could be a fantastic chance to make a lasting impact on our village- we are already experiencing heavier traffic as a result of the Park & Ride site that sits within the village curtilage.

If you'd like to get involved or learn more, please get in touch with the Parish Council.

£23m Sizewell C Community Fund now open for applications

Suffolk Community Foundation is inviting eligible charitable and not-for-profit groups in East Suffolk to bid for a share of up to £23m following the opening of the Sizewell C Community Fund.

Volunteering Opportunities

We were pleased to welcome Rev. Alan Perry as a Councillor at our last meeting, but we still have one more vacancy. Please let us know if you would like to find out more or would be interested in standing.

There are other ways to get involved and contribute to village life without standing as a Councillor and we would welcome extra volunteers to help us to achieve more.

We are looking for volunteers to take part in community projects, including:

Work parties- to help with tasks such as skirting and weeding pavements, cleaning signs, litter picking, tending verges and sprucing up the village.

Eco Group- we have agreed to form a village Eco Group and would love volunteers to help lead small local projects focused on sustainability and environmental improvements.

Sizewell C rep- we are seeking a volunteer to attend meetings on various topics, including the transport forum, to represent Hacheston Parish Council and provide feedback.

If you are interested in getting involved in any of these projects or would like to contribute to the village in other ways, please contact the Parish Clerk on hachestonparishclerk@gmail.com

Your time and effort can make a real difference to our village and we would love to hear from you.



Would you like to help produce a Neighbourhood Plan for Hacheston?

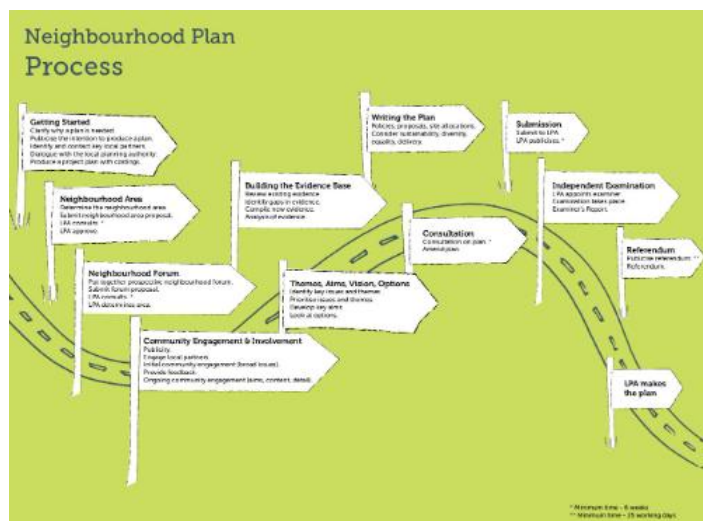
A Neighbourhood Plan is a community-led document that sets out a vision for future development in a local area. It gives residents a say in shaping growth, covering housing, amenities, green spaces and infrastructure. Once adopted, it becomes a legal guideline for planning decisions.

A Neighbourhood Plan gives our community a stronger voice. It can help influence where new housing goes, protect green spaces, and ensure infrastructure meets local needs. In short, it gives us greater control over our village's future. However, creating a Neighbourhood Plan is no small task. It takes a lot

of time and effort from volunteers, involving consultation, research, and drafting. It can take months or even years to complete.

Would You Like One? Can You Help? We want to know if Hacheston residents support creating a Neighbourhood Plan and if anyone would be willing to join a working party to help produce it. It's a big job, but it offers a real chance to shape our village for generations to come.

If you're interested in having a Neighbourhood Plan or helping to create one, please get in touch.






Is the digital world overwhelming?

Do you need support getting online or using your digital devices?

Why not join a digital support session near you and start engaging with the digital world



Sessions are held in:

- Bury St Edmunds
- Elmswell
- Hadleigh
- Halesworth
- Ipswich
- Long Melford
- Lowestoft
- Stowmarket
- Woodbridge

To register your interest in attending please contact Suffolk Family Carers on 01473 835477

The mobile library stops near here!

We run mobile libraries across several hundred stops, covering most towns and villages throughout Suffolk.

Location: Hacheston
Village Hall

Times:
11:55 – 12:10 every 4 weeks on a Wednesday

Dates:
7 January | 4 February | 4 March | 1 April | 29 April | 27 May | 24 June
22 July | 19 August | 16 September | 14 October | 11 November | 9 December

For more information including timetables and locations visit: suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk/mobile-libraries



Suffolk
Community Libraries

Suffolk
County Council



KATCH BUS TIMETABLE

08:10	Tunstall Green Man (Side of the Pub)
08:18	Campsea Ashe (Wickham Market Station)
08:24	Hacheston (Village Hall)
08:31	Parham Marietta (Willoughby Close)
08:35	Framlingham (Technology Centre)
08:41	Thomas Mills High School
16:00	Thomas Mills High School
16:03	Framlingham Bridge Street
16:06	Framlingham (Technology Centre)
16:12	Parham Road Bus Shelter
16:15	Hacheston (Village Hall)
16:22	Campsea Ashe (Wickham Market Station)
16:29	Tunstall Green Man (Side of the Pub)



Reliable Service



Experienced Driver



Affordable Prices

Katch timetable operating Monday to Friday Term time only. All other times apart from scheduled service, the bus will be operating with its on-demand service which requires journeys to be pre-booked.

01728 635 939 www.katchalift.com

Katch Bus Service

Katch now have a timetabled bus service that you don't need to pre-book for! Simply turn up at the Katch stop for the time listed and get onboard. The timetabled service is running Monday to Friday Term time only. Outside these hours, the normal on-demand service operates, so call or book online to get on your Katch journey 01728 635 939

www.katchalift.com/book-a-journey

Katch now covers Blaxhall, there are two stops, one at YHA Blaxhall and the other at Blaxhall Ship Inn.

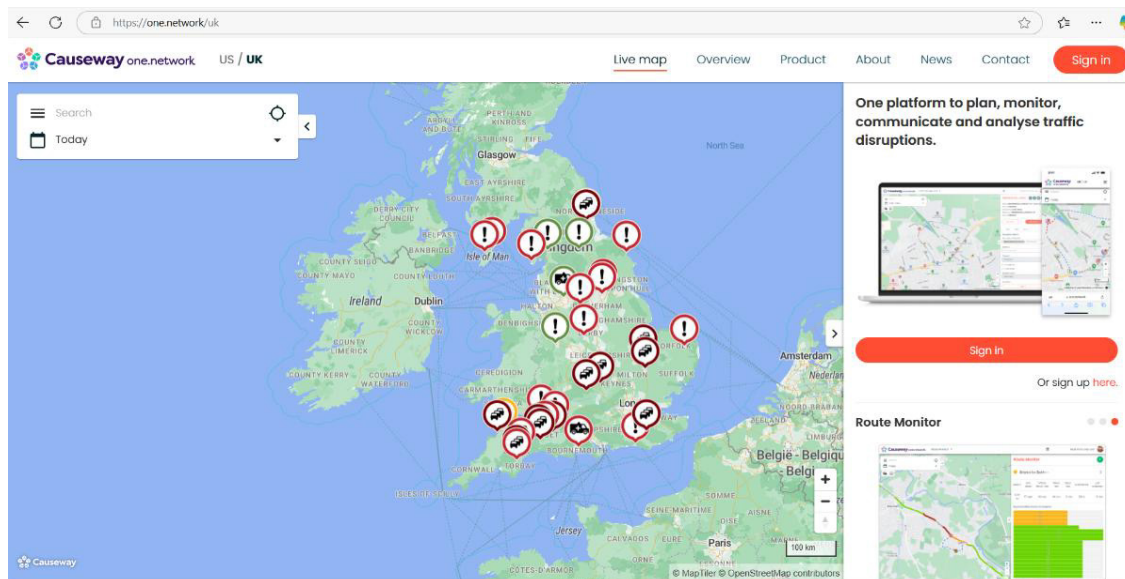
Call 01728 635 939 to book.

Would you like to be notified about local road closures?

There are several investigation and maintenance works happening around Hacheston, which may affect your journeys through road closures, diversions or temporary traffic lights.

You can view planned works online using *Causeway one.network* <https://one.network/>

Create a free account, then use the search bar to look up any location and select the dates you want to check. Zoom in on the map to see all scheduled works in that area. Clicking on any roadworks icon will show details such as the type of work, exact location, and any diversion routes.





Help your local NHS and Social Care Services help others by returning equipment.

Local NHS and Social Care Services lose thousands of pounds each year due to missing equipment. All items returned will be assessed, safety tested and either repaired and reused or stripped down for recycling.

Look for equipment label

Contact Medequip to request a free collection:

Call **01473 351805**
Email suffolk@medequip-uk.com



What might you have?

- Adjustable walking sticks
- Crutches
- Chair raisers
- Commodes
- Bed levers
- Wheeled adjustable frames
- Perching stools
- Raised toilet seats
- Pressure cushions
- Toilet frames
- Trolleys

If you would prefer to return equipment to Medequip yourself, you can bring it to:

Medequip Ipswich Depot:
Unit 31-33, Bluestem Road
Ransomes Europark
Ipswich
IP3 9RR

Opening hours:
Monday to Friday 8.00am - 6.00pm
Saturday 10.00am - 4.00pm

To find your nearest drop off point, please visit:
mq-uk.com/return-suffolk





Over 90% of returned equipment recycled nationwide.

Keeping people independent

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Carols by Candlelight

at All Saints, Hacheston



Join us for a service of traditional readings and carols at All Saints, Hacheston on

Tuesday 23rd December at 6.00 pm
followed by seasonal refreshments



50% off loft insulation for anyone in Suffolk!

Did you know that an uninsulated home can lose up to a quarter of its heat through the roof, according to The Energy Saving Trust? Do you know if your loft insulation meets the Government recommendation of 25-50mm deep?

Suffolk residents can now get a 50% discount (up to £200) and free delivery on 200mm or 370mm wide eco-friendly, itch-free thermal insulation rolls, from High Loft, the UK's leading eco loft insulation brand. So now is the perfect time to top up.

To receive your personalised link to claim your discount, visit <https://highloft.co.uk/pages/suffolk-council-200-loft-insulation-contribution> and fill out the short form, or phone High Loft on 01706 248203.

This offer is an excellent way to make your home warmer, reduce your energy bills, and make a positive environmental impact. You could decrease your energy bills by 40%!

www.greensuffolk.org/how-to-take-action/at-home/grants-and-support-for-suffolk-residents

YOUTH PROVISION IN EAST SUFFOLK

The Youth Provision Booklet for young people has been created by the East Suffolk Rural Youth Project at Community Action Suffolk.

This booklet collates information about the provision, support and guidance available to young people in East Suffolk. It includes a dedicated section for each of the community partnership areas with support and activities available in your local area:

- Lowestoft and Northern Parishes
- Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and surrounding villages
- Carlton Colville, Kessingland, Southwold and surrounding villages
- Framlingham, Wickham Market and surrounding villages
- Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham and surrounding villages
- Woodbridge, Melton and surrounding villages
- Kesgrave, Martlesham and surrounding villages
- Felixstowe Peninsula

It also includes sections on support for mental health, young people and their families, careers, employment and volunteering, health, LGBTQ+, ethnic minorities and education as well as helpful apps and information about East Suffolk Youth Council, Wellbeing Friends and Youthwatch.

The online booklet is available on the Community Action Suffolk website or using the QR code below.

Printed copies will also be available from selected venues throughout East Suffolk and from Community Action Suffolk (Brightspace, Ipswich or the Kirkley Centre, Lowestoft)

COMMUNITY
ACTION
SUFFOLK

Strengthening the voluntary and community sector

Suffolk
FamilyCarers

Living Fuller Lives

Are you looking after someone?

You might be an unpaid
family carer

We are here to help, please get in touch

01473 835477

hello@suffolkfamilycarers.org

www.suffolkfamilycarers.org

News from East Suffolk Council

Ease the Squeeze on Cost of Living

Are you, or someone you know, worried about the increasing cost of living? We understand the pressures faced by many people today and we are working closely with key partners to ensure support is available to help ease the squeeze for households in East Suffolk.

To make it as easy as possible for you to access the services and support available, locally and nationally, we have gathered information about them in one place:

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/squeeze/

For the most up to date information regarding East Suffolk Council, please visit:

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Useful mental-health resource for East Suffolk residents

Residents of East Suffolk may find the new booklet Well Minds East Suffolk very helpful- it's a comprehensive guide offering advice, support and contact information for mental health and wellbeing. It includes: simple things you can do day-to-day to look after your mental health (sleep tips, stress-management, "Five Ways to Wellbeing"), advice for children, teens, adults and older people, plus contact details for local and national support services.

<https://view.pagetiger.com/deaodtc/East-Suffolk-Well-Minds.pdf>

If you or someone you know needs support- or you're just interested in better mental-health information- the booklet is available as a PDF or interactive online version.

Access the Well Minds East Suffolk booklet here: tinyurl.com/9xhka624

Photo competition: "Through the Lens 2026"

East Suffolk Council has relaunched its annual East Suffolk Through the Lens photo competition — and this year there are even more chances to win.

Whether you're a seasoned photographer or just snapping photos on your phone, all ages are welcome to enter. This year's categories are: People, Place, and a special Under-16s section.

Each category winner will receive a high-street retail voucher — and one of those three will be chosen as the overall winner. That winning image will appear on the cover of the next edition of the East Suffolk Magazine, delivered to every household in the district.

If you'd like to enter, submit your photos online before midnight Saturday 31st January 2026.

For full details and to submit your entry: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/photo-comp/



December 2025

Dear Resident,

Re: Hacheston Community Emergency Plan- Resident Letter & Questionnaire

Hacheston Parish Council is preparing a Community Emergency Plan to be used if an emergency affects our community. In most circumstances, emergencies are managed by the emergency services, the local authority and other key responders who have well-established procedures to deal with such situations. However, there may be occasions- such as widespread flooding, heavy snow, high winds, loss of essential utilities or blocked highways- when emergency services and other responders may be delayed or unable to reach the village immediately.

In these situations, it is important that our community can help itself until outside help arrives, and this is much more effective when a plan is already in place. As part of this plan, we are establishing a Community Emergency Planning Group of volunteers who would be willing to assist if an emergency occurs. We are particularly keen to hear from residents who have resources, equipment, skills or knowledge that could be of use, or from those who may need additional assistance.

If you are able to offer help, or if you would require extra support in an emergency, please complete the attached questionnaire and return it to the Parish Council post box at the Village Hall.

Providing this information is entirely voluntary. If you do not wish to be involved, please feel free to disregard this letter.

For further information, or to discuss any aspect of the Community Emergency Plan, please get in touch.

With best wishes,

Hacheston Parish Council

hachestonparishclerk@gmail.com

Hacheston Community Emergency Plan: Assistance Offered and Required

(Please tick relevant boxes)

Equipment you could make available in an emergency

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Tractor
☐ 4x4 vehicle
☐ Two-way radios
☐ Submersible pump
☐ Portable heater
☐ Camping gas stove or LPG cooker
☐ Trailer | ☐ Portable generator
☐ Lifting equipment (e.g., JCB, heavy-duty hoist / tackle)
☐ Spare wheelchair
☐ Portable lighting
☐ Other (please specify):
_____ |
|--|--|

Formal qualifications or specialist knowledge

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Medical training
☐ Tractor driver | ☐ Certified first aider
☐ Certified chainsaw operator
☐ Other (please specify):
_____ |
|--|---|

General assistance you can offer

- ☐ I can help with lifting and carrying
☐ I can visit or monitor people who need support
☐ I can help in a Rest Centre
☐ I can help transport people or items (e.g., bottled water)
☐ I can provide emergency accommodation for people (specify limitations):

☐ I can provide emergency accommodation for pets (specify limitations):

☐ I am happy to be contacted about becoming a Community Emergency Volunteer

Please note any days or times you would **not** be available:

Support you may require during an emergency

☐ I / someone in my household is vulnerable and may need extra assistance. Please give details (e.g., mobility issues, medical needs, communication needs, isolation, reliance on powered medical equipment):

Your contact details

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____

Mobile number: _____

All information will be treated in the strictest confidence. It will be kept secure, and it will only be used in an emergency to assist the community emergency response by the Parish, District and/or County Council and emergency services. Details will be reviewed annually.

Please tell us ASAP if your details change or if you would like to be removed from our list.