

TOP-TEN REPORT FOR BUNGAY AND THE VILLAGES (OCTOBER 2023)

East Suffolk Councillors Toby Hammond and Anthony Specca

1. Practical help is available from East Suffolk Council for residents affected by Storm Babet or Ciaran. For help during normal working hours, such as with housing, waste clearing or street sweeping, ring 0333 016 2000. For help outside of working hours with urgent situations requiring immediate response, ring 0800 444 2516. **For help in an emergency, ring 999.**
2. East Suffolk Council expects soon to receive detailed guidance from Government about how to disburse financial help for residents and communities affected by Storm Babet, including £500 per flooded household, up to £2,500 per flooded business, up to £5,000 for future flood-resilience work, council tax discounts and business rates relief. For up-to-date information, visit the dedicated page on the ESC website at <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/features/storm-babet/>.
3. We were impressed and inspired by a visit to Ilketshall St Lawrence Primary School this month. We spoke to various year groups about what Councillors do, and we staged a mock Council debate in Assembly with the help of some bright young volunteers. We'd be happy to visit more schools in our area, and we encourage interested headteachers to get in touch.
4. We've received an exciting proposal to establish a cycle-tour route through the Saints, taking in our ward's considerable natural beauty, historical sights and artisanal produce. Bungay would also be a major stop on the route. Councils interested to explore the idea further are encouraged to contact Beth Derks at beth.derks@uea.ac.uk.
5. Together with East Suffolk Council officers, we're continuing to look very closely at the letter of the law regarding the environmental permit for V.C. Cooke's proposed incinerator at Ellough. The recent public consultations have illustrated again the depth of feeling among residents about this proposal, and we're determined to treat public concern with the weight it deserves.
6. We've participated in a number of community meetings recently, including the Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and Villages Community Partnership; the Bungay Stakeholder Group; the Bridge Street Community Group; and a meeting of residents of Bungay's Woodland Drive. The latter two groups are particularly focused on speeding and HGVs in their neighbourhoods.
7. We were delighted to allocate some of our Enabling Communities funding to help Bungay in Bloom with the Corn Cross flower display, to help three artists from the ward organise and participate in a multi-disciplinary art event and exhibition, and to help a young Ukrainian refugee join in a Bungay Scouts residential trip.
8. Anthony is currently organising a Model East Suffolk Council for secondary-school pupils this coming February. Pupils will meet in the Council Chambers in Lowestoft to play the roles of Councillors. They will draft and debate a motion on youth democracy, including the establishment of a permanent East Suffolk Youth Council. Schools will receive invitations soon.
9. Anthony has also continued to attend civic events as East Suffolk Council Chair, including the Suffolk Harvest Festival at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, the launch of the Bungay Food and Drink Guide, and the Mayor of Ipswich's Civic Service.
10. Toby has been involved with a series of £25m regeneration projects in Lowestoft, as part of his role as Cabinet Member for Economic Development. He recently gave a radio interview about the new Lowestoft Cultural Quarter development, and he has been pushing forward plans by East Suffolk Council to purchase and redevelop the derelict Lowestoft Station Building.