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# Perfect storm

Fury as village loses sea defence funding... on eve of latest onslaught

As coastal communities brace for the impact of Storm Babet, Norfolk's most exposed village has been told it will receive no further government funding for sea defences.

Officials have said that Hemsby will not qualify for more support because there are too few homes at risk.

It means that a proposed £15m, 0.8-mile rock 'berm' designed to protect the village will not now go ahead and locals have been told that they face the immediate prospect of losing their properties to the sea.

Five threatened homes had to

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be demolished earlier this year, while 6ft of sandy cliff was lost just last weekend.

Ian Brennan, who lives in Hemsby, said the mood was "an equal mix of despondency and anger".

"We're going to be abandoned," he added.

The news comes with coastal areas on high alert amid warnings of easterly winds of up to 50mph from today.

**Full story: Pages 8-9**

Image: MIKE PAGE

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