To Chairman & Councillors – Holbrook Parish Council

From Councillor Mary McLaren

Babergh District Council

Monthly Report – 15 February 2021

**COVID Vaccination Programme**

First of all, I am sure that most of your residents who are in the top cohorts of the vaccination programme have now received their injections at Trinity Park or are waiting for your GPs to administer in their own homes. I have been in touch with the Communications Director at Ipswich and East Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group who are overseeing the programme with queries about specific concerns. He responded promptly to my email. Please let me know if there any problems, residents might have regarding the service.

It is good news that the incidence of infection in Babergh has fallen quite considerably but we need to continue to keep safe and respect the rules. Access on-line CoronaWatch and CoronaWatchDataDashboard for daily bulletins or access the Suffolk County Website. An update on the vaccine roll out can be found on the SNEENHS Vaccination Service website.

**Additional Restrictions Grant reopens for businesses in Babergh**

Business owners in Babergh are being urged to explore the range of COvid-19 support grants open to support them through the current national lockdown. Tele:- 01473 296444 or email the Economic Development Team.

**Free Parking**

Changing the current 3 hours free parking in Sudbury and Hadleigh has become a very public contentious issue within those two towns resulting in some very inappropriate behaviour in two public meetings. I would like to apologise for that if you were watching on the live stream. Parking across Babergh has always been totally subsidised by the council. Given the reduced income to the council due to the pandemic, parking charges were considered There is a review in progress regarding all BDC car parks that charge for parking. A final decision will be made at the BDC Cabinet Meeting in February regarding reducing the free parking to 1 hour and the date this may be implemented.

**Customer Access Point – Sudbury**

I know that some residents use the BDC Customer Access Point in Sudbury. From April 2021 the Customer Access Point will operate out of Sudbury Library instead of Sudbury Town Hall.

The access point codesigned by Suffolk Libraries will provide digital services and face to face services. Existing town council staff will be TUPeeD over into BDC employment and will attend two full days a week every week. This service will be kept under review. Library staff will support residents who wish to develop their digital skills to access BDC Services. Pop up services at Shotley Village Hall will continue as normal.

**New Year New Homes**

Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils have invested more than £40m buying 250 new homes for low-income house-hunters. This has added to their existing council house stock of more than 6000 homes - helping low income families onto the first rung of the housing ladder.

**Housing Delivery Test**

The recently published Housing Delivery test 2020 (an annual measurement of housing delivery in the area of relevant plan making) confirms that BDC met the Governments housing delivery requirement over the past three years.

**New Service to support residents to live independently and safely in their own homes**

Babergh District Council’s “Independent Living Service” has been developed to help improve the quality of life of the district’s most vulnerable adults, young people and children. It will be working in partnership “Independent Living Suffolk”

Suffolk County Council are the first point of contact:-

Email:- ILS@Suffolk.gov.uk or Tele:- 0800 121 7711 to request an assessment by Therapists.

**Garden waste collections suspended until further notice.**

The brown bin collection continues to be suspended. This is enabling crews to continue with the collection of refuse, recycling and clinical waste. Future invoices will be adjusted to compensate for this period of non-collection.

**New Recycling Campaign aims to get Suffolk’s recycling right**

Every year 10,000 tonnes (1 in 5 Lorries worth) of recycling from Suffolk Homes is rejected. A new campaign **“Together we can get our recycling right”** has been launched by Suffolk Waste Partnership to tackle the problem.

Waste & recycling vehicles in Suffolk are now displaying new artwork to help the food savvy message to cut food waste across the county. Over 50,000 tonnes of food or the equivalent of around £730 per household on average gets thrown away in Suffolk every year

**Tackling Anti-semitism**

We recently marked Holocaust Memorial Day. Babergh Councillors agreed to support the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) guidelines, providing re-assurance to the district’s Jewish community that this form of crime is taken very seriously and we will do everything in our power to tackle it.

**Locality Grants.**

Councillors will be pleased that Holbrook 1st Scout Group and Holbrook Helpers were awarded a locality grant towards their projects. A third application is still in progress.

We continue to thank Holbrook Helpers, Holbrook Churches, volunteers, neighbours and friends who continue to meet the needs of our community. Thank You.

Mary McLaren

2 February 2021.

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