



To Chairman & Parish Councillors – Holbrook Parish Council
From Councillor Mary McLaren
Babergh District Councillor

17 May 2021

Babergh District Council

Good News at Last

Councillors will be returning to committee working within Endeavour House from the 12 May 2021. The technology for continuing to allow visitors and speakers to attend virtually is not possible at present as the technology is not in place for a hybrid situation.

The meetings will be live streamed. Public and Press attendance will be by booking only. Committees planned are Planning, Joint Audit and Scrutiny, BDC Overview and Scrutiny and Joint Overview and Scrutiny (with MDC). I am a member of those committees so welcome the opportunity to return to some normality.

The Annual Council Meeting for BDC is scheduled for 25th May 2021 and will be held in Wherstead Park. It may not be possible to live stream the meeting, but an audio-visual recording will be made and published after.

Other Business

Census – 9 out of 10 households completed the census and there is a final push to encourage residents to take part and avoid a fine. Go on-line to access Census Centres.

Could your street cut food waste?

Food Savvy Suffolk have launched “The Street that Saved” challenge to find a street or neighbourhood to take part in a month-long challenge to cut household food waste.

Households taking part will be provided with personalised advice, a free food saving kit and join challenges and on-going prizes – there may be a chance to be on TV.

Nominate a street on the Food Savvy Website by 17 May. Then a minimum of 10 households per street will need to sign up within 6 weeks of your nomination.

Open for Business

As some of our businesses continue to open as restrictions ease, we continue to support businesses across our districts. Since March 2020, 7,589 grants, worth £36,694,834 have been paid out in Babergh. Now further help is available with the launch of the Discretionary Restart Grant – a one off payment of up to £18,000 to support businesses unable to access the Government’s Restart Grant scheme. The payment is designed to help cover costs associated with re-opening, helping businesses to resume trading at pre-Covid levels.

Operation Sceptre

Currently there is a national anti-knife campaign which focuses on taking knives off our streets and ultimately reducing the number of people involved in knife crime. This is not essentially a “town” only problem.

Sadly it only takes one knife to take a life, so we all need to play our part to help keep Suffolk Safe Find out more about knife crime including where you can bin a blade anonymously on Suffolk’s Constabulary’s website.



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Though restrictions continue to enable us to enjoy more family gatherings and outside food in our local village pubs, we are not fully able to throw off all constraints.

So we continue to support those in Holbrook who need help and encouragement. Many of our residents have become frailer and more isolated during this time. So continued thanks to the The Churches, Holbrook Helpers and all those good neighbours who are still providing an essential service to those in need.

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4 May 2021.
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