To Chairman & Parish Councillors – Holbrook Parish Council

From Councillor Mary McLaren

Babergh District Councillor

21 June 2021

**Babergh District Council**

**The New Normal**

The full Annual Council Meeting for BDC was held on 25th May 2021 at Wherstead Park to allow social distancing and covid rules to be observed. The meeting was concerned with the election of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council and chairs and vice chairs of the major committees (all now being held in Endeavour House) for 21/22. Cllr Adrian Osborne was elected as the BDC Chair and Kathryn Grandon as Vice-Chair.

**Chairs for Committees**

Overview & Scrutiny Cllr Mary McLaren

Planning Cllr Stephen Plumb

Licensing Cllr Mark Newman

Joint Audit & Standards Cllr Bryn Hurren (Joint with MSDC)

Joint Appointments Board Cllr John Ward (Joint with MSDC)

In addition membership of outside bodies were also confirmed.

**COVID update in Suffolk**

Regular bulletins continue to be produced to give a snapshot of the current Covid-19 situation in Suffolk. These can be accessed via the Suffolk County Council Web site.

Updates on the vaccine rollout can be found on the SNEE NHS COVID-19 Vaccination Service website

We continue to play out part in response to the pandemic, alongside public sector colleagues within the Suffolk Resilience Forum supporting in the event of local outbreaks as well as continuing support for local communities and businesses.

Over the last month we have seen increasing numbers of Covid-19 cases of the variant of concern (B.1.617.2) which originated in India. This rise of cases is in line with the rest of the country. Several of Suffolk’s cases are in neighbouring Mid Suffolk and have been linked to an outbreak in Needham Market. A programme of PCR testing of their residents is on-going.

**Business Grants to boost economic recovery in Babergh**

A “Back to Business” grant designed to deliver an economic boost and support recovery from Covid is now available to businesses and not for profit organisations. There is also further support available to support the recovery of local businesses re-opening after lockdown but unable to access the Government’s Restart Grant Scheme. At present both schemes are fully committed in BDC however I would suggest that businesses find out more Tele: 01473 296444 or email the Economic Development Team for advice and help.

**Council submits Joint Local Plan for examination**

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have submitted their JOINT LOCAL PLAN for independent examination by the Secretary of State later this month.

The Final Version of the Plan was debated last year by both councils and there was a six-week period inviting representations on the legal compliance and soundness of the plan. These representations

 have now been published and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for consideration during

 the examination. Once adopted it will provide a clear and transparent approach to guide

 future development.

 **Rough Sleeping Initiative**

 Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have received £403,154 to help rough sleepers across both districts off the streets following the successful joint bid for funding.

**Helping us SCRAP fly tipping**

Since lockdown, fly tipping has sadly been on the rise, with our teams now collecting double the amount of fly tips than they were last year.

We need your help to share the message among your parishes to help tackle this blight on our countryside.

We’d encourage you to look at the information available on the Suffolk Recycling website which includes a leaflet and other helpful resources. Please also share your own social media posts or tweet those produced on the Suffolk Recycling or district council channels.

Please also remind residents to report fly tips to BDC on our website which has a recently updated tool to make it more mobile friendly and includes a map to help report “from the scene” so we can investigate and clear them as soon as possible.

Most fly tipping occurs because the public employ unlawful companies to remove their rubbish but do not check the legality of the Waste Carrier:-

**S uspect** all Waste Carriers

**C heck** with the Environment Agency the License Number of the Waste Carrier (03708 506 506)

**R efuse** unexpected offers to remove your rubbish.

**A sk** the carrier what will happen to your waste/rubbish

**P aperwork** should be completed and ask for a receipt.

**Funding available for Parish green projects**

Can I encourage you all to consider the funding opportunities available for energy and environmental activities in your parish.

Whether you are a public sector organisation, business, community group or charity help is available to fund your green projects.

 For Further information Contact:- CreatingGreenestCounty@Suffolk.gov.uk

**Councillor Annual Locality Grants**

The scheme usually allocated by District Councillors has been discontinued by Babergh District Council. Please be advised that any group wishing to apply for some funding must in the first instance apply to me and I can discuss with the Grants Team which method of funding would be the most appropriate to consider for your project

Mary McLaren

4 May 2021.

Mary.McLaren@babergh.gov.uk