

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

15 November 2021

Babergh District Council Meeting – 2 November 2021

- The Councils Gambling Policy “Statement of Principles” was adopted by members. This will take effect from 31 January 2022 and will be statutory for 3 years.
- A presentation by officers regarding the Covid Response and Recovery by BD Council was received by members and included reports on - National & Local Grants paid – Economic Recovery of local businesses - Health and Wellbeing initiatives in our Communities - Homelessness and Rough Sleeping initiatives – Help given to families and tenants in financial need.

Other Council Business

- **Update on Covid-19 in Suffolk**
Suffolk’s public health bosses who had asked the Government for extra help to fight Covid amid the increasing pressure on our county’s hospitals and some of the highest rates of infection in the country requested to become an “enhanced response area” They have received additional monetary support from the Government to help the NHS avoid unsustainable pressure and increase the vaccination programmes.
This support is from 1 November 2021 and extends for 5 weeks.
Regular bulletins continue to provide a snapshot of the current Covid-19 situation and can be accessed on the Suffolk County Council Website.
- Changes to the Babergh Council Cabinet composition from 8-10 members have resulted in Cllr Simon Barrett (Great Cornard) joining for Finance, Cllr Sian Dawson (Hadleigh) for Environment and Cllr Elisabeth Malvisi (Long Melford) taking on a new portfolio of climate change, biodiversity and sustainable transport.
The Constitution working group is reviewing the benefits and disadvantages of moving the current Cabinet Model within the Council to a Committee Model after a motion for a Committee Model was proposed to the Council in an earlier meeting. Their report will be presented to the full council. I have just been invited to join that group.
- Public examination of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Joint Local Plan - the strategic blueprint for future development of the districts and used and quoted by planning applicants, Planning Officers and residents – has been paused by the Planning Inspector to allow both councils further time to review their evidence.
- £1.5m funding boost was paid out to Town and Parish Councils across both councils in neighbourhood CIL last month. Those not eligible for CIL monies can apply with their ideas and with the help of the CIL Team could be successful in their bids for funds.
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- The first Local Energy Showcase at Wherstead Park was hailed a success. I attended both days and was impressed with the national and local opportunities on offer to groups and parishes on how to reduce their carbon footprint by e.g. reducing the environmental impact of energy consumption. There are grants available to help parishes and The Chairman of a local Parish Council gave us very entertaining report on how they succeeded in installing a very cost-effective green method of underfloor heating in the village hall which in turn has now been extended to a community centre and a pub which they purchased. Googling the original information will give you names of companies developing technology such as solar powered car ports one of which is currently being installed in Hadleigh Leisure Centre. This event will be repeated next year.
- Councillors received the keys to a new social housing development in Shotley and the good news is that just some of the 28 new affordable homes planned are due to be completed in Babergh over the coming weeks.
- Tree for Life scheme welcomes applications from new parents and is now open for 2021 applications.
- Babergh Council is committed to reducing streetlight intensity across the district - protecting plant and wildlife and reducing energy use in line with their biodiversity and climate change ambitions.
- The virtual high street has been very successful over the pandemic period in Sudbury and Hadleigh in promoting high street businesses, in an effort to increase the actual footfall of customers and generate business interest outside of the area. I have been in discussion with the Assistant Director of Economic Development & Regeneration and she is keen to develop a similar virtual opportunity for businesses within our parishes in Stour Ward and would be happy to discuss opportunities with them. Please refer any interested people to me in the first instance.
- I was very happy to donate £1000 from my locality budget towards the installation of the Overhead Projector in the village hall which will be a great facility to all the clubs and groups who use the village hall.

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3 November 2021
Stour Ward.

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