

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

20 December 2021

### **An update on Covid-19 in Suffolk**

Thank you to everyone who has helped amplify public health messages within their communities over recent weeks, particularly with the recent discovery of the new Omicron variant and increased precautions as a result.

We continue to use our social media channels to keep everyone informed and to share messages from our NHS and public sector partners – including information on vaccinations and boosters, FAQs and eligibility and advice for residents on protecting themselves and others.

We also continue to provide regular bulletins giving a snapshot of the current Covid-19 situation in Suffolk. You can find the bulletins on the Suffolk County Council website.

### **Babergh's commitment to its communities**

Dedicated Covid recovery, almost £5m in improved leisure facilities and a CCTV upgrade will all go towards improving the quality of life for Babergh residents. Helping residents to get fit and healthy whatever their age remains a priority for the council and exploratory discussions have taken place with regards to Stour Ward and how that can be achieved. More informal groups spread across our communities rather than an identified "centre" will meet the needs of those who are unable to access or cannot afford leisure centre fees.

### **Feedback sought on future development in Babergh District Council Area**

BDC has published its draft five-year housing land supply statement - outlining the anticipated supply of new homes between now and 2026.

The National Planning Policy Framework requires each council to identify and update annually a supply of specific deliverable sites which are capable of providing a minimum of five years worth of housing against their housing requirement. This is known as the housing land supply. Babergh can demonstrate a housing land supply for 6.75 years. Further information on this is available on **Babergh's Joint Local Plan** website with comments invited on the robustness of the housing land supply information and evidence related to the delivery of the sites by midday on Friday 17 December 2021.

### **Shop Local on the Virtual High Street this Christmas**

We are encouraging everyone to shop local this Christmas and find the perfect gift on the Virtual High Street. The Virtual High Street now has over 350 businesses signed up from Sudbury, Hadleigh, Stowmarket, Needham Market and Eye as well as surrounding towns and villages.

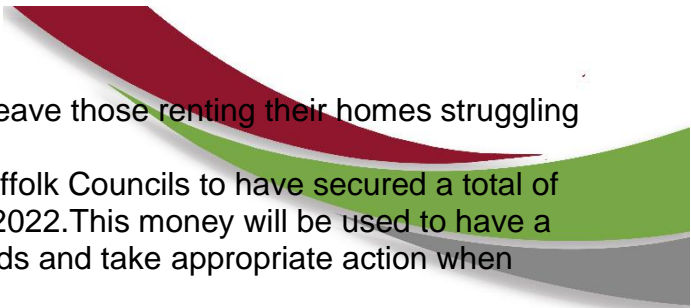
### **Babergh parking charges postponed**

Plans to introduce new tariffs including an hour's free parking in Babergh car parks from January next year have been postponed.

### **Clampdown on landlords with funding boost for Suffolk Councils**

Families living in privately rented cold and draughty properties in Suffolk can look forward to warmer homes in future thanks to a new campaign to clamp down on landlords.

Since April last year privately rented homes must meet a minimum energy performance rating of EPC Band E, making it illegal to rent out homes below that standard unless landlords have a



limited exemption. Badly insulated properties often leave those renting their homes struggling to keep warm and with higher energy bills.

Babergh & Mid Suffolk Councils are amongst the Suffolk Councils to have secured a total of £248,282 in funding to deliver the project by March 2022. This money will be used to have a very focused awareness campaign to target Landlords and take appropriate action when necessary.

### **Avian Influenza (Bird Flu)**

The Chief Veterinary Officers for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have agreed to bring in new measures to help protect poultry and captive birds.

The new housing measures came into force across the UK from 00.01 on Monday 29 November 2021 **to protect poultry and captive birds** from avian influenza following a number of confirmed cases across Great Britain in recent weeks.

Please help spread the message within your local area to inform anyone who keeps birds.

You may also wish to share Facebook and Twitter posts by Suffolk Trading Standards on any relevant social media pages within your Parish.

### **Waste Collection Information**

This has already been sent to Parish Clerks.

### **Planning Enforcement Concerns**

This applies to where there has been a suspected breach of a well established and well known planning standard ( of many years sometimes) or where there is a problem with a building development in progress (large or small) and there is some concern as to safety or management of the site. In both instances this is a Babergh District Council responsibility and needs to be reported to Planning Enforcement. In discussion with the Planning Enforcement Team they want to respond effectively to all concerns. By contacting the “problem address” in the first instance only muddies the waters as most parish councils do not necessarily have the full facts as to the planning conditions in place and this can delay the process. I am sending separately to Parish Clerks a direct link to Planning Enforcement and requesting that they complete the form for immediate onward transmission to PE. In the event of any future legal action this provides good evidence which is helpful to the team. The team can respond and immediately contact “the possible defaulter” and provide PCs with a response or action plan.

I would like to thank the Chairman and the Parish Council for all their support over the past Calendar Year and wish everyone A Very Happy Christmas and a Positive New Year.

Mary McLaren  
3 December 2021











