

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

21 February 2022

### **News from Babergh District Council**

Babergh District Council is meeting twice in February. The January meeting scheduled as virtual and therefore with no voting rights was accelerated to an actual meeting on the 2 February as temporary restrictions had been lifted. Items covered Treasury Management, Housing Revenue Account Business Plans, Committee Timetables and Political Composition of Committees. The next Council meeting is scheduled for 21 February 2022.

As Chair/Co- Chair of Babergh/Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees I am required to provide a report to each Council Meeting for members. Live Streaming is available for all Committee Meetings on our website.

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

Thank you to everyone who has helped support the COVID-19 response this month especially as we have seen the Government announcement to end Plan B and the introduction of our new COVID financial help for businesses. We continue to support our NHS Colleagues with the Vaccination rollout.

Find out more from the Suffolk County Council Website.

### **Omicron Business Grants available to Hospitality and Leisure Businesses.**

We continue to support our local businesses. In response to the Omicron variant, Businesses in the hospitality, leisure, accommodation and personal care sectors can now apply for one of two COVID-19 grants. The Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant (OHLG) or the discretionary Additional Restrictions Grant.

Businesses must submit application before Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

### **A warmer energy efficient future secured for residents on low incomes.**

A successful bid for £7.4m on behalf of all Suffolk councils resulted in Babergh and Mid Suffolk receiving £1.9m designed to support local council tenants on low incomes. This will apply to approximately 80 homes within the two districts. Measures will include solar panels, air source heat pumps as well as a variety of insulation methods.

### **Neighbourhoods to have a say in Planning**

The Department of Levelling up, Housing and Communities have selected Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils among 11 areas nationwide to be chosen as part of a pilot scheme to boost participation in neighbourhood planning. Unlike a parish plan or village design statement a successful Neighbourhood Plan has the statutory weight and once adopted is used to decide planning applications. Across both districts 50 parishes have embarked on the neighbourhood planning process and to date 16 neighbourhood plans have been successfully adopted. £45K has been awarded to create a new post to further encourage parishes and residents to engage with the planning process.



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**Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils**  
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## **Babergh District Council and Climate Change**

The environment remains one of the key strategic focuses for our council and our residents. Our social media campaign went live this week with videos showcasing our fleets transition to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil and our £2.8 worth of investment in solar at our leisure centres.

## **Rough Sleepers in our District**

I had the privilege of accompanying one of the BDC Rough Sleeper Navigators in Sudbury in January during the day. I visited all the contacts he and the team have developed to ensure that the community participates in supporting their clients, by offering available space for a tea and chat. Cafes, Coffee Shops, Charities, Church Groups and the Library/Community Access Point all offer their resources for this important group of people in our society.

## **Funding for Community Sports Groups**

Do you have a community sports group within your parish that could benefit from available funding?

Sports England's Queens Platinum Jubilee Activity Fund aims to use sport and physical activity as a means to bring a community together and tackle inequalities. Awards available are between £300 and £10,000 from a total pot of National Lottery funding of £5m. Access the Sports England website.

## **Celebrating the Platinum Jubilee**

On Sunday 6 February 2022, Her Majesty the Queen will celebrate her Platinum Jubilee marking 70 years of service to this country. The four-day bank holiday weekend gives communities the opportunity to come together and celebrate with their neighbours.

On Sunday 5 June 2022 communities are invited to organise a "Big Jubilee Lunch" or street party to celebrate. To mark this special occasion, Suffolk County Council will not be charging fees normally associated with road closures. Applications for road closure must be submitted by 27 March 2022.

Be part of the county celebration join the Festival of Suffolk 2022

I would be pleased to receive notification of all your planned parish activities.

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8 February 2022  
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