



To Chairman & Parish Councillors – Holbrook Parish Council

From Councillor Mary McLaren – Stour Ward
Babergh District Councillor

20 September 2021

Babergh District Council

An update on Covid-19 in Suffolk

August saw us reach the end of the Government's roadmap out of lockdown, however in our village communities many are still restricted by ill health and anxiety and have not experienced any freedoms. So as a District Council, our work continues to help all our residents to move forward with help, support and encouragement to emerge into the daylight of better health and wellbeing.

Regular bulletins of the current Covid-19 situation in Suffolk can be accessed on our website or the County Council Website.

We are still encouraging our residents to take the opportunity of the two vaccinations offered which will overall contribute to everyone's present and future health.

The Suffolk Resilience Forum continues to support local communities and businesses to enable them to move forward after the effects of the lockdown period. See the Website.

Afghan Refugees

Whatever our personal view on the situation in Afghanistan and who is responsible, the images on our television screens of thousands of people trying to escape their situation of despair and hopelessness left most of us feeling helpless. All district councils in Suffolk and the County Council are committed to offering a welcome in future days to unaccompanied children and families from Afghanistan. A few Afghan Interpreters and their families have already been re-settled in Suffolk. More details will be published soon as Suffolk responds positively and with compassion.

Local Energy Showcase will champion green businesses

I hope some of you have booked your tickets for Babergh & Mid Suffolk's Council's Showcase event at Wherstead Park.

Dates:- 21 & 22 October 2021 celebrating sustainability and green energy – Tickets are free and available now.

Google Local Energy Showcase 21 & 22 October 2021

Babergh and Mid Suffolk join calls for devolution talks with Government

Together with other public sector leaders in Suffolk, we wrote to the Secretary of State responsible for local government this month to say we welcome early discussions with Ministers about a possible devolution deal for Suffolk.

As our track record of joint working across Suffolk is exemplary and our application unusual among many other applications we look forward to our progress with this application.



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2021 Annual Canvass continues

To help streamline the annual canvass process (ensuring you and your family's electoral details are correct and up to date for voting in all elections), we are continuing to encourage residents to update their household details online.

Summer events continue that are planned for residents and visitors

Babergh tourist attractions in towns, villages and the countryside welcome back visitors to our part of the world. Local businesses need to be supported and we want visitors not only to come this year after all the restrictions of the past 18 months but to look forward to coming back again and again.

Who needs the Tour de France?

Cycling is so important to our villages in terms of visitors and resident recreation that Babergh & Mid Suffolk announcing the locations for Stage 6 of the Women's Tour through Suffolk is a must for all our cycling and non-cycling fans.

Date Saturday 9 October 2021. Starting in Haverhill with the winner being crowned in Felixstowe.

Long Melford and Needham Market have been chosen as this year's stage six Sprint locations. Stage six's SKODA Queen of the Mountain Climbs will take place in Glemsford at Skate's Hill averaging a 5.5% gradient of just 500 metres up.

This is great for our villages and great for the sport. Further details of the route can be accessed. [Google AJ Bells Women's Tour 2021](#).

Mary McLaren
3 September 2021.



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