

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



19 December 2022

### **Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils call for the abuse of Councillors to end**

“The abuse of and intimidation of councillors must end” - That is the message coming out from both District Councils as there are rising concerns about the toxicity in public and political discourse. Both councils have agreed motions stating a zero-tolerance approach, after new figures showed around 70% of councillors nationwide have faced abuse in the last year.

Increasing levels of abuse, particularly on-line is having a detrimental impact on local democracy and the normalisation of such attacks must be challenged.

A series of measures have now been agreed with both authorities supporting the Local Government Association’s **Debate Not Hate** campaign.

### **Shop Local for the 12 Days of Christmas to boost the local economy**

Residents are urged to get behind all the brilliant small businesses in Babergh this Christmas with figures showing the huge impact each one of us can have by shopping locally.

Over 400 businesses in both districts have benefitted using the Virtual High Street to advertise their expertise and services across a wider area.

Spending a small amount of money at a local independent retailer can have a positive impact on the local economy.

If every person aged 16-64 spent the equivalent of £1 with a local firm each day for each of the 12 days of Christmas within both districts it would amount to £1.3million.

### **Waste Collection Schedules for the Christmas and New Year Schedules**

All this information is now available on the BDC Website. From Monday 26<sup>th</sup> December to Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January, refuse and recycling schedules will be on an amended schedule.

### **Greater Tenant Engagement**

We want you to have a voice on how we deliver our housing services. In November 2022 BDC Housing Services launched their new Tenant Engagement Strategy. This was as a result of our tenant engagement survey where 1092 of our tenants took the time to let us know how they would like to engage with us on what matters to them. The strategy and action plan was approved by our Tenant board and Councillors. This will be reviewed annually to track our progress and to make sure that what we are doing is still relevant.

### **Severe Weather Emergency Protocol activated to support anyone sleeping rough in our district**

Babergh has a Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) which was triggered on 21 November due to severe weather. Anyone who is homeless or rough sleeping was offered emergency provision of accommodation.

The trigger for activating the SWEP protocol is when the council believe the weather is severe enough based on forecasts from the Met Office.

Any resident at risk or spots anyone sleeping rough should contact [StreetLink](#) or call Housing Solutions on 0300 123 4000

### **Measures to protect Waterways**

Councillors at Babergh District Council voted unanimously to support measures to protect local rivers and waterways, to address concerns over water quality and the impact of regular waste-water discharge- including untreated sewage into local rivers and seas. Last year there were 288 sewage storm overflows into Babergh rivers.



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**Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils**  
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Telephone: (0300) 1234 000  
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### **CIL Parish Briefings**

Parish Councillors have already received an invite to join District Councillors for one of a series of Community Infrastructure Levy Briefings during December. The dates are 6/8/13/15 December 5.15pm to 6.45pm. I would encourage all Councillors to take advantage of these sessions as CIL is often seen as difficult. Parish Councils who have not received Neighborhood CIL monies because there has been no development in their area, do have access to the General CIL pot if they wish to develop a specific project in their Parish. I attended the first session on the 6<sup>th</sup> and felt it was very helpful and practical session.

If you have any queries contact the team on [cilexpenditure@babberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:cilexpenditure@babberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk)

### **Suffolk Public Sector Leaders pledge another £913,000 to tackle the climate emergency**

Suffolk's ambition to be net zero by 2030 has been bolstered by an almost £1million pledge for more initiatives to reduce Carbon Emissions and tackle the effects of climate change. New projects include making more homes energy-efficient, development of Suffolk's EV charging infrastructure to support taxis, energy audits for businesses and developing sustainable itineraries for the visitor economy.

### **On-line climate change awareness course launches for Suffolk**

A free online course has been launched to coincide with COP27 to support individuals and businesses to learn about the impacts of climate change in Suffolk.

Funded by the wider Green Suffolk collaborative partnership (SCC & Suffolk District Councils) you can access the course through [the Creating the Greenest County website](#)

### **Active Suffolk Awards – Trinity Park**

The awards celebrated the achievements of sportsmen and sportswomen across the county as well as individuals working within the leisure sector, schools and organisations who are working tirelessly to encourage, support and empower local people to be more physically active in Suffolk. With my colleague from Mid Suffolk, I was very honoured to present the "Unsung Hero Award" to Imogen Hayward for volunteering her time and sharing her passion for the benefits of physical activity, movement and sport.

### **The White Ribbon Campaign (VAWG)**

I am very proud to be associated with the current White Ribbon Campaign within Babergh District, which stands for an end to violence against women and girls by boys and men.

I wish everyone a very Peaceful Christmas and Hope for a brighter New Year.

Mary McLaren  
7 December 2022  
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