

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

18 July 2022

### **Babergh District Council Cabinet meeting 5 July 2022**

Babergh Cabinet met and approved the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan for the next 30 years. Babergh already maintains 4,000 council properties for tenants however demand outstrips supply. At present there are 798 households on the waiting list. The business plan outlines how Babergh will invest more than £16 million in improving existing homes to ensure they are energy efficient – supporting the councils commitment to tackling climate change as well as building new homes to offer a range of good quality, affordable social housing for residents.

The priorities over the next five years are:-

- Tackling and adapting to climate change.
- Investing in council homes to improve their overall energy efficiency and reducing tenant's energy costs.
- Ensuring that each property has an energy efficiency rating of C by 2030 through a retrofit programme.
- Developing new council housing.
- Aiming to build/acquire 65 new homes in the district each year for the next six years.
- Investing in current homes.
- Improving the quality of current homes and communal areas.
- Involving tenants in the running of the housing service and putting tenants at the heart of decision making.
- Learning from every complaint and aiming to exceed the new Regulatory Framework and Standards.
- Improving neighbourhoods, the quality of estates and parking provision.
- Implementing digital transformation by helping residents to improve their digital skills and abilities.

### **Other News**

Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils commercial property company CIFCO made a £6million profit last year generating £3.75million net income to plough back into the services

Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils became the first Councils to transform their waste collection fleet to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) from diesel as they work towards zero carbon emissions.

### **Parishes contribute to help shape the councils parking strategy**

On 27 June 2022 Holbrook Village Hall was the venue for Shotley Residents to contribute to the debate regarding the districts parking strategy for the next 20 years. Attendees were encouraged to raise their specific concerns in relation to their local areas. A fresh on-line survey is open currently seeking views of residents and can be accessed on the councils website. **The closing date is 31 July 2022.**

### **Councils urge joined up thinking over energy infrastructure in the east**

Babergh and Mid Suffolk councils are calling for an urgent government review of the number and scale of the potentially devastating energy infrastructure projects locally. Their call follows both council's recent objections to the National Grid's non statutory consultation on proposals for the East Anglia Green Project of overhead lines between Norwich, Bramford and Tilbury. It would see additional pylons and cables installed cutting across both council areas.



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### Helping Local Communities tackle Climate change

A £150,000 fund has been opened to applications from not for profit organisations looking to develop and deliver community-based carbon reduction projects in Suffolk.

The Suffolk Climate Action Community Match fund is available to

Charities, community interest companies, parish councils, voluntary groups and other not for profit organisations. Projects must contribute to Suffolk's Climate Emergency Plan.

e.g improving energy efficiency of buildings, promoting walking and cycling, using sustainable/recycled materials or raising awareness of climate change through events.

Find more information from the **Green Suffolk Website**.

### Changes to Building Regulations

Building Regulations changed on 15 June. These are the biggest changes to building regulations for over 30 years and will have a significant impact on those planning building works after this date. Areas covered – Ventilation – Conservation and Fuel – Overheating – Charging of Electric Vehicles. **Access the Council Website and go to Building Control**

### Suffolk Armed Forces - Thank you by Babergh District Council

I was privileged to attend events at Wattisham and Hadleigh where Babergh District Council and Hadleigh Town Council with the general public recognised the commitment and contribution that all our armed forces make in maintaining the peace not only in our country but across the world.

### Preserving our past at HMS Ganges

Babergh District Council representatives were amongst those at a special ceremony to mark the historic removal of the 143ft ceremonial mast.

### Innovation Labs launch in Sudbury

I attended the official opening of a brand new co-working space in Sudbury as part of the BDC Innovate Local Initiative. This new innovation and business hub opened on 20 June 2022 however this is one of many already operating by Innovation Labs in other parts of Suffolk. This offers world leading support, advice and facilities with a proven track record for nurturing regional innovation and business growth. I was very impressed with their commitment to enable and empower people especially young people to develop their business skills, their IT skills in a supportive environment. **Contact Innovation Labs.**

Kathryn Grandon - The Chairman of Babergh District Council has adopted the Blossom Appeal as her chosen charity.

Mary McLaren

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6 July 2022



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