

To Chairman & Councillors Holbrook Parish Council
From Councillor Mary McLaren
21 November 2022

Public Consultation on Council Tax Bills

Babergh Residents are being urged to have their say over whether council tax bills should be reduced up to 100% for those on low incomes. The consultation which runs until 24 November is asking for views on how the council should run their Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2023/24 and whether bills should be reduced by up to 100% for working age adults with the lowest incomes. For more information access the **Council Tax page on the Council Website**.

Winter warmth funding for community areas

Thousands of pounds were made available to a wide range of community groups to keep their activity periods open for longer periods. The Winter Warmth Support Grant offered groups and not for profit organisations between £250 to £5,000 to cover the rising costs of energy, rent and food and to keep operating without passing on the increased costs to residents. The application period closed on 31 October 2022 and in due course, applications will be processed, and recipients informed.

Babergh & Mid Suffolk Innovation Awards October 2022

I was very pleased to attend this award ceremony at Wherstead Park and was impressed by the wide range of businesses from startups to established companies who had entered the competition. The energy and positivity of the event was amazing and the large representation of young people among the applicants was encouraging given the current climate of business uncertainty.

New Innovate to Elevate programme launches for businesses

Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils are inviting local businesses to apply to participate in fully funded collaborative projects with the University of Essex which will help them take the next steps towards innovation and growth. Businesses across our district have had some very challenging years but there is no shortage of entrepreneurial spirit, but people do not always have the resources or expertise to progress their ideas.

This programme is designed to give businesses access to talented academics and research staff to help turn innovative ideas into reality.

Access the Innovate to Elevate programme on the **University of Essex Website**

Councils' commercial property arm continues to generate income for the districts

Babergh & Mid ~Suffolk's commercial property arm CIFCO made a £6.7m profit last year and generated £3.7m in net income for the councils to plough back into the council services.

First Stage of the Women's Tour 2022 was beneficial to the districts

Many of us gathered and cheered on the Women's tour which passed through our villages from Essex to Bury St Edmunds. I was at Angel Hill, Bury St Edmunds as these committed athletes crossed the line tired but triumphant. The good news for Suffolk is that the event generated more than £1m of net economic benefit



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Half Term went well

The Holiday Activity Fund provided different activities across our district during the Half Term Holiday to encourage children and their families to be happy, healthy, and active.

Avian Flu in Suffolk

10 km surveillance zones and 3km protection zones have been identified around Stoke by Nayland, Nedging Tye and Needham Market and are a reminder to us all that Avian Influenza has been detected in infected premises in these places and all of us need to be alert as poultry, and captive and wild birds are at risk from cross infection.

Access the Government Website.

Babergh District Council - Former Council Offices Corks Lane, Hadleigh.

Work by Gipping Construction is progressing on the site and will see the regeneration of original buildings to preserve and enhance the original structure, ensuring the character and features of the existing building are retained.

The site is a key location in Hadleigh, close to shops, schools and the town's amenities and will provide 49 new homes.

Campaign to improve metal packaging recycling rates across Suffolk "MetalMatters"

A new initiative encouraging households to recycle food and drink cans, aluminum foil and trays, empty aerosols and metal screw caps has been rolled out by the Suffolk Waste Partnership which includes Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils.

Access The Suffolk Recycling Website

On a lighter note

Residents to help name Babergh and Mid Suffolk's New Bin Lorries

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have launched a competition to help them name their new environmentally-friendly bin lorries – the biggest upgrade to their fleet in 10 years.

Residents across both councils are being invited to submit names for 22 brand-new lorries at www.babergh.gov.uk/binlorrycompetition. The competition closes at midnight on Sunday 13 November with winners contacted later on in the year.

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3 November 2022
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