

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

Holbrook Parish Council 15 January 2024

“A Very Happy New Year to the Chairman and Councillors of Holbrook Parish Council”

### **Rough Sleepers**

Rural Communities have always provided a temporary haven for people who for various reasons have ended up sleeping rough. Barns and outlying buildings have been used over the years to give shelter to those looking for a dry place to sleep. That has changed and many now gravitate towards the town and some will sleep in a car or tent. During COVID “bringing everyone in” to some sort of temporary accommodation was required of councils and for many it gave some rough sleepers especially women, the opportunity to make new choices and settle into more permanent accommodation. As a Town Pastor I meet and speak with rough sleepers on a regular basis in Ipswich and the numbers are increasing again. Just before Christmas I was alerted to two instances in our villages where rough sleepers had spoken with residents.

I contacted our Housing Department and spoke with the officer who oversees the Rough Sleeping Service. Numbers in Babergh are very low - 5 (The Rough Sleeper Count is undertaken in November) however as our area is very near Ipswich, I am sure some people will come out to our communities from Ipswich. Babergh does not provide any winter night shelters.

### **Reporting Rough Sleepers**

There is a small team at BDC who act upon referrals received from the public and other organisations such as DWP, CAB, local food banks and other organisations.

- The rough sleeper team will attempt to contact the person if details are provided to gather further details.
- They will verify the individual at the location received at the report.
- Offer Homeless Advice appropriate to the circumstances.

People can report sightings of rough sleepers:-

Email:- [rough.sleeping@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:rough.sleeping@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk)

Web:- [www.streetlink.org.uk](http://www.streetlink.org.uk) and click Take Action Now

Telephone BMSDC on 0300 123 4000 option 3

### **Other useful numbers in Ipswich**

Ipswich Citizens Advice

Tower House, 17 Tower Street, IP1 3BE – Tele 0808 278 7867

The Chapman Centre Advice Hub (IHAG)

1 Black Horse Lane, IP1 2EF

Tele 01473 232 426

### **Award Funding to Provide Warm Spaces this Winter**

More than 30 community projects in Babergh and Mid Suffolk have each received a share of more than £36,000 to keep residents warm and connected this winter. I am delighted to say that Holbrook Chapel who provides community cafes during the week for residents (all ages) to meet, chat and socialise has been awarded a grant. They were one of 17 projects in Babergh to be given the Living Well in Winter monies.



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**Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils**  
Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX  
Telephone: (0300) 1234 000  
[www.babergh.gov.uk](http://www.babergh.gov.uk) [www.midsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk)

## Central Suffolk Lettings - Landlord Leaflet

Central Suffolk Lettings has been developed by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils to increase access to good quality homes in the private rented sector for eligible residents within those two districts.

We provide a professional comprehensive no fee lettings service to private sector landlords with a property to let. We understand how important your property is and care about the service we offer you. Within the scheme we offer

- Rent Guarantee Scheme
- Inventory and regular inspections
- Introduction only scheme
- Market Rent Scheme
- Agent Offer

For more information visit:

[www.babergh.gov.uk/landlordgrant](http://www.babergh.gov.uk/landlordgrant)

### Police engagement officer

I recently advised that PC 0582 Katie Jarret has been assigned to our area as the Police Engagement Officer. She is keen to meet with groups and Parishes and listen to their concerns.

She can be contacted by email:-

[Katie.Jarrett@suffolk.police.uk](mailto:Katie.Jarrett@suffolk.police.uk)

### Building in Babergh? “Be a good neighbour”

BDC will expect developers and commercial builders to follow the “Gold Standard” of working practices to protect nearby residents from construction site disruption. The Council has become the only rural district to partner with the Considerate Constructors Scheme (CCS) Through its Code of Considerate Practice it sets out how construction schemes should respect neighbours, minimise impact on the environment and have an inclusive and healthy workplace.

Developers will be encouraged to sign up to the scheme when they are granted planning permission but it will be mandatory where construction could have a severe disruptive impact. The council is looking at how this approach can be strengthened in the future.

The CCS is an independent not-for-profit organisation which works across the UK. It works with construction companies to help them raise their standards.

There is no cost to taxpayers for this and the cost to the developer is extremely modest so it will not be a deterrent to any developer who wants to build homes in our district.

### Construction Infrastructure Levy Review Group

Once again I have joined the above annual working group that looks in detail at the requirements and conditions for requesting CIL funding by Public Bodies, Charitable organisations and Parish Councils. We review the current details for applications and recommend any changes to both Cabinets. Please ensure that you are keeping the CIL Team updated with your current expenditure from your Neighbourhood CIL Accounts there is a five-year window in which to spend it.

Mary McLaren

Mary.McLaren@babergh.gov.uk

04 January 2023



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