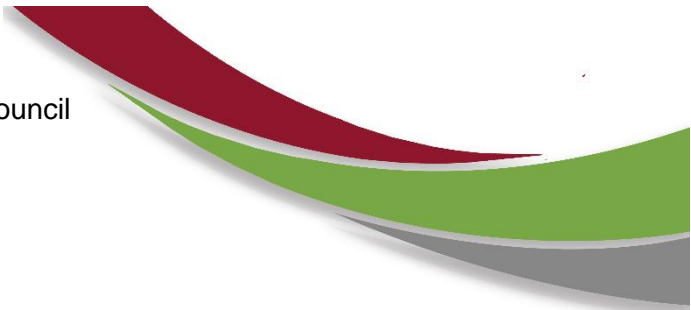


To Chairman and Parish Councillors Holbrook Parish Council
From Councillor Mary McLaren – Stour Ward
Holbrook Parish Council – 20 November 2023



Babergh District Council Business

A Full Council Meeting was held in October.

Babergh District Council Climate Action Roadshow

Well done to Holbrook Parish Council and their contribution to the above event which was held at various locations across both Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Council Areas. The subgroup Greener Holbrook Greener World worked with the Council event in Holbrook Chapel, and it certainly created interesting conversations and some very serious discussion among all the attendees.

New Council Website

Babergh District Council is in the process of introducing a new council website. They are anxious to receive the public's comments and feedback. It is important that information is easy to access, and everyone finds what they are looking for and information is refreshed on a regular basis. It is being improved in stages and the next phase is upgrading the report forms so that you will be able to log in to your account and track any reports you have already made. There is a feedback form on the website which you can make your comments.

Improving the private rented housing sector

It is a fact that we do not have enough affordable houses available to meet the needs of our residents and at present private sector landlords are increasing their rents which is impacting on people with limited means who are looking for a rented property. Five Suffolk councils (districts and boroughs) have come together to form Safe Suffolk Renters which is an initiative to support private sector tenants, landlords and other stakeholders. With the help of £2.2m Government funding the project is already speaking with key stakeholders across the county and a conference for private sector landlords has been arranged at the University of Suffolk. The conference will feature practical guidance and information on a range of subjects including mortgages, financing, tax advice, property maintenance and changes to legislation. Affordable housing is vital not only for our local residents but to attract people moving into the area as essential workers (Health Care Assistants, Dental Technicians and eventually Pharmacy Technicians) and as new courses at Suffolk University come on stream, we need to support the poor recruitment levels we are currently seeing at present across health-related services.

Commitment to increase E.V Chargers

A commitment to increase the number of EV Chargers was agreed at a Cabinet Meeting on the 3 October 2023. Across both districts the councils have plans to install over 30 new E.V. charging points thanks to a grant from the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) but have a commitment to extend the plan to help lower emissions and improve air quality in line with the councils net zero emissions target. This will complement the EV Strategy currently being developed by the County Council

Free Net Zero Advice for Suffolk Businesses and organisations

We are partnering with an environment charity (Groundwork East) to deliver expert energy advice to businesses. The Net Zero Business Advice Service will provide free support to enable businesses, the voluntary sector and other organisations working within Suffolk to understand their greenhouse gas emissions, to set a plan to reduce these and access grant funding to implement carbon reduction actions.



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www.babergh.gov.uk www.midsuffolk.gov.uk



More information about the Net Zero Business Advisor can be found at carboncharter.org/Suffolk-business-consultancy. Organisations can call 01473 350370 or email netzerosuffolk@groundwork.org.uk to speak with a Net Zero consultant.

Have your say on our polling arrangements.

Councils are asking residents for feedback on polling districts and places across the county. Councils are asking for feedback from residents on polling stations and polling districts to ensure they remain suitable for voters. There is a legal duty to divide areas into polling districts and designate a polling station to each one and these arrangements are reviewed every five years. Residents are invited to give their views during the latest "Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations" consultation which closes on Thursday 30 November 2023

Comments and Representations can be submitted no later than Thursday 30 November 2023

Complete our on-line feedback form or email elections@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Or write to

Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils

Electoral Services

Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road

Ipswich IP1 2BX

Parish Council Liaison Meeting at the Stevenson Centre – Great Cornard.30th October 2023

Worth the effort of travelling across the district. Very well supported by Parish & Town Councils and an improvement on the last meeting as there was a lot of interaction between attendees and officers. The meeting was about listening to the views of Parish & Town Councils and the CEO & the Leader understanding their views and noting their concerns. There was some discussion on the new Joint Local Plan and existing neighborhood plans.

Personal Reports

- As a Member of the SCC Health Scrutiny Committee, I lead the Task and Finish Group who observe the monthly meetings of the Future Systems Board at West Suffolk Hospital who are developing the New Build West Suffolk Hospital. They recently applied for planning permission which was granted by West Suffolk Council. However, on the land to the rear of the hospital where the new building will take place there are large expanses of protected species of fungi. As part of the planning approval and like a Section 106 agreement they were required to translocate all these protected plants. Babergh District Council was involved in finding suitable sites which are in Lindsey and Semer and gave them planning permission to translocate. Translocation has been ongoing for at least six weeks and I was invited to go with the Head of Estates and travel with the removal team, view the slicing of the turves and the loading and delivery to Semer/Lindsey. Which I did on 8th November 2023. Amazing and efficient piece of work planning and execution.
- Attended my first Annual General Meeting of the Ipswich Citizens Advice in Ipswich as the nominated observer for Babergh District Council. Very high demand for services and advice from residents in Ipswich & surrounding areas including Shotley Peninsula.



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- As Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Joint Chair of the Joint Committee on Tuesday 31 October I went with Joint Committee Members on a bus tour of four sites across Babergh & Mid Suffolk Council areas to view the condition, design and general situation of Social Housing communities. The differences between housing built pre-war, sixties build and those more recently was very marked, and a lot of work is needed in some areas to upgrade facilities, to replace essential rooms (bathrooms and kitchens), to smarten up exteriors and to encourage tenants to take pride in their properties and local communities. The Cabinet/s have recently agreed on 7th December 2023 to allocate £1.6m to accelerate repairs and improvements across the portfolio of social housing.

Mary McLaren
Babergh District Councillor – Stour Ward
3 November 2023

Mary.McLaren@babergh.gov.uk



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