

To Chairman and Parish Councillors Holbrook Parish Council
From Councillor Mary McLaren – Stour Ward
Holbrook Parish Council – 23 October 2023

Babergh District Council Business

A Full Council Meeting was held in September.

Babergh reaches out to residents for their views.

Now our new administration has set out their initial vision for the next four years it is time for our communities to tell us what they think.

On 3 October, Babergh Cabinet approved that we will be embarking on a major engagement exercise with residents, communities, businesses, stakeholders, and partners – so they can tell us whether they think we are focusing on the right issues.

Feedback will be sought in a range of ways both on-line through a survey and in person workshops. This will then help shape our priorities and our refreshed Corporate Plan. We will promote any consultation through all our usual channels and would be grateful for the support of our parish council colleagues in helping spread the word.

Temporary change to political leadership of Babergh District Council.

Cllr Dave Busby has been forced to take a break from council business due to serious health issues. Deputy Leader Cllr John Ward will become acting council leader during Cllr Busby's absence with Cllr Deborah Shaw remaining as deputy leader within Babergh's power-sharing coalition. This will impact Cabinet portfolio changes. We all wish Cllr Busby a speedy recovery.

Blueprint for district's development "sound"

Planning Inspectors have delivered their verdict on Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council's Joint Local Plan. – the blueprint for the districts' future development until 2037 providing for communities and developers a way ahead.

A Local Plan is prepared by the local planning authority and includes policies to tackle key social, economic, and environmental issues – providing a framework to guide future planning decisions. Babergh and Mid Suffolk's joint plan has been designed to help shape the districts to ensure residents and communities have sufficient housing, employment and inward investment, the environment and heritage is protected, and the infrastructure is in place for healthy communities and thriving towns. It also incorporates feedback from thousands of community responses during its seven years of development.

Now the first phase of the plan has achieved a major milestone - clearing a rigorous and lengthy examination process by the Planning Inspectorate means it can now be formally adopted.

The Joint Local Plan is now expected to go before both councils for adoption at their November meetings.

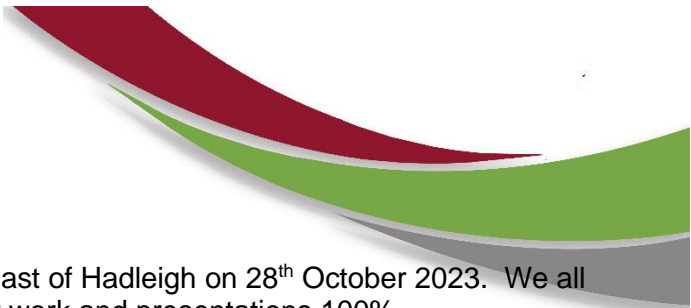
Councils bring local organisations and residents together to inspire climate action.

In October Babergh and Mid Suffolk will be staging a Community Climate Action Road Show. It will give residents the chance to speak to local groups and organisations about climate action tips, initiatives, and opportunities in their area.

We are very proud that the Holbrook Parish Council sub-group Greener Holbrook Greener World has been chosen to demonstrate their very successful work and enthusiastic commitment to their residents,



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and other visitors from Shotley Peninsula and all points east of Hadleigh on 28th October 2023. We all wish them a successful event and will be supporting their work and presentations 100%. A full list of stall holders will be available on the council's website - www.babergh.gov.uk

Developers provide cash boost for community projects.

More than £705,000 collected from developers in Babergh and Mid Suffolk is set to be injected back into communities – funding projects including play areas, cycle paths and village hall improvements. Cabinet Members from both Councils this week voted to approve the latest round of funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) bids.

CIL Payments are a legal requirement paid by developers of residential sites across the districts.

Bids made for CIL funding are reviewed by the Councils every six months and is earmarked for projects to help with infrastructure to keep pace with developments happening in their localities.

Last month I promised to forward the recording of the CIL Training Session that I attended and will be forwarding that to you separately via Parish Clerks. Not only does it explain the CIL process but gives you the access to see your parish's payments and expenditure over the years but those of all other parishes.

Introducing a new project to improve the wellbeing of our young people.

Improving the wellbeing of our young people in schools and connecting them with their communities is important not only for the present but an encouragement for their futures.

The purpose of the project is to act as an early intervention for students, addressing vulnerabilities such as low self-esteem while helping them develop important skills and forge new relationships.

This is being achieved through the implementation of a “youth link worker” in the schools and complement existing work that already takes place.

These workers have been embedded in time for the start of the new term and will work with young people and their families to identify and access community activities that suit their interests. To ensure these actions are taken, an enabling fund has been set up to run alongside the scheme.

Holbrook Academy is involved in this project which will run for three academic years. High schools are not only benefiting, but the youth link workers are checking in on local primary schools as well.

The day-to-day work is being carried out by a long-time partner 4YP.

Council joins forces with Jobcentre Plus

Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils have launched a new partnership with Jobcentre Plus to bolster the local economy with a series of recruitment fairs. Funded by the UK Share Prosperity Fund, these free to enter events will offer local businesses the opportunity to meet prospective employees and to promote themselves and their vacancies. In 2023 there was a successful event in Sudbury and on 20th September there will be another event in The Mix in Stowmarket. Further events will be revealed in the future.

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4 October 2023

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