



To Chairman and Parish Councillors Holbrook Parish Council
From Councillor Mary McLaren – Stour Ward
Holbrook Parish Council 19 June 2023

Babergh District Council - New Administration

Now the dust has settled after the District and Parish elections on the 4th May 2023 more changes have taken place in the districts than the parishes. Our partner council Mid-Suffolk achieved an overwhelming majority by the Green Party and became the first council in the country to do so and we wish them well in this amazing achievement. Babergh District Council, which has 32 ward members emerged with no party having an overall majority (16+1).

Green Party – 10, Independents – 9, Conservatives – 7, Liberal Democrats – 5 & Labour - 1.

The final outcome of much negotiation and political manoeuvring resulted in a coalition of Greens, Independents and Liberal Democrats. The outcome was ratified at the Annual Council Meeting on 23 May 2023.

Leader of the Council to be rotated on an annual basis Liberal Democrat - Year 1 Greens Years 2 & 4 and Independents – Year 3. Cabinet places Greens – 4, Independents - 3 and Liberal Democrats – 1. Time will demonstrate if constant change is beneficial for all concerned. I have already circulated the Cabinet portfolio holder's names.

The Leader of the Council for year 1 elected at the meeting was Cllr Dave Busby - a very experienced LD District Councillor and Cabinet Member for many years with Cllr Deborah Saw - Green and Cllr John Ward - Independent elected as deputy leaders.

I was elected to Chair - the Babergh Overview and Scrutiny Committee) and co-chair of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (both which I did previously). I am delighted again to be a member of the Joint Audit and Standards Committee and the Health Scrutiny Committee. I have no problem holding people to account and asking questions.

Cllr Liz Malvisi was elected as Chairman of the Council and Cllr Simon McDowell as Vice Chair.

Retiring Chairman – Cllr Katherine Grandon raised over £12,000 in her year of office for the Ipswich Blossom Appeal for Breast Cancer.

Congratulations Your Majesties

Babergh District Council sent their congratulations and best wishes to King Charles III and Queen Camilla on their coronation. Stour Ward enjoyed some excellent events and parties in celebration and think we were all partied out at the end.

CIL Funding - More than £500,000 has gone back to our communities during this last funding round.

We are all familiar with CIL associated with developments in our parishes. But less familiar with the General CIL fund that is there for all organisations and parishes to tap into for projects that need funding. Help is given by the CIL Team who will take you through the stages if you wish to apply. Well done to Bill Hewlett who successfully applied for a maximum grant of £100k (75%) of the project costs on behalf of Stutton Community Association for the extension of the Stutton Community Hall and Activity Room. A lot of hard work went into that application with a good result.

Half Term Activities

Our young people over half term have had an opportunity to participate in sporting and group activities including Family Park Cooking, football, painting, arts and crafts and gymnastics.

For young people who are in receipt of free school meals there were packed lunches at each venue and free swims offered by Abbeycroft Leisure at Sudbury and Hadleigh during the week.



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Making Homes more energy efficient

A joint bid by Suffolk Local Authorities will see £8.6m come into the county as part of the Government's Home Upgrade Grant (HUG). Homes eligible - Low Income (Less than £31,000, are off the gas grid, have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) between D&G are owner occupied or rent out by landlords. SCC will identify households eligible for this grant.

“ShakeitOut” Project

Putting your recycling waste in your blue bin should be loose and not in plastic bag. Plastic bags are preventing the recycling of waste and leads to the waste process being spoiled and the benefit of recycling being lost and ineffective and costly.

Managing Food Waste

WASTE RESOURCES ACTION PROGRAMME WRAP is targeting households to make the most of their leftovers. Food Savvy leaflets and recipe cards are all available. Support the Food Savvy campaign.

Some Good News about Belle Vue House in Sudbury

The Renovation of Belle Vue House has been awarded to local period property specialists McCabe and Abel. The completion of this deal is good news for the other proposed development of Belle Vue Park and increased benefits to residents and visitors. According to my predecessor this has been under discussion for many years so time it was sorted.

Finally

I would like to thank the Chairman, the Parish Council and Holbrook Residents for returning me as your District Councillor for another term. My commitment to serve you remains the same except this time I do have a to do list which includes improving the digital competence for some of our residents and some form of activity for people with dementia at the top of the list.

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