

To Chairman & Parish Councillors  
Holbrook Parish Council Meeting  
18 November 2024

### **Corks Lane Development – Hadleigh**

For those who are unfamiliar with Cork's Lane Hadleigh, this was the site of the original Babergh District Council Offices which were vacated by the Council in 2017 and with Mid Suffolk District Council who had vacated their premises in Needham Market moved to Endeavour House in Ipswich.

Babergh District Council's joint venture company Babergh Growth which is in partnership with Norse Group worked with Gipping Construction on the development.

The first 11 homes have been completed on the site known as Bowlers Croft (Hadleigh Cricket Club backs on to the site), following a sympathetic conversion of the buildings to preserve and enhance the original structures, ensuring that character and features are retained.

The first homes have gone on the market with the properties hailed as a significant investment in the town's future.

The development will see the original buildings transformed into 49 new high-quality homes, a mix of one-, two-, three- and four-bedroom apartments and one cottage which are ideally located close to shops, schools and the town's amenities.

Since Babergh moved out of the council offices the aim has been to use the site for much needed housing for Hadleigh. This is in addition to the council's new social housing properties on the site of the former Angel Court Care Home in Angel Lane which was completed in 2021.

Councillors, directors and project leaders recently received the keys and enjoyed a tour of the homes.

### **Living Well in Winter Grant aimed at tackling social isolation in winter returns for second year.**

The Living Well in winter grant will help local organisations such as town and parish councils, village halls or playing field committees, sport clubs and sport centres, charities, social enterprises, community shops and community interests groups deliver new and existing accessible spaces and activities during the colder months.

Now the grant window has opened again enabling applicants to address issues like social isolation and decreased physical activities exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis particularly during the winter.

Last year 20 projects in Babergh received funding. The Grant Window is open, and organisations can apply for a minimum of £500 and a maximum of £2000 and have until Friday 8 November to do so.

I did advise Parish Councils when the Press Release was issued some weeks ago.

### **The finalists for the Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Innovation Awards have been revealed.**

The awards are held every two years and are a celebration of businesses in all sectors that are striving to use unique and creative approaches to deliver their products and services

This year's awards will be handed out in eight categories, with one of the winners then being named as the overall Business Innovator of the Year sponsored by Mosaic Group.

The finalists for each award in alphabetical order highlighting BDC businesses only: -

### **Sustainability Innovation sponsored by Connected Innovation**

Bantu Farm – Bentley

### **Construction Innovation sponsored by Suffolk New College**

Mbloc Ltd – Long Melford

Project Orange Architects – Lavenham

TMJ Interiors – Bildeston



**Customer Service Innovation sponsored by the University of Suffolk**

Breakout - Long Melford

J Edwards Funeral Directors - Sudbury

**Food and Drink Innovation – sponsored by Mid Suffolk Council**

Bantu Farm – Bentley

**Growth Business of the year sponsored by META**

None

**High Street Innovation sponsored by Babergh District Council**

Suffolk Creative Spaces – Long Melford

The Crooked House – Lavenham.

**Rising Star sponsored by the University of Essex**

EO Escape Rooms – Sudbury

**Shooting Star sponsored by West Suffolk College**

The Refill Shed - East Bergholt

Awards will be handed out at All Manor of Events on Thursday 7 November.

**Cash Injection for Communities in Babergh and Mid Suffolk (CIL monies)**

Towns and Parish Councils are set to receive more than £979,000 in developer contributions to help community infrastructure keep pace with housing growth. 24 Babergh towns and parish councils will receive £281k from the CIL pot. The difference between Babergh and Mid Suffolk allocations demonstrates the amount of new housing development in each council.

The round of neighbourhood CIL is in addition to £15 million accumulated in CIL funding since 2018.

The latest bid round for communities wishing to benefit from future CIL Funding closed on Thursday 31 October 2024.

**Stour Valley communities invited to join community energy revolution.**

More information about what the community energy schemes are and what they involve, can be found on the Community Energy South's website alternative contact the councils climate change team.

**More time to get your Suffolk Solar panel and battery storage quote**

Suffolk's Solar Together Scheme deadline has been extended to 15 November 2024 with over 3,100 Suffolk residents already signed up for a quote.

On offer are solar panels with optional battery storage and E.V. charging points as well as retrofit battery storage for anyone who already has solar panels installed and is looking to get more from the renewable energy they generate.

Registration on the scheme is free and there is no obligation to go ahead with installation.

Householders can register online by 15 November 2024 for free and without obligation on the Solar Together website.

**Wildflower Meadows**

With the end of summer comes the end of our wildflower meadows until next year. If anyone on the Parish council or interested residents have an idea for a new wildflower location across our three villages, please contact Richard Parmee who is the bio-diversity project manager at Babergh District Council. However, you may know a land owner or farmer or someone with a small tract of land who may be interested in participating in the Wildflower Meadow project. Advice and support will be given by the Team.



## **Annual Governance Statement**

Local Authorities are accountable to their communities. We must by law ensure that we provide value for money, and it is essential we have the Governance Framework which supports a culture of transparent decision making.

Every year we are required to produce an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) which describes how these corporate governance arrangements have been working.

Our latest AGS 2023/24 will soon be published on our Website alongside the Statement of Accounts.

## **Parking and Universal Credit Scams**

Suffolk Trading Standards regularly raise awareness of and share related advice about scams on their social media channels for your local resident's awareness.

Two recent scams include fake parking ticket text messages advising people that they owe a parking fine and a fake universal credit app.

You can find the details on their social media websites. Sign up to their newsletter and become a trading standards Champion and follow their media accounts.

## **Suffolk on Board Events**

To discuss all things rural transport there is to be a drop-in session at Hadleigh Guildhall on 13 November. They are also running a rural transport survey until 30 November 2024. With your help and feedback it will help shape the requirements for future rural transport services.

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3 November 2024.