

To Harkstead, Holbrook and Stutton Parish Councils
From Mary McLaren- Stour Ward
July Parish Council Meetings

Babergh District Council

As the Purdah Period continues until 4 July, activity in terms of committee meetings has been quiet though as Chair/Joint Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committees the background work goes on. The Joint Committee spent a very long and informative session reviewing the work plan and how we can be more effective in holding people to account for the services they provide for our residents. Ensuring that recommendations made are acted upon. We reviewed our scoping documents in order to ensure we receive more informative reports from officers and to ensure that our questioning is incisive and pertinent. My colleague chair from MSDC and I have already attended a neighbouring Overview & Scrutiny Committee to observe and take note. Our aim is to be the most effective and efficient committee we can be. Our role “to add value to” the many functions of both councils by scrutiny and oversight.

Both Tenant Boards are to start working with our O&S committee/s to enable and empower them to review housing services in more depth and more critically. We are all looking forward to this joint working.

I welcome any suggestions that parish councillors may have in relation to concerns they wish to be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

New Leader announces Babergh Cabinet Changes

Councillor Deborah Saw has detailed the new-look cabinet following her election as council leader in May.

People and Place

Cllr Deborah Saw

Finance, Assets and Investment

Cllr John Ward (Deputy Leader)

Cabinet Member without Portfolio

Cllr Dave Busby (Deputy Leader)

Performance and Resilience

Cllr Alastair McCraw

Thriving Communities

Cllr Daniel Potter

Sustainable economy

Cllr Derek Davis

Housing

Cllr Jessie Carter (shadow Cllr Ruth Hendry)

Heritage, Planning and Infrastructure

Cllr Sallie Davies

Climate Change, Nature Recovery and Biodiversity

Cllr Helen Davies



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



Babergh Cabinet Meeting to discuss parking changes.

An extra meeting for the Cabinet to consider the future of parking charges has been arranged for **Friday 2 August 2024 at 2.30pm**. This is following the Overview and Scrutiny Committee review of the engagement and consultation process with the public and at which recommendations were made to Cabinet.

The "Call In" process was invoked by a District Councillor plus 3 others and this again was heard by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and recommendations made to Cabinet. It is worth noting that Babergh DC operates a Cabinet Model which means they are the executive and the decision makers. It is the process of the decision making that only can be scrutinised, not the decision itself.

This meeting will be live streamed to the public and I will be attending the meeting. However, the public can attend but must make prior arrangements to do so.

Parish Events

Many thanks to all the volunteers who have arranged the many June events in our villages. I did attend all of them and was pleased to see and meet many visitors from further afield. I know lots of money was raised for each charity. The churches too had lots of activities which were well attended.

A lot of hard work goes into the preparation as well as the event itself so well done to everyone.

I am away on holiday for the earlier part of July so will update parish councillors at a later date on any relevant information that comes in while I am away.

Mary McLaren

Mary.McLaren@babergh.gov.uk

1 July 2024



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