

## **AUGUST 2018**

### **COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Babergh District Council Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

At the meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> June the economy and pre-action to the Delphi site in Sudbury that is to close was discussed and questions around Babergh's involvement to help encourage similar business or create new job opportunities were put to the leader and cabinet member. Our local MP James Cartlidge is also involved in this.

Questions were raised about the Lavenham Tourist Information Centre and discussions around how it could be passed to the parish council to run were discussed.

The further strategy and potential new purchase sites for Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council's property investment Management Company, called CIFCO Capital Ltd, was outlined, alongside the recap and full statistical analysis around its current performance.

I would like to remind you that full reports from past Council and Cabinet Meetings, can be found online at:

Babergh: <http://baberghmidsuffolk.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=521&Mid=1017>

Mid Suffolk: <http://baberghmidsuffolk.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=522&Mid=1029>

### **POLICING CHANGES**

Whilst not a Babergh issue, it was interesting to read the proposed changes to Suffolk policing released by the Police, especially after Lavenham has seen a recent spate of criminal activity in the past 12 months or so.

They plan to move 104 officers into Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT) resulting in a threefold increase of police officers available to the area and on the front-line.

In addition the Central Community Safety Team has been split from 1 central team in Suffolk to 3 area teams. An additional Inspector and Sergeant have been added to these teams to co-ordinate local policing.

### **5-YEAR LAND SUPPLY**

Babergh District Council has published its Annual Monitoring Report, demonstrating a Housing Land Supply of 6.7 years – meeting the government's requirement of 5 Years.

The Council has been unable to demonstrate this land supply since April 2017, the impact of this is that the National Planning Policy Framework specifies that, if the Council cannot demonstrate a 5 year housing Land Supply local planning policy for the supply of housing should not be considered up to date and thus carry less weight at planning decision time.

With the publication of the updated 5 year land supply position planning officers will now be reviewing all current application and pre-application enquiries on which this has a bearing. This includes all applications for which formal planning permission has not yet been issued. The Council will have greater control to implement the local policies that District Councillors have endorsed, and have a stronger position to refuse inappropriate proposals.

### **OLD COUNCIL OFFICES**

Babergh District Council's Cabinet have voted to draw up a planning application to develop up to 58 new homes on the site of the council's former Hadleigh offices.

At a meeting of Babergh's Cabinet on 12 July, councillors voted to draw up a planning application to develop the former office site as residential properties, while retaining the listed buildings and part of previous extensions to the offices.

### **BOUNDARY COMMISSION**

The commission intends to report its final recommendations on the parliamentary constituency boundaries to the Government on or shortly before 5 September 2018, in order that they have every chance to lay the report in Parliament before the party conference recess begins on 13 September. Once the Government has laid the report in Parliament, the commission will publish the final recommendations for the Babergh area.

### **LAVENHAM TIC**

Work amongst Babergh and Parish council continues in earnest trying to find a solution to keeping the Tourist Information Centre in Lavenham.

Babergh Councillors have fully supported and voted in favour of helping Lavenham Parish Council retain and run the Tourist Information Centre, which may also include provision for post office services and possibly even Babergh District Council services.

### **MEET THE LEADERS**

Babergh District Council leader and deputy leader will be in Lavenham for an open public question and answer session on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> August from 10am-12pm at the village Hall.

### **GETTING ACTIVE**

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have announced a new three-year joint project with Suffolk Sport. Named "Active Wellbeing" it is a bespoke approach to help those who are physically inactive become more active.

General levels of physical activity among older adults are low; typically, activity levels decline to even lower levels as people progress through old age and are often lower still amongst those living alone.

As well as being positive for social inclusion, being regularly physically active can help to reduce the risk of dementia by up to 30%, hip fractures by up to 68% and depression by up to 30% as well as prevent and manage over 20 chronic conditions and diseases.

Active Wellbeing will work closely with the identified GP surgeries and Patient Participation Group members to develop partnerships with wider community organisations such as the Women's Institute, Parish Councils, local churches, OneLife Suffolk and many more.

### **WATER STREET WEIGHT RESTRICTION**

I have heard no more from Suffolk County Highways on whether they are meeting their start date of end of August for the start of the temporary weight restriction in Water Street. We will know for sure by the end of the month.

### **CHANGES TO THE CABINET**

The following changes have been made to the Cabinet:

- Cllr Patrick will be leaving the cabinet.
- Cllr Ward will be taking the Finance portfolio.
- Cllr Simon Barrett will be joining the cabinet and taking the Economy portfolio.