

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT TO LAVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL – 6TH APRIL 2017

DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING

The March meeting was cancelled and the next meeting will be on 25th April 2017 at 5.30pm. The annual Full Council meeting on 23rd May 2017 at 9.30am. Remember any member of the public is allowed to attend Council meetings and details are published on the Babergh website.

5 YEAR LAND SUPPLY

Babergh have announced that the 5 year supply of land for housing (5YSLH) in the district has now fallen below 5 years. This means that the requirements of paragraph 49 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), now apply to applications for housing development. Para 49 of the NPPF states "*Housing applications should be considered in the context of the presumption in favour of sustainable development. **Relevant policies for the supply of housing should not be considered up-to-date if the local planning authority cannot demonstrate a five-year supply of deliverable housing sites.***"

The position on supply has fallen due to a number of factors but much is due to the recent High Court challenge to policy CS11 which dictated decision on some of the proposed developments. The interpretation and implementation of the application of this policy is now subject to review. In consequence the Council housing supply has dropped to 3 years supply. The District is facing pressure to build, the government have increased emphasis on delivery as set out in the Government White Paper 'Fixing Our Broken Housing Market'.

As such planning decisions will be informed by the NPPF as described above. A possible result is that where no Neighbourhood plan protects an area, there could be increased developments. Thankfully here in Lavenham we voted in the Neighbourhood plan last year so there should be little effect.

COUNTY COUNCIL

The County Council Elections will take place on Thursday 4th May 2017. Whatever your political allegiances please ensure you do vote as this affects the Schools, Roads, Business growth, Adult Care and part of the National Health Service offering in Suffolk.

POST OFFICE

The post is currently in talks with a business in Lavenham, looking at the potential of re-opening in a shop in the village. I will update further when I know more.

LORRIES IN LAVENHAM

Some of you will have seen that Lavenham featured in the Daily Mail online, at the following link: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4316700/HGV-drivers-ruining-one-Britain-s-medieval-villages.html>

it also then got second page spread in the Suffolk Free Press.

The County Council continue to promise the weight restriction and we hope the time frame for its implementation will be given by Suffolk Highways, very soon.

CLT SITE – OLD HIGHWAYS GRITTING DEPOT

I was delighted to be able to join the Parish Chair, Parish Clerk, Parish councillors, Babergh Chief Executive and other officers as well as representatives from Hastoe at the new Community Land Trust site at the old gritting highways depot on Melford road as the land passed from County Council to the CLT site. Congratulations to the parish Council who have worked hard to get this project

moving, especially Chairperson Carroll Reeve. The site will provide 18 affordable homes to local persons.

BABERGH & MID SUFFOLK SERVICE PROGRAMME

The specific locations in the towns will be announced in due course but it looks highly likely this will be in Sudbury Town Hall. Full details to follow in due course.

PRE-SCHOOL

The ceremony to celebrate the start of building the pre-school was enjoyed at the village hall on 28th March. The Parish council and County council have worked hard to reach a temporary solution to alleviating pressure on Lavenham School. The new pre-school at the village hall will open up space at the main school site and has been enabled by section 106 money as well as other grants. Great thanks should go to Katherine Eves, the Pre-school leader the County Council Early Years team.

LAVENHAM BUTCHERS – ANOTHER AWARD

Congratulations to our wonderful village butchers who have won yet another award. The Jolly men and Women in the high street added to their East Anglian Daily Times Food and Drink awards with the coveted Countryside Alliance best butcher award for East Anglia. Great news and proof that our vibrant local economy continues to provide the best in local services. Well done to you and to the local villages who use the shop and help make it such a success.

SHELTERED HOUSING

The official verification of If you are at all worried about the proposal please contact Heather Sparrow on 01449 72476 or email heather.sparrow@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Babergh confirmed the position for those in Spring Street whose sheltered home was declassified, as follows:

Charges – The current service charge, which covers the services below, will be reduced on the 1st April 2017, those affected will have already received a notification of the rent and general service charges for 2017- 2018.

Scheme Manager Contact – residents will still be contacted by a scheme manager on a daily basis; this may be a visit or a phone call.

Emergency Alarm system – the current alarm system, which is one that runs throughout the whole scheme, will need to be removed as the majority of the rest of the scheme is being de-sheltered and a lot of the residents have said they no longer need one. This means that anyone affected will personally need to contract, and pay themselves for a replacement, with a provider who will then arrange to fit a new independent system. You can continue to contract with Stafford and Rural Homes (SARH) who provide this for the Council at the moment or there are also other providers who you can consider. If residents need any assistance with contacting any alarm providers then please contact a scheme manager.

Window Cleaning – current arrangements will cease on the 1 April, this will mean that residents will need to make their own arrangement for cleaning your windows in the future.

Gardening/Grass Cutting - the current arrangements for cutting the grass will still apply until further notice.

Housing Repairs/Maintenance – This service will continue to be provided by the Council, and issues should still be reported by phoning the repairs desk on 01473 825757 or informing a Scheme Manager.

Lastly – if affected residents in Spring Street decide that they wish to remain in a sheltered accommodation then there is the opportunity for them to move into one of the schemes that are still supported - please let a Scheme Manager know if this is the case.

COMMUNITIES BUILDINGS ADVICE SERVICE

The Community Buildings and Advice Service is provided by Suffolk Climate Change Partnership. This is a free impartial service, if you are interested in taking advantage of this; please contact John Taylor on 01473 264595 or email john.taylor3@suffolk.gov.uk

CITIZENS ADVISE BUREAU

Sudbury & District Citizen's Advice Bureau is will be offering a drop-in session in Lavenham village hall, 9.30am-12.30pm on the second Wednesday of every month.
<http://www.sudburycab.org.uk/home.html>

LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (LEP)

The LEP is able to offer help for local businesses at www.newangliagrowthhub.co.uk. This is via the EU Development Fund.

NEW SUDBURY SPOKE OFFICE

The new Babergh District Council spoke office in Sudbury will be located at the Town Hall. I will provide further details of opening times in due course.

W SHROPSHIRE
APRIL 2017