

**JULY 2018**

**COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Babergh District Council Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

There was an additional council meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018 to discuss the independent review into Councillors pay.

The last pay increase review was in 2014 and Babergh's remuneration for councillors is still below other district councils in the UK. However and as expected there was some criticism when the vote was passed 26 to 8 to increase the basic pay in line with review recommendations, the main reason for the criticism was that some felt it should have been delayed until after the next elections in May 2019.

In addition there was an announcement that Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council's property investment management company, called CIFCO Capital Ltd, has made six acquisitions in its first year which are generating an annual returns of £1.4million. This part of the wider investment strategy Babergh adopted in 2016 to try and generate income to replace that lost from central funding.

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>

**NEW ONLINE PAYMNET SYSTEM**

Babergh have introduced a new online payments system for those buying homes in their districts.

The new system allows those requesting a Local Land Charge Search – which carries with it a search fee – to pay quickly and easily online, via credit or debit card.

Most Land Charge Service customers are solicitors and agents delivering conveyancing services to those buying a house although anyone can request this service regarding any property. In addition to the official search requests, known as LLC1 and CON29 searches, Babergh are also adding a new online form and payment system for personal searches, which include only selected parts of the full official search and this is available now.

Searches can be requested via the Babergh and Mid Suffolk websites, at:

<http://www.babergh.gov.uk/planning/land-charges/> or

<http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/land-charges/>

**LAVENHAM TIC**

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

The Parish Council have some strong ideas for how to keep this vital resource open and I have put my support behind these initiatives. The officers at Babergh will keep me informed of progression.

### **WATER STREET WEIGHT RESTRICTION**

You may have seen in the newspapers that Suffolk Highways have committed to starting the weight restriction in Water Street in August. We have been in this situation before and Suffolk Highways have renegaded on their position. We hope they will see this through and if so you will see works, including new (but not overly intrusive) signs going up ready for the implication.