

FEB 2018

COUNCIL MEETING 4th JANUARY 2018

John Ward was voted in as the new leader of the council following Jennie Jenkins departure before Christmas.

Cllr Ward should be an excellent appointment and very much has the district and its people at heart. He currently represents Lower Brett and is a south Suffolk man born and bred. He has held two portfolios: the environment for 6 months prior to the new cabinet governance model and the economy portfolio since then.

He has stated that he wishes to concentrate on the challenges thrown up in the recent social mobility report - mainly housing provision and economic growth. His vision is to see a substantial increase in the availability of social and affordable housing, using the HRA.

The new leader wants to support the government's recent announcement of an investigation into stalled planning applications.

Another one of his visions is to build or purchase up to 210 homes using the HRA over the next 3 years under the Homes Development Strategy This is achievable and I will give high priority to ensuring this target is reached. In addition to the 27 council houses Babergh & Mid Suffolk have built and the 23 the councils have purchased with RTB receipts, there are further projects that are already underway. These are:

- Purchase of 27 houses off plan in Holbrook. 15 of these will be available for affordable rent and 12 for shared ownership.
- A further 4 sites in the pipeline, including Angel Court in Hadleigh, with up to 34 units.
- £2.7M RTB receipts allocated for acquiring new build – approximately 13 properties.

I would like to remind you that the report from council officers, which recommended that both Cabinets provisionally endorse the option of dissolving the existing councils and forming a new council, along with the other papers for the 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 AFFORDABLE HOMES BUILT BY BABERGH

Some of the first council houses to be built in Babergh for more than 30 years have been completed and advertised online to potential new residents from the area (or with a link to the area).

The nine two-bedroom and six three-bedroom behind Schoolfield in Glemsford are part of the first new-build council homes development in the district since 1985.

The properties at Hammond Croft, Glemsford, CO10 7FJ, were listed on the Gateway to Homechoice website.

TENTERPIECE

After nearly 12 years of being left in limbo, residents of Tenterpiece will finally get a full and final answer on the plans for the area.

The Parish Council and myself have held a series of meetings over the past 6 months with the Director of Housing Gavin Fisk, who commissioned some viability studies on repair, replacement and re-development of the area.

It has been decided that the area will remain as it is currently, but modifications and repairs are set to begin. Babergh District Council will now carry out surveys and ensure the existing properties meet the required standards and those in need of improvements will have the necessary work completed.

HOUSEBUILDING/PLANNING

I continue to urge anyone who wishes to comment, good or bad on planning applications, to do so by emailing planning@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk and explaining your objection or support.

WATER STREET

Another month of lorries mounting curbs, getting stuck and generally being a nuisance to residents and visitors alike and yet Suffolk County Council refuse to give us a start date for the temporary weight restriction.

We are still lobbying them hard and hope for news soon.