

JUNE 2018

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Annual Babergh Council Meeting 22nd May 2018.

The Annual council meeting saw a few changes to the cabinet, namely

John Ward – Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy
Jan Osborne – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing
Peter Patrick – Cabinet Member for Finance
Nick Ridley – Cabinet Member for Planning
Frank Lawrenson – Cabinet Member for Assets and Investments
Tina Campbell – Cabinet Member for the Environment
Margaret Maybury – Cabinet Member for Communities
Derek Davis – Cabinet Member for Organisational Delivery
Kathryn Grandon – Cabinet Member for Communications

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&MIId=1017>

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

NEW LAVENHAM HOUSES UP FOR AWARD

The development of 12 new affordable homes in Lavenham has been shortlisted for the East Anglia Building Excellence Awards 2018.

Commissioned by Babergh District Council, the homes on Meadow Court have been shortlisted in the Best Social or Affordable New Housing Development category.

The development, which saw the construction of the first new-build affordable homes in Babergh in almost 30 years, was the result of close working between Lavenham Parish Council and Babergh District Council to supply new housing to meet local need.

The winners of the awards will be announced on the evening of 29 June at King's College, Cambridge.

SHARED OWNERSHIP / HOUSING

Babergh District Council has taken on the first new Shared Ownership Housing in the district in over 25 years.

The seven new houses – the first of 12 are in Holbrook.

Shared Ownership housing allows homeowners to purchase between 25 and 75% of a property, while paying rent on the remaining share. This allows households who may not otherwise be able to afford mortgages to become homeowners.

NEW OFFICER ANNOUNCED

Emily Atack has been announced as the Assistant Director for Assets & Investments and Managing Director of our companies.

Emily has worked for Ipswich Borough Council for the last eight years and is currently Managing Director of each of their three trading companies – Ipswich Borough Assets Ltd; Ipserv Ltd and Handford Homes Ltd.

LEADER AND DEPUTY OPEN TO QUESTIONS

Leader and Deputy Leader of Babergh District Council are to host a question time event in Hadleigh. Councillor John Ward and Deputy Leader, Councillor Jan Osborne are inviting people who live and/or work in Babergh to ask questions about the council's work at an event in Hadleigh.

The councillors are hosting the event on Saturday 9 June between 10am and 12noon at The Guildhall in Market Place, Hadleigh.

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/>

HOUSEBUILDING/PLANNING

The s106 contribution was finally confirmed for the Bears Lane Development and as such building will (or has already) be started very soon.

During initial ground testing works an unacceptable amount of mud was left on the road and when notified the developers were quick to clear it up. Therefore please do let me know if you hear or see any issues surrounding the building work.

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.

LAVENHAM TIC

I was pleased to see that Lavenham Parish Council have submitted their nomination to list the Tourist Information Centre at 2 Lady Street, Lavenham, CO10 9RA.

The Community Right to Bid, which was introduced by the Government in 2011 allows community groups to nominate land and/or buildings as Assets of Community Value, which cannot be sold without community groups first being given the opportunity to put together bids to buy the property. These rights last for 5 years from confirmation, if successful.