

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, LAVENHAM 8th May 2019

Lavenham Ward Elections

I was delighted with the result and the opportunity to work with you for the next four years. My work with Cockfield Parish Council has proved that much can be achieved with a Parish Council who are forward thinking and willing to explore and pursue opportunities to protect and improve their communities.

Local Plan

As you probably know the new Joint Local Plan for Babergh and Mid Suffolk is well behind schedule. The second round of consultation has still not happened with the 'revision to the timetable' anticipating presentation to Council in June, followed by public consultation. There are then periods for preparation of the 'submission version' and a 'technical consultation' before the Examination in Public. Adoption of the new plan will now not take place until next year. I want to ensure we have no further delays and deliver an up to date Local Plan as soon as possible.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The first bid round for CIL funding was May 2018. Cockfield, Lindsey and Monks Eleigh were all able to benefit with funds for their Village Halls and Cockfield Parish Council completed the successful bids in bid round 1 with the purchase of two land parcels for allotments and recreation. Bid round 2 applications approved include electric vehicle charging points in Lavenham's car park, funding for the Lavenham 'Community Hub' in the TIC building, and Preston St Mary Village Hall extension. Unspent bid round 2 funds will be carried forward to the next bid round this month.

BDC 2019-20 Budget

Included in the budget for 2019-20 is another £25 million of borrowing to fund commercial property through CIFCO Capital Ltd. This will bring the total investment in CIFCO to £100 million split equally between Babergh and Mid Suffolk DCs.

Babergh Governance

Two years ago the Conservative administration with a large majority changed our arrangements to a Leader and Cabinet Model. This cannot be changed for at least three years, so we now have a situation where there is no overall control, but we must still choose a Council Leader who will appoint a Cabinet. I will keep you informed regarding these arrangements and appointments which should be confirmed at the full Council meeting on the 22nd May.

Clive Arthey