

NOV 2017

CHILTON WOODS

A convoluted processes by which an application to see if planning application would be granted at Chilton Woods, was passed by the planning committee on 25th Oct. BDC promised to take forward to the applicant, the implication of traffic build up along the Springlands Way road where there are proposed to set in traffic lights at the Acton Lane junction. It was commented that this would cause serious congestion if not dealt with.

Infrastructure of the proposed development namely all roads, were commented on, particularly the western entrance which would in future be the industrial/economic access to the development. Despite repeated concerns that this road or entrance should be constructed first, the applicants/agents continued to maintain that this was not a viable proposition and that the residential part would have to be constructed first using the existing roads.

It was confirmed that the school would be built/commenced after the completion of the first 150 houses.

Alterations to the Valley Road junction at Great Waldingfield Swan were commented on but the developer did not confirm that any improvement would be made here. A roundabout was requested for at the Long Melford/Acton junction of the Melford bypass (Bull Lane) but this was dismissed.

RE-DEFINED BOUNDARIES FOR DISTRICT

It has been suggested by the independent boundary commission that Lavenham ward (1 member) should join with Acton, Chilton and the Waldingfields to make a large 2 member ward. It is yet to be confirmed but this now looks highly likely.

BABERGH / MID SUFFOLK MERGER

On Friday 13th October Cabinets from both council met to discuss the future of local government in our areas. They will consider a report from council officers, outlining the various options for the future relationship between Babergh and Mid Suffolk, including a recommendation to consider dissolving both current councils and replacing them with a new single council. Full options were:

- Continuing the existing partnership approach, without any further change;
- Forming a wider partnership with 1 or more other district/borough councils;
- Dissolving the two Councils (Babergh and Mid Suffolk) to form a new single district council for the area;
- Forming a Unitary Council for the area (or some other larger area);
- Creating a Combined Authority for Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils (with or without other Councils);
- Forming a stand alone 'mutual style' company (with or without other public and / or private sector partners) to deliver all public sector services in the area.

The report recommended that both Cabinets provisionally endorse the option of dissolving the existing councils and forming a new council. Should the Cabinets decide to do so then comprehensive public engagement will take place during the autumn to test this opinion, and understand the views of residents, stakeholders, partners and staff. Once this is completed the results of this public engagement and a detailed Business Case will need to be further considered by both Babergh and Mid Suffolk. The full report, 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>

LAVENHAM – A HERITAGE ACTION ZONE

Lavenham is registering its interest into the possibility of being a Heritage Action Zone with the next round in 2018. This is an initiative from Historic England and could help to preserve the ancient core and buildings in the area.

NEW APPOINTMENT IN THE COUNCIL

The replacement for Bill Newman in role of Corporate Manager Strategic Planning, is Robert Hobbs.

SUDBURY SPOKE OFFICE

Visitors to Sudbury Town Hall can now access Babergh District Council Services across the counter.

A new arrangement with Sudbury Town Council will allow Babergh residents to access their district council services in Sudbury Town Hall, with access on Gaol Lane, without requiring any prior appointment.

Residents will be able to visit the Town Hall to access services between 9am and 12.30pm, or between 1.30pm and 5pm, Monday to Thursday. On Fridays the service will be available between 9am and 12.30pm and between 1.30pm and 4.30pm.

HOUSEBUILDING/PLANNING

As mentioned last month there are planning applications for new developments in the village and I would urge anyone who wishes to comment, good or bad on these applications, to do so by emailing planning@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk and explaining your objection or support.

Current status of these is as follows:

Deacons yard behind high street

passed by planning last week

Land behind Howletts

This is going to Planning Committee next week (w/c 6th Nov), with a recommendation of approval by the planning department. (planning committee meetings are open to all – please see Babergh website if you wish to go).

Bears Lane

No date for planning committee yet - Marden Homes have excavated drainage holes to test surface water runoff, whilst the agents are in discussion with the county highway authority with a view to adding the issue of access and the improvements needed for this into their S106 package. There is also a plan to make the bollard on the footpath to Sudbury road collapsible to allow emergency access.

COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNTS

Babergh District Council has launched a consultation on changes to their Council Tax Reduction Scheme, which could see some working age people on low incomes pay just 5% of their bill.

The proposed changes include an increase in the maximum discount to 95%, which could see some residents pay just 5% of their Council Tax bill. The changes also aim to make provision for the introduction of Universal Credit and align the current scheme with the Housing Benefit scheme Babergh operate.

To take part in the consultation which runs from Tuesday 31 October to 27th November, please visit:

<http://www.babergh.gov.uk/council-tax/council-tax-reduction-scheme-have-your-say>