

DEC 2017

COUNCIL MEETING 21st Nov 2017

A lively meeting which saw further recommendations on boundary review sent to Boundary Commission. On the whole their work was supported. With reference to the suggested changes, Cockfield made a play to try and join Lavenham rather than Long Melford, but Acton were quite happy to stay with Lavenham and so objected to any change to the suggested new boundaries.

The council discussed the merger opportunity and the back benches brought a motion, to make the decision on whether to proceed with merger and take it the public, a full council decision not just a cabinet decision. This was deferred until Babergh could speak to their legal counsel.

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>

EMERGENCY COUNCIL MEETING 4th DECEMBER 2017

Following the meeting above, an emergency meeting was held on 4th December, again with lively debate. The focus was on how to proceed with looking into the merger idea and whether this should be a cabinet decision or a full council decision (as per the back bench motion. Babergh's legal counsel have confirmed it should be a cabinet decision as per the constitution.

Therefore the cabinet will look again at recent telephone surveys and polls to gauge an idea of whether to continue looking at the merger option and if so, how best to proceed with that.

NEW INTERIM STRATEGIC DIRECTOR

Kathy Nixon from London Borough Redbridge is the new interim strategic director.

SUDBURY SPOKE OFFICE

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

The 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

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.

Current status of the main 3 sites in Lavenham is as follows:

Deacons yard behind high street

Passed by planning last week, likely start date for building is spring 2018.

Land behind Howletts Garage

Planning was granted by the planning committee on 8th November. There is an element of CIL provided per house, but due the number of houses there is also some S106 contributions required and these are currently with the Babergh team to negotiate with the developers.

Bears Lane

Likely to go to committee on 20th December 2017. Please visit

<http://baberghmidsuffolk.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=150&Mid=1155&Ver=4> for details of the planning committee and if you wish to attend.