

JULY 2017

DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING

No full council meeting in June but there were two cabinet meetings. The boundary review was discussed and the parishes have had a briefing on this subject. A new joint local plan is in draft and will be going to full council in July and will be going out to consultation from mid-Aug until end of October. The SHMA (Strategic Housing Market Assessment) identified Babergh needs 355 new builds per annum, an increase from the original 325 cited last year.

Reports say that Babergh are planning to build 200 new council houses over the next 3 years and are presently identifying plots of land for this.

Please also remember that pre-application charges came in from 1st July. Free basic information over the phone is available, but written advice or information from highways, heritage or flooding will all be chargeable. The planning team at Babergh had a busy year in 2016/17 - there were over 2,000 applications of which 1,300 went to decisions and 700 were withdrawn or not taken any further.

LORRIES IN LAVENHAM

I am still chasing county highways for a start date of the trail weigh restriction, August has been intimated but we will know more by mid-July. They are, at present, 3 months behind schedule on this and we are working hard to get the highways team to begin the trial.

ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2016/17

The annual monitoring report for the period looks at housing delivery and strategic planning. It shows that Babergh delivered on 70% of the now 325 houses per annum required but Lavenham played more than its fair share in the housing delivery for the year, 34 out of 226 in the entire area were completed in Lavenham, only Sudbury had more. Babergh has 160 homes under construction at present and some 2,160 planning applications passed, but not built, 67 of these in Lavenham. The Plan also shows that 11% of the 226 homes built in 2016/17 in Babergh were affordable homes.

The new plan period 2011-2031 will see a drop off in house building requirements, from 325 per annum to 220.

The monitoring report also shows that at present Babergh has a Core Strategy land supply of just 4.1 years, this needs to be at 5 years to ensure Babergh keep control of the planning process according to the local plans. Failure to maintain a 5 year land supply will mean that the planning process decision can resort to National Planning Policy framework which is less strict.

BABERGH & MID SUFFOLK SERVICE PROGRAMME

New planning applications website is as follows and will be available in part from 12th May 2017 and in full from 5th June 2016:

<https://planning.baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications/>

Any of you who wish to comment on a current planning application not via the above site may continue to do so by emailing planning@babberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk or write to:

Planning Department
Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils
131 High Street
Needham Market

Suffolk IP6 8DL

As a reminder the council office business will be fully operation in Endeavour House in Ipswich in September. The Hadleigh office will no longer be used from this date onwards.

Also Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have launched their new website and phone number, delivering new, easier ways for residents to access Council Services.

Following councillors voting to adopt a new Public Access Strategy last September the new phone number is 0300 123 4000.

The new website is available at:

<http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk> or <http://www.babergh.gov.uk>

SHELTERED HOUSING

A few residents have asked about Tenterpiece and the future. I have not had any formal reply from officers but will continue to press them on a long term and definitive decision on what the future for Tenterpiece holds.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (LEP)

The LEP is able to offer help for local businesses at www.newangliagrowthhub.co.uk. This is via the EU Development Fund.

PCC MEETINGS

The Police and Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore launches his 2017 series of public meetings across the county. The closest meetings to us are:

Tuesday 12th September – Bury St Edmunds (Southgate Centre IP33 2QA)

Wednesday 20th September – Sudbury (Sudbury Town Hall CO10 1TL)

THE HALT PLAY AREA

I have been liaising with Public Realm team at Babergh to have the children's play area at the Halt opened up and the fencing removed. I am pleased to say this is progressing and the developers have agreed that the land should now pass to Babergh. We are awaiting a few legal sign-offs but hope to be in a position to commence residents being able to use this area in the not too distant future.