

SEPT 2017

DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING

At the meeting in August it was agreed that 2 proposals for reduction in number of councillors, should go to the Independent Boundary Commission. The proposals were for 31 and 34 councillors, however these are just suggestions and it will be an independent decision as to how many members the council will be reduced to (currently 43).

LORRIES IN LAVENHAM

Another month and further examples of Lorries getting stuck in Water Street or causing damage have filled my inbox. Myself and the County Councillor Robert Lindsay have both been putting as much pressure as we can, on the highways team at Suffolk County Council to have the trial weight restriction started. I have no firm date for inception but we do now have a confirmed officer responsible for this (the previous one changed roles mid-summer) and we will endeavour to have this up and running as soon as possible.

HOUSING

The Cabinet approved a Review of Home Ownership report which will enable the Council to introduce a new leasing agreement for those people who have taken advantage of the Right to Buy.

This will introduce a standard charge for services where historically it has been subsidised by HRA. This will reduce costs, increase revenue, improve service delivery and resilience and achieve statutory and legal compliance.

The HRA Business Plan was approved at Full Council last month. In addition to this Gavin Fisk was appointed as the Assistant Director of Housing.

In Babergh a total of 18 homes to date have been purchased using RTB receipts.

To improve service delivery, reduce operating costs, increase income and achieve a cost neutral operating model for Home Ownership Services the cabinet also opted to agree the following changes:

- That Cabinet approved an implementation of 'flat rate' Management Fee Structure of £279.00 per annum for new Leaseholders.
- That Existing BDC Leaseholders to be excluded from the increased Management Fee until such time the lease can be reviewed and a revised charging mechanism implemented.
- Approved administration charges are increased annually on 1st April by CPI as at 30th September of the previous year, and a market review every 3 years.

CHILDCARE / LAVENHAM PRE-SCHOOL

A reminder that the 30 hours free care for eligible working parents with children aged three and four years is now in effect. This was part of the reason some government funding was provided to help build the wonderful new pre-school in Lavenham.

In the new Pre-school the facilities offered will extend by offering;

- All day, morning or afternoon care, for children from age 2–5 yrs.
- Breakfast and lunch clubs.
- After school and holiday club.
- Bright, spacious, purpose built play space.
- A separate 'quiet room' providing space to support children in quieter activities or to

- support children with special educational needs.
- Large outdoor play area using natural resources to enhance the children’s learning and development.

BABERGH LOCAL PLAN

Consultation on the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan will begin on Monday 21 August. This consultation will be held over a period of almost 12 weeks, to end at 5pm on Friday 10 November, the timeline is as follows:

- Monday 21st August – Consultation opens
- Week commencing 11th September – Mailshot to all addresses in the Districts
- Throughout September – A series of briefing sessions with Town and Parish Councils and Parish meetings. An invitation with the full details will be sent to Town and Parish Councils and Parish meetings shortly, and we will of course copy in Ward Members
- Early October – public drop-in sessions will be held throughout the districts, with the following details to be publicised at the start of the consultation on Monday. All sessions will run from 2pm to 7pm:
 - Monday 2nd October – The Blackbourne Community Centre, Blackbourne Road, Elmswell, IP30 9GY
 - Wednesday 4th October – United Reformed Church, Ipswich Street, Stowmarket, IP14 1AD*
 - Thursday 5th October – Eye Community Centre, Magdalen Street, Eye, IP23 7AJ
 - Monday 9th October – Tattlingstone Village Hall, School Road, Tattlingstone, IP9 2NA
 - Wednesday 11th October – Hadleigh Town Hall, The Guildhall, Market Place, Hadleigh, IP7 5DN
 - Thursday 12th October – Sudbury Town Hall, Old Market Place, Sudbury, CO10 1TL*
- 5pm Friday 10 November – consultation closes

On Monday 21 August, when the consultation launches, Babergh will be contacting all organisations and individuals in the Strategic Planning Consultation database. At this time our Town and Parish Councils will also be sent a paper copy of the consultation document and posters to display in their own areas advertising the consultation.

The Consultation documents themselves will be online – they will be available at www.babergh.gov.uk/JointLocalPlan

SUDBURY LOCAL PLAN

The planned consultation events on the Local Plan in Sudbury will also include additional special “Vision For Prosperity” displays for the town. The Council is seeking views on the public’s priorities for delivering projects within the town. Together the Joint Local Plan and Vision for Prosperity will help shape growth over the next 20 years. (The Vision for Prosperity is a document intended to establish:

- a high-level aspiration, setting out the community’s key desires and wishes for the town they would like to live and work in;
- the priorities for the town – setting out the main targets, goals and achievements to focus limited resources;
- a delivery plan that identifies the intended key projects and action points, and sets out who will be responsible for their implementation.

CHILTON WOODS

The Chilton Woods Application is due to go to Committee in September.

POST OFFICE

I have been chasing the post office on the current situation. They have confirmed there is still no shop willing to take the role of post office on. If anyone in the village has any ideas please do pass them on.

HOUSEBUILDING/PLANNING

You may have seen in the newspapers that the government is coming under increased pressure to force councils into building more homes. Lavenham has had its fair share of new developments recently, and has propped up Babergh new homes numbers on several occasions.

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.