

## ***DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT TO LAVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL – 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017***

### **DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING**

The Full Council was held on April 2017 at 5.30pm. At the meeting the Council adopted some minor changes to the constitution due to the cabinet model taking effect. The largest amount of time was then spent discussing the investment strategy which will see the Council invest in commercial property which I provide income to replace that lost in budgetary constraints. This is a new and exciting move for the council and Babergh is one of the first in the country to make such a necessary move.

The annual Full Council meeting is on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2017 at 9.30am. Remember any member of the public is allowed to attend Council meetings and details are published on the Babergh website.

### **BEARS LANE FLATS**

Babergh District Council received the keys for the 12 flats recently completed in Meadow Court, Lavenham. The properties have been advertised for residents and saw over 50 local applicants (those with a local connection) on the shortlist. The new residents will be moving in to their new home within the next few weeks.

### **LORRIES IN LAVENHAM**

The highways team at Suffolk County Council have provisionally given us a date for the Water Street weight restriction to start, being the end of May. I am hopeful that when writing this piece next month I will be able to confirm it has started.

### **BUSINESS RATES**

Two recent business rates consultations have been issued by CLG.

The first issued in February, closed on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, this was on the design of the 100% retention system. The second issued in March, (and closed on 7<sup>th</sup> April), this was on the distribution of the £300m announced in the Budget to local authorities (The March Budget announced £300m would be made available to local authorities over the next 4 years: £175m this year, £85m 2018/19, £35m 2019/20 and £5m 2020/21).

Babergh are now working closely with the LGA and talking about a central system to deal with losses from appeals. The new date for implementation is 2019/20 (2 years away), the Local Government Finance Bill is to implement the changes.

The reset period is likely to be every 5 years and authorities will retain all growth during those 5 years, but at a reset some income will be redistributed.

### **BABERGH & MID SUFFOLK SERVICE PROGRAMME**

The specific locations of the Sudbury Spoke Office is Sudbury Town Hall. Full details to follow in due course. However I can confirm that council meetings and council office business will be fully operation 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**

If you are at all worried about the proposal please contact Heather Sparrow on 01449 72476 or email [heather.sparrow@babermidsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:heather.sparrow@babermidsuffolk.gov.uk)

New Tenterpiece wardens (split role between two people) have started and I hope you will join me in wishing them success in their roles.

### **COMMUNITIES BUILDINGS ADVICE SERVICE**

The Community Buildings and Advice Service is provided by Suffolk Climate Change Partnership. This is a free impartial service, if you are interested in taking advantage of this; please contact John Taylor on 01473 264595 or email [john.taylor3@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:john.taylor3@suffolk.gov.uk)

### **CITIZENS ADVISE BUREAU**

Sudbury & District Citizen's Advice Bureau is will be offering a drop-in session in Lavenham village hall, 9.30am-12.30pm on the second Wednesday of every month.

<http://www.sudburycab.org.uk/home.html>

### **LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (LEP)**

The LEP is able to offer help for local businesses at [www.newangliagrowthhub.co.uk](http://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:

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Elmswell (Blackbourne Centre, IP30 9GY)

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September – Bury St Edmunds (Southgate Centre IP33 2QA)

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September – Sudbury (Sudbury Town Hall CO10 1TL)

W SHROPSHIRE

MAY 2017