



TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER #9

July 2012

Welcome to our joint newsletter aimed at keeping all the town and parish councils, across both Babergh and Mid Suffolk, informed about our plans to meet the financial and other challenges facing us.

Since our last newsletter at the end of January there has been further progress in Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils move towards integration and transformation.

As you will be aware, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are transforming the way in which we deliver our services, through integrating our staffing structures across both Councils, while remaining as two separate entities.

Since then, after a rigorous assessment process - which included interviews and presentations in front of the Joint Appointments Panel and Stakeholders - the two remaining vacant Strategic Director roles have now been filled. There is a further item below on this.

The new team of Corporate Managers have also been appointed and start their new roles next month.

This newsletter will also talk about plans to engage with our communities and interested stakeholders so that they can have a say in what the new strategic priorities should be for both councils.

We have also included an item below where you can help us to improve this newsletter, and the type of information that is included in it. Please take a few moments to complete the short questionnaire.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk Transformation and Integration – the story so far

As you will be aware, the last year has been one of tremendous change both at Babergh and Mid Suffolk, which began with the appointment of the new joint Chief Executive, Charlie Adan, in May 2011.

The Joint Management Team have been working together to ensure the transformation and integration process continues as smoothly as possible. The JMT has been complete since the arrival of the final two Strategic Directors in April.

Below is a short statement from both Mike and Lindsay.

Mike Evans, Strategic Director (People)

Mike said: "My family and I have relocated to Suffolk, and we moved into our new home during the week of the floods – an interesting arrival in England's driest county!

"However, we love it here. I have found my new job as Strategic Director People invigorating, and the exciting challenge that was promised - a job that was not going to be for the faint-hearted - is living up to expectations.

"I have a lot to learn, but am thoroughly enjoying meeting new colleagues who are all making me feel very welcome in my new role working for both Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils."

Lindsay Barker, Strategic Director (Place)

Lindsay said: "The welcome I have received has been tremendous and people's enthusiasm and commitment to both Councils and their communities is really clear.

"I can see a significant amount of potential and opportunity in both areas, one of the reasons I wanted to come and work here in the first place, and although there is a lot of change happening I am optimistic about both Councils being in a stronger position to face the future because of it."

we have now recruited 30 of the available 34 Corporate Manager posts. These managers will take up their new posts from July 2.

The remaining four posts are now being advertised for open internal recruitment.

Equally, there are a number of colleagues who are part of the Governance Review and this is scheduled to commence with the appointment of an interim manager from July onwards.

Below is the finalised Integrated Management Team - Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils:

Chief Executive: Charlie Adan

People

Strategic Director: Mike Evans

Communities

Head of Service: Jonathan Free

Tom Barker: Strong Communities (Community grants, support to all voluntary, community and charitable groups, community development)

David Clarke: Business Improvement (People): (Business improvement & transformation, building social cohesion, policy development)

Peta Jones: Safe Communities (Community Safety Partnership, tackling anti-social behaviour, emergency preparedness)

Jonathan Seed: Healthy Communities (Improvement of wellbeing and reduction of health inequalities, client role with leisure centres, sports development)

Housing

Head of Service: Martin King

Gavin Fisk: Tenant Services (All council housing tenancy issues)

Ryan Jones: Asset Management (Operations) (Repair and improvement of all Babergh and Mid Suffolk-owned properties and assets, including council housing)

Sue Lister: Supported Housing (Homelessness prevention, sheltered housing management)

Tom Ost: Private Sector Housing (Improvements of private sector housing standards, promotion of privately owned housing for rent, disabled adaptations)

Louise Rawsthorne: Housing Revenue Account (Management of Housing Revenue Account, housing strategy, welfare benefits reform)

Place

Strategic Director: Lindsay Barker

Economy

Head of Service: Peter Burrows

Julie Abbey-Taylor: Strategic Housing (Housing enabling, affordable housing development)

Dave Benham: Economic Development & Tourism: (Economic development, regeneration, inward investment)

Rich Cooke : Spatial Planning Policy (National Planning Policy Frameworks, Local Development Frameworks, localism agenda)

Ben Elvin: Planning Enforcement (Planning enforcement delivery & strategy)

Philip Isbell: Development Manager (Planning services, development management, localism)

Gary Starling Building Control (Building control, dangerous structures, demolitions)

Christine Thurlow: (Planning services, development management, localism)

Nick Ward: Heritage (Development of heritage assets, conservation services, promotion of AONBs)

Environment

Head of Service: Chris Fry

James Buckingham: Environmental Protection (Licensing enforcement, public health nuisances, pest control)

Lee Carvell: Licensing (Licensing & administration)

Brigitte Dawson: Waste (Waste & recycling contract management, Joint Client Team)

John Grayling: Food & Safety (Food hygiene, infectious disease, health & safety)

Ian Reekie: Business Improvement (Place) (Business improvement & transformation, new business initiatives & practices, project & programme management)

Corporate

Strategic Director: Andrew Hunkin

Corporate Organisation

Head of Service: Peter Quirk

Jeanette Bray: Organisational Development (OD, HR, training & development)

Karen Coll: Business improvement (Corporate) (Business improvement, policy development, performance management)

Kathryn Saward : Head of Legal Services (Legal Services /Monitoring Officer /Standards function)

Paul Simon: Communications (Communications, public consultation, stakeholder liaison)

John Snell: Internal Audit (Internal audit, external audit relationship, corporate risk)

Phil Tallent: Elections & Electoral Management (Electoral services and electoral registration)

Anne Brown Interim Governance Executive: (Democratic services, support services, print and design teams)

Corporate Resources

Head of Service: Katherine Steel

David Cleary: Customer Services (Customer access strategy, customer services, compliments, comments & complaints handling)

Barry Hunter: Financial Services (Finance, revenues & benefits, Babergh statutory officer)

Carl Reeder: Information Management & ICT: (Information management, ICT services & strategy, telephony)

In addition, there are two interim posts within the Integrated Management Team, namely Mike Hammond, Interim Director of Transformation and Chris Foti, Interim Head of Programme Delivery.

There are currently four vacant Corporate Manager posts: Public Realm, Commissioning, Asset Utilisation and Housing Options.

Operational Delivery Teams (ODTs)

We are now moving into the planning stage for the process that will ultimately lead to the creation of the new ODTs around the New Year.

Chief Executive Charlie Adan said: "This reflects the many changes that have taken place over a relatively short period of time, involving a great deal of honest dialogue and engagement and, I'm aware in some cases, some personal anxiety as well.

"I'd like to thank everybody who has been involved thus far – in whatever capacity – for your contributions in helping us get to this point.

"But we must now redouble our efforts in fundamentally changing how we all deliver outcomes for our communities and that means quickly moving forward."

Babergh and Mid Suffolk's community engagement

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils' are about to launch plans to engage with our communities.

In essence, we want to find out as much as we can about the people who live and work in our communities, the critical issues for them and their key needs, what we should be doing to help, what we might be able to encourage communities to do for themselves or that we can get others to do and what is already being done that we can support and others might also learn from!

We also hope to find out much more about what community assets and capacity (physical ones such as buildings and intangible ones such as areas of expertise and knowledge) might be available for use by others across our two districts.

The intelligence and insights gained from these encounters and other sources will be used to inform the development of our new strategic priorities for both councils. These in turn will guide and drive our approach to problem –solving, service delivery and community leadership over the longer-term as well as informing the budget setting for next year and the design of our operational delivery teams.

Over the next few months or so Babergh and Mid Suffolk councillors will be looking to contact their parish and town councils – and indeed other community groups as well - to arrange appropriate opportunities to have these discussions.

Babergh & Mid Suffolk's chairmen for 2012/13

Both councils have held their annual meetings earlier this year and the following are the Council and committee chairmen for 2012/13:

Babergh:

Chairman of the Council: Cllr Nick Ridley

Vice Chairman: Cllr James Long
Chairman of Strategy: Cllr Jennie Jenkins
Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny (Stewardship): Cllr David Busby
Chairman of Overview & Scrutiny (Community Services): Cllr James Long
Chairman of Development Committee: Cllr Peter Beer
Chairman of Licensing and Appeals: Cllr Peter Holbrook
Chairman of the Joint Scrutiny Committee: Cllr Bryn Hurren

Mid Suffolk:

Chairman of Council: Cllr Lesley Mayes
Vice Chairman of Council: Cllr Diana Kearsley
Chairman of Executive: Cllr Tim Passmore
Vice Chairman of Executive: Cllr Derrick Haley
Chair of Scrutiny: Cllr Rachel Eburne
Vice Chair of Scrutiny: Cllr John Matthissen
Chairman of Licensing Committee: Cllr Ray Melvin
Vice Chairman of Licensing Committee: Cllr Kathie Guthrie
Chairman of Planning Committee A: Cllr Stuart Gemmill
Vice Chairman: Cllr John Whitehead
Chairman of Planning Committee B: Cllr Kathie Guthrie
Vice Chairman: Cllr Ray Melvin
In addition, Mid Suffolk's Portfolio holders are: Finance and Resources: Cllr Derrick Haley,
Community: Cllr Diana Kearsley, Economy: Cllr Tim Passmore,
Housing: Cllr Marilyn Curran, Environment: Cllr Roy Barker and Planning: Cllr Caroline Byles.

Tenants sign up to Babergh and Mid Suffolk's new Joint Housing Board

Throughout January 2012, all tenants across Babergh and Mid Suffolk were encouraged to nominate themselves for one of the six seats available to the new Joint Housing Board.

This is believed to be the first Joint Housing Board in the country where tenants and Members from two districts will work together, with equal voting rights, to decide on strategy and develop plans and policy.

The Project Team used a number of ways to engage and encourage tenants to apply including the use of social media and direct text messaging. The team were also on hand to help candidates complete the relevant paperwork and to prepare their election manifestos. 24 nominations were received for the six seats – meaning a contest for each of the six seats available.

Voting started on Monday February 20 and closed on Thursday March 8. Counting of the votes took place on Friday March 9 at Chamberlin Hall in Bildeston.

Charlie Adan, Chief Executive of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils acted as the Returning Officer. With an impressive 31% turnout, the following people were elected to the Board:

- Babergh East - Liz Perryman
- Babergh Sudbury and Great Cornard – Michael Robert Berry
- Babergh West – Colin Bailey
- Mid Suffolk Central – Rick Langford

- Mid Suffolk North – Sharon Dennise Wade
- Mid Suffolk South – Will Hutchinson

The first Board meeting took place on Thursday April 19 and Cllr Marilyn Curran was elected as the Chair.

For further information on the Joint Housing Board, please contact: Louise Rawsthorne, Tenancy Services Manager (MSDC), 01449 724772 or David Clarke, Housing Services Manager (BDC) on 01473 825757.

Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board

The Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board has now moved into a formal shadow form and has returned to the 'Health and Wellbeing' title - having briefly been the Wellbeing Board. The absence of the word health from the board's title, removed with a view to emphasising the holistic brief, apparently was too confusing.

The Board will move out of shadow form in April 2013 at which time it will have standing as a Suffolk County Council Committee.

Councillor Mark Bee is Chairman and Deborah Cadman is also on the Board. Their presence acknowledges the significance of this Board.

The shadow Board also has four representatives for the District Councils with Babergh and Mid Suffolk; Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury and; Waveney and Coastal each sharing a place, Ipswich taking the fourth. Babergh Councillor Michael Bamford is the Board Member for Mid Suffolk and Babergh with Mid Suffolk Councillor Diana Kearsley the substitute.

In addition, the Board has recognised the importance of the voluntary sector and the Chief Executive of Suffolk Family Carers currently represents those on the Board.

The working principles for the Suffolk Wellbeing Board are:

- A broad focus looking at wellbeing and not just health and care services
- A focus on areas where a multi-agency effort is required
- An initial operating model that is flexible and enables the Board to have the right approach and expertise to tackle an issue (e.g.: acting as strategic leader, commissioner etc)
- Involvement of the District Councils and a locality view.
- To support locality working and the use of current networks including: developing regular communication with existing leadership structures such as the public sector leadership board.

What do you think?

We value the comments of our town and parish council colleagues on how we plan to meet the financial and other challenges facing us.

If your council has any comments about our plans then please email us – and we will reply as quickly as possible.

For Babergh: workingtogether@babergh.gov.uk
 For Mid Suffolk: workingtogether@midsuffolk.gov.uk

Help us make your newsletter better for you

Babergh and Mid Suffolk's Town and Parish Council newsletter has been bringing news to the towns and parishes for nearly a year.

So that we can gauge how well we are informing you, we have devised a short questionnaire that can help us with future editions.

Please take five minutes to fill in this online survey. It will help us shape the newsletter in a way which would benefit its readers most.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/tandpcnewsletter>

If you would like to fill in the questionnaire but do not have online access, then please call Emma Morton, Communications and PR Officer, on 0118 983 5448.

Keeping you informed

Our councils have set aside a section on both our websites where town and parish councils as well as other key stakeholders can access information of particular relevance to them, including these newsletters.

These can be found at either:

www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/workingtogether/keypartnersarea

or: www.babergh.gov.uk/babergh/KeyPartnersArea