



TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

June 2013

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.

Council Leaders' ask readers to "Please bear with us..."

The two councils are going through major change. We are in final phase of putting together our two previously separate staff structures into one. At the moment there are a lot of interviews going on and preparation for interviews.

Cllr Derrick Haley said: "While we are undergoing the transformation process, many staff whose jobs are at risk are undergoing interviews. So please bear with us while we work to change the way we do business with you.

"There is a big change going on and by the summer there will be one complete operational delivery team but still serving two sovereign councils."

Cllr Jennie Jenkins said: "It has been a busy year because we have been going through firstly integration and currently the transformation process.

"The Community Engagement programme was a very worthwhile exercise. I would like to thank all the town and parish councils plus community groups for their time and efforts in contributing to this.

"This exercise helped inform our strategic priorities for the year ahead and I hope that this will be an on-going process, allowing us to gauge correctly local opinions and ensure that our plans reflect community views."

Garden Waste Service – Introduction of brown bins

Mid Suffolk & Babergh District Councils are operating a fortnightly garden waste collection service. The service costs £45 for the first year, and £40 per year after that for renewals.

Once the initial fee has been paid a brown bin will be delivered to your address with details of collection dates.

All garden waste is collected by a dedicated collection vehicle and taken to a local facility to be shredded and recycled into compost to be used as a soil improver.

The brown bins provided are only for garden waste and not food waste, and remain the property of the Council.

What can I put in my brown bin?

- Grass cuttings, hedge trimmings, garden prunings, leaves and small twigs, dead plants, branches – no thicker than 7cm (3")

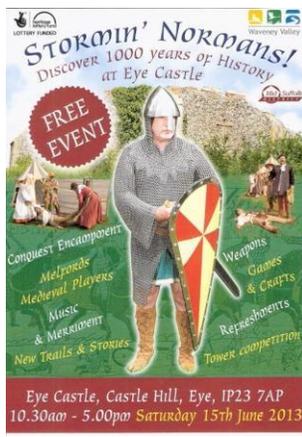
We don't want:

- Soil, stones or gravel, kitchen or food waste, wood or timber, large branches, Plastic trays or flower pots

Why not sign up now and recycle your garden waste this summer? Visit www.babergh.gov.uk or www.midsuffolk.gov.uk and follow the link to 'Garden Waste Collection Service' and make a payment with a credit or debit card.

For one-off larger collections of garden waste why not use our bulk bag scheme? For a one-off payment of £35 our contractor will deliver a large bag which can then be filled with larger garden waste items, which will then be collected at a later date. This waste also goes to be composted. Please contact our waste helpline on 0845 606 6045 for more information.

Eye Castle – “Stormin’ Normans” event – Saturday 15 June



On Saturday 15 June, between 10.30am and 5pm, a free event called “Stormin’ Normans” will be held at Eye Castle.

It's an opportunity to discover 1,000 years of history and watch the Melfords' Medieval Players in costumes from the Norman times, participate in the Conquest Encampment and experience music and merriment.

Also games, crafts and a tower competition where children can build towers from spaghetti and marshmallows!

So please come along and join in the festivities.

Awards for communities who have devised emergency plans

A special event was held in Lavenham on Friday 31 May to acknowledge the achievements of communities who have devised localised emergency plans and hear from some top speakers who will talk about the importance of being prepared.

Ten communities across both districts comprising Bures & Bures St Mary, Shotley, Chelmondiston, Holbrook, Monks Eleigh, Cotton, Creeting St Peter, Lawshall, Thurston and Stowupland received grab bag awards in recognition for devising community emergency plans. MP Tim Yeo presented the groups with their prizes which comprised a starter kit with all the necessary tools for an emergency. He also gave a keynote speech on the 2008 Cabinet Offices' community resilience programme, which introduced community emergency plans.

Tim Yeo, MP, said: "Communities should play a key role in planning for emergencies – their knowledge of the local area can greatly assist the rescue services. By being prepared and working out the potential risks in advance, those that form plans will be able to greatly reduce the impact of an emergency on people, the environment and property. Today we are recognising the groups that have put time into making plans and hope more will sign up."

Anyone else interested in putting together a local emergency plan should contact emergencyplanning@midsuffolk.gov.uk or call Sue Herne on 01449 724851.

Babergh offers free drop-in service

Babergh District Council has teamed up with SNAP – the Support & Advice Project – to offer a free, drop-in service for those in need of housing-related support.

From next Wednesday 12 June 9.30am-12.30pm and the second Wednesday morning of every month thereafter, a room will be set aside at the Council offices where members of the general public can gain advice on anything to do with housing.

SNAP Team Leader Wendy Shepherd said: "We want to help those struggling to live independently in their own home. Many people may face being made homeless because they may be behind on their rent payments or in mortgage arrears and our aim is to prevent this. Or they want to improve their money management and budgeting skills.

“We can signpost people to the right service. So please come along and see if we can help you.”

For more information on the help & support available from SNAP visit: <http://snap-cara.org/>

Consultation on further proposed modifications to Babergh’s Core Strategy

Babergh has launched a six-week public consultation on further proposed Modifications to the Babergh Core Strategy after its recent public examination. This is proceeding the public hearings on the Babergh Core Strategy held by an Independent Inspector during March. The consultation closes on Tuesday 9 July 2013 at 4.30pm. Click [here](#) for more details.

This consultation exercise is just about the changes now being proposed. The Inspector will consider any responses made to this consultation in his final report. The public consultation regarding the changes (further Main Modifications) commenced on Tuesday 28 May 2013 and closes **on Tuesday 9 July 2013, at 4.30pm**. Please note that the public consultation **only** relates to these new, latest changes (further Main Modifications) and that late responses cannot be accepted.

Babergh “Village of the Year 2013”

Babergh judges Cllrs Trot Ward, Jack Norman, Kathryn Grandon and Len Young spent Tuesday 28 May judging the entries for Babergh Village of the Year. Villages with an electoral role of between 1,251 and 2,250 were eligible – there were seven qualifying communities.

A hard task in any case, made more difficult by the work carried out recently in both villages. Brantham invested £200,000 plus in their sports and leisure building presenting a superb facility for the Brantham and the surrounding area, Babergh helped with this through a capital grant of £20,000. Additionally Brantham runs a successful garage sale on an annual basis that this year celebrates its 10th birthday. The proceeds from the sales raise funds for charity, and three people from Brantham were given Babergh Community Achievement Awards this year.

At Great Waldingfield there is much evidence of fundraising within the community too: The village hall was a leaking shell in 2008 and now boasts a main hall, kitchen and meeting room and is Wifi enabled. Babergh also provided capital funding for this project. The parish council has invested many hours of volunteer time into this building project. The chairman also received a Babergh Achievement award this year for his work with the hall. In 2012 Gt Waldingfield’s Jubilee event was hailed a success and the new Events Committee has decided to run a two-day event later this month.

Brantham were the victors on this occasion and go forward to the next round, but judges praised both villages for their community spirit and the projects undertaken.

Vacancies on the Councils' Joint Housing Board

Two new board members for the Joint Housing Board have now been appointed. They are Lomiah Nicholls and Helen Hicks and they will be acting in the Mid Suffolk North and Mid Suffolk South areas respectively.*

Lomiah wants to ensure that housing remains affordable and suggests that costs may be reduced by providing more renewable energy schemes and initiatives. Also that there is a sufficient supply of council housing, antisocial behaviour is tackled and that the Councils spend the rent they collect on the tenants' homes.

While Helen is pledging to make sure tenants are given the best practical advice and fair treatment through the welfare reforms, plus ensure that high standards for council housing are maintained.

These individuals will help decide future spending on repairing and improving homes and ensuring the housing service is managed in the best way it can be.

*The Mid Suffolk North area stretches from Fressingfield to Gislingham and Brome down to Debenham. While Mid Suffolk South area stretches from Bacton to Ringshall and Thurston down to Henley.

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

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

Thanks for reading this.