



## **TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER**

**April 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.**

### **Update on the Mid Suffolk/Babergh Partnership**

#### **Creation of single officer structure to serve the two sovereign councils**

We have successfully created a single management team across Mid Suffolk and Babergh, leading to a reduction in management posts by 50 per cent and generating significant savings.

We are now in the process of creating a single officer team to serve Babergh and Mid-Suffolk Councils. It is important to note that both councils will remain as separate, sovereign entities. The officer structure will be organised in Operational Delivery Teams (ODTs). The proposals for the creation of the ODTs was circulated to our external “stakeholders” including all town and parish councils in February.

We have just finished our staff consultation on the creation of the ODTs. We will now recruit staff to these new teams. The creation of these new teams heralds both a structural change and a cultural change for how officers and elected Members work with their local communities.

We envisage that this final phase creating our single officer structure will be a busy and challenging period for our staff. So please bear with us.

#### **Developing New Ways of Working**

These new Operational Delivery Teams, likely to be in place by June/July, will work alongside elected Members to engage with external “stakeholders” and partners, including town and parish councils, to develop new ways of working. This will be

achieved by a programme of *Transformation Enquiries* which will be the vehicle we use to:-

- Deliver the outcomes set by elected Members (following the recent Community Consultation Exercise)
- Respond to the financial challenge of achieving £7.5m savings across the two councils over the next three years

These *Transformation Enquiries* will require Babergh and Mid Suffolk to work together and differently with partners such as town and parish councils. For example, under this new method there will be a need to gather evidence, ideas and generate actions, which will all need to be done within challenging timescales if budget deadlines and the overall financial challenge are to be addressed.

Obviously the above is a significant challenge for us all. We believe that the steps we have taken to integrate and streamline our officer structure and the steps we are planning regarding the *Transformation Enquiries*, will place us in the best possible position to deal with the budget challenge, achieve the outcomes that our communities require, and have a new productive and effective relationship with the town and parish councils, who sit at the heart of our communities.

### **Vacancies in Sheltered Housing schemes**

**We are keen to attract new applicants to our sheltered housing. In particular we have places at Hoxne, near Diss & Mendlesham.**

Our sheltered housing offers older people the opportunity to retain their independence, in a flat of their own and have the security of knowing that there is a scheme manager to check up on them every week day.

Applicants just need to be over 60 to apply for sheltered housing. Sheltered housing provides the companionship of living with others of a similar age but at the same time means there are no worries about managing a home and garden. All schemes have alarms for residents to summon help in an emergency at any time of the day or night.

All sheltered accommodation is self-contained. The larger schemes comprise individual flats with communal facilities such as a laundry, lounge and guest rooms. Other schemes have bungalows with a communal lounge. There are often social activities organised by the residents.

Affordability is another key factor with charges typically being about £100 a week including service charges, utilities and support costs.

Across the two district areas, there are sheltered housing schemes in many villages and towns including Lavenham, Long Melford, Nayland, Hadleigh, Sudbury, Stowmarket, Eye, Elmswell and Needham Market. In addition there are two very sheltered schemes at Sydney Brown Court, Hadleigh & William Wood House, Sudbury.

Anyone interested in applying should either register on the website: [www.gatewaytohomechoice.org.uk](http://www.gatewaytohomechoice.org.uk) or contact 01449 724760.

### **New Plastics Recycling Scheme**



The Suffolk Waste Partnership has launched an eye-catching campaign on recycling plastics, using a retro 1950s theme.

Currently only 50 per cent of plastics are recycled in Suffolk, meaning that over 9,000 tonnes are thrown into landfill every year. This is costing the taxpayer over £800,000 in disposal charges.

The Partnership believes there is real confusion about which plastics can be recycled and where, & wants to greatly reduce the amount going to landfill. The campaign explains how to recycle.

All Suffolk households should receive a leaflet with full details. For more information/ to view the YouTube video, please visit: [www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk](http://www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk)

### **Election Update – List of candidates standing in both districts**

The results of the polls and the names of the successful candidates will be published on the Suffolk County Council website on Friday 3 May.

#### **Babergh**

**Belstead Brook** – Peter David Burgoyne (Con); David Michael Busby (Lib Dem); Terry Edward Hooley (Green); David John Plowman (Lab.).

**Cosford** – Jenny Anthill (Con), Tony Bavington (Lab. & Co-op), Robert James Lindsay (Green).

**Great Cornard** – Peter Kenneth Beer (Con); Tom Keane (Lab); Dean Mark Walton (Green); Andrew John Welsh (Lib Dem).

**Hadleigh** – Michael Fosdike (Green); Barry Nutt (UK I P); Brian Riley (Con); Trevor Edward Sheldrick (Lib Dem); Angela Wiltshire (Lab).

**Melford** – Mick D Cornish (Lab & Co-op); Richard Edward Kemp (Indpt); Graham Edward Manning (Green); Sarah Louise Pugh (Con); Dave Reynolds (UK I P).

**Peninsula** – Sian Elizabeth Dawson (Con); Keith Rawlings (Lab); Andrew David Sterling (Green); Christopher Walter Streatfield (UK I P); David Leslie Wood (Lib.Dem).

**Samford** – Michael Bamford (Lib. Dem); Lois Emma Hickey (Green); Gordon David Spencer Jones (Con); Stephen John Laing (UK I P); Sue Thomas (Lab. & Co-op).

**Stour Valley** – James Jeremy Thomas Carver (UK I P); James Finch (Con); Bryn David Hurren (Lib. Dem); Jack Michael Owen (Lab).

**Sudbury** – Teresa Janet Bishop (Green); Luke Cresswell (Lab.); Tony Platt (Lib. Dem); John Reginald Arthur Sayers (Con).

**Sudbury East & Waldringfield** – Stuart Armstrong (UK I P); Russell Peter Smith (Lab. & Co-op); Colin Michael Spence (Con); Robert Henry Whiting (Green).

### **Mid Suffolk District**

**Bosmere** – Tricia Aspinall (Green); Tony Elliott (Lab.); Esther Jewson (Con); Sam Streatfield (UK I P); Julia Rosamond Truelove (Lib.Dem).

**Gipping Valley** – Jack Abbott (Lab. & Co.op); John David Field (Lib. Dem); David Hamilton Penny (Green); John Charles Whitehead (Con); Frank Whittle (UK I P).

**Hartismere** – Jessica Thomasina Fleming (Con); Di McGeever (Lab.); Ghed Paterson (Green); David Charles Payne (Lib.Dem); Christopher James Walter Streatfield (UK I P).

**Hoxne & Eye** – Garry Richard Deeks (Lab. & Co-op); Paul Denham (UK I P); Jon Glyn James (Lib.Dem); Guy Kennard Duncan McGregor (Con); Libbi Meade (Green).

**Stowmarket North & Stowupland** – Gary Green (Con); Colin Russell Lay (UK I P); Duncan James MacPherson (Lab); Nigel John Rozier (Green); Brij Sharma (Lib.Dem).

**Stowmarket South** – Linda Jane Baxter (Green); Suzanne Laure Britton (Lab); Keith Edward Scarff (Lib.Dem); Stephen Anthony Searle (UK I P); Anne Whybrow (Con).

**Thedwastre North** – Alex Browne (Green); Ryan Christopher Fiske (UK I P); Ann Mary Gethin Gath (Lib.Dem); James Grime (Lab); Jane Storey (Con).

**Thedwastre South** – Gillian Mary Bush (UK I P); Ella Copeland (Green); Jeanie Margaret Kemp (Lab); Penny Otton (Lib.Dem); Sam Powell (Con).

**Thredling** – Nicholas Robert Hardingham (Green); Matthew Jonathan Rawle Hicks (Con); James Patrick Higgins (Lab); Martin Ronald Redbond (Lib.Dem); Christopher Ralph Stockings (UK I P).

**Upper Gipping** - Kay Patricia Field (Lib. Dem); Roger Anthony Fouracre (UK I P); Andrew George Stringer (Green); Kevin Welsby (Con); Terry Wilson (Lab).

### **Vacancies on Councils' Joint Housing Board**

Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils are looking for two new board members for their Joint Housing Board. 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.

There are over 7,000 tenants and a £29 million budget between both councils, so members will play a crucial role in deciding how these homes are managed.

As board members, they will oversee the development of business plans and approve the development of Housing Landlord strategy and policy. They will have a role in determining council housing rents and budgets.

Potential candidates need to apply by 12 noon, Monday 22 April & be current council tenants or leaseholders living in the Mid Suffolk North or Mid Suffolk South areas.\*

The board, formed in April 2012, comprises 12 people, of which six are tenants and the other six are elected councillors, from across both districts. Meetings are held monthly and tenant representatives can claim expenses for travel and childcare. They are also entitled to an allowance for their attendance at the board.

The council is after good communicators, who are committed to helping tenants and want to have a say on how housing policies will impact on them.

The results will be announced on 31 May. Anyone interested in becoming a tenant member should contact the Resident Involvement Team on 01449 724781.

\*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.

\*\*There are six wards across the two districts comprising: Babergh East; Babergh West; Babergh, Sudbury and Great Cornard; Mid Suffolk North; Mid Suffolk South and Mid Suffolk Central.

### **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](mailto:workingtogether@babergh.gov.uk)  
For Mid Suffolk [workingtogether@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto: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](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/workingtogether/keypartnersarea)

or:

[www.babergh.gov.uk/babergh/KeyPartnersArea](http://www.babergh.gov.uk/babergh/KeyPartnersArea)

Thanks for reading this.