

# Town & Parish Council Newsletter

Newsletter No: 26 January 2016



Welcome to our joint newsletter. Our aim is to keep you informed about relevant council business across Babergh and Mid Suffolk and other information useful to your towns and parishes.

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We upload every issue of the newsletter to our website: if you would prefer to share the newsletter from there rather than as an email attachment, you can always find the latest edition online at:

<http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/home/town-and-parish-council-newsletter>

Or:

<http://www.babergh.gov.uk/home/town-and-parish-council-newsletter>

## Across Babergh & Mid Suffolk

### Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) adopted

At the Babergh Full Council meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> January and the Mid Suffolk Full Council meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> January, Members of both councils voted to adopt CIL charging in the districts.

Charging will start on 11<sup>th</sup> April meaning that any planning permission granted on or after this date may be liable to pay CIL. The Council have appointed a joint Mid Suffolk - Babergh Infrastructure Team to administer CIL collection, spending, monitoring and enforcement. The Infrastructure Team will be providing further information over the coming months and at Parish Liaison meetings with further details on what CIL charging means for communities and how you can take advantage of the opportunities it presents

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## Clean for the Queen

Every year hundreds of volunteers across Suffolk mobilise to give an area they love a well-deserved “Spring Clean”. This year we are incorporating Suffolk Spring Clean with Clean for The Queen; a campaign launched by Country Life magazine in partnership with Keep Britain Tidy to clear up Britain in time for The Queen’s 90th birthday in 2016.

The aim is to attract one million people to complete a special litter pick during a special clean-up weekend on 4, 5 and 6 March.

We realise that it isn’t practical for every town and parish to litter pick on the same weekend so we are pledging our support to groups and individuals at any time. If you would like to find out more about Clean For the Queen or need equipment and/or a waste collection for your litter pick please contact Sarah Carter, Public Realm Officer, on 01449 724946.

## Flats Above Businesses Project

Our private sector housing team are starting a project working, together with Suffolk Fire & Rescue Service, on a new initiative to assess the fire safety arrangements in mixed use buildings. This follows on from the fire in Sudbury last year which affected a number of flats above business premises.

We will be identifying flats across Babergh & Mid Suffolk and carrying out an initial risk assessment to prioritise our visits. The aim is to look at the fire safety arrangements and means of escape from fire and give advice and guidance to occupiers and owners.

As part of this project we will be looking at housing conditions in some of these properties, which are privately rented. Advice will be given to landlords and they will be given the opportunity to resolve any serious housing hazards that are identified. There is currently a landlord grant available for 50% towards the eligible expenses of providing an energy efficient and controllable heating system

We also offer a Loan of up to £20,000 to assist owners in bringing an empty property back in to use. This loan is for essential work to meet the Decent Homes Standard and upon completion of the works the property must be available for residential occupation (for sale, rental, or owner-occupation). This loan is repayable upon sale or transfer of the property.

If you need any further information or advice please contact the team on 01473 826639.

## Fundraising for the Rural Coffee Caravan

The Rural Coffee Caravan are looking for a little bit of help to replace their main charity tool, their campervan. This essential item is their mobile office, mobile

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information centre, one to one chat space for confidential chats and is the mainstay in enabling the Rural Coffee Caravan to do the majority of its village visits and is essential for all of the events they run, including the Golden Age Fairs which could not happen without it.

First Launched in May 2010 by Suffolk County Councillor Colin Noble, the current campervan (affectionately known as Felix due to its number plate) has been a superb sturdy vehicle for the last 6 years. It was already 6 years old when the Rural Coffee Caravan received it and at 12 years old now has been put through a lot of back roads farm tracks floods and more all over Suffolk!

Recently it has experienced a major breakdown at events and electrical problems. Temporarily fixed but now in need of a new diesel pump it is becoming unreliable and it has been decided that the Caravan need to replace it as soon as possible.

So what are the Rural Coffee Caravan asking for? To put it plainly they are asking you for any contribution towards the target of £25,000 towards their new campervan.

The Caravan would offer every community who supports them a Rural Coffee Caravan visit to the location or group of their choice in their area (including in towns!) This could possibly lead to regular supportive visits to your community from the Caravan.

The New vehicle would probably have a launch in the press with the possibility of it being launched and showcased at a ticketed gala event in May to coincide with the celebrations planned for the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

A snapshot of Rural Coffee Caravan activity from their Annual report includes:

- **5183** visitors
- **196** visits
- Including visiting **77** villages in **7** Local Authority districts and working with **65** Organisations
- Exchanging **161** pairs of slippers and replacing **107** ferrules
- Holding **2** Tea dances, **3** Memory Lane Cream Teas and **2** Golden Age Fairs
- The Caravan welcomed around **200** visitors at the Suffolk Show and around **100** at Euston Rural Pastimes
- It organised our first Loneliness Awareness Workshop and presented at the first Learning Network Conference held by The Campaign to End Loneliness
- The Caravan was invited to become Big Lunch Extras members
- It with Warmer Homes Healthy People to deliver **3** events, Suffolk Energy Action to deliver in depth '**Green Deal**' information and Groundwork Suffolk to guide people through '**Safer Switching**' of energy providers
- They have now attracted **2276** followers on Twitter
- The Caravan worked with **all** the Local Authorities across the County to assist people with their housing survey forms
- During the year they had over **102** volunteers active in delivering our service.

Please contact the Rural Coffee Caravan to see how you can help and how they can help you. You can get in touch via:

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- Email on [Coffee.caravan@btinternet.com](mailto:Coffee.caravan@btinternet.com)
- Telephone at 01379 855338
- Or visit them online at [www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk](http://www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk)

## Events

### Community Funding Event this March

Babergh and Mid Suffolk are pleased to promote a Funding Event on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March at the Blackbourne Centre, Elmswell, IP30 9UH. The event starts at 9.15 am for registration and is due to end at around 1.15pm. Jamie Conway from the BIG Lottery is our main speaker and will be talking about the **Awards for All** and **Reaching Communities Funds**. We also have representatives from Community Action Suffolk, The Suffolk Community Foundation and Suffolk County Council attending along with members of our Grants Team and BMSDC CIL team.

This is the ideal opportunity to hear about the type of projects BIG Lottery are able to support, and Community Action Suffolk will be giving guidance about governance and infrastructure that is more and more important to community groups. There will be the chance to network and to visit the various stands from the participating funders.

Any parish council or voluntary or community group is eligible to attend although it is necessary to book a place or two (max) by contacting Jo Beever, our Grants & Business Support officer, via [Josephine.beever@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Josephine.beever@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk) or on 01449 724654. Please be aware that places are limited.

### Rural Coffee Caravan Ending Loneliness Workshops

The Rural Coffee Caravan is holding events in Babergh and in Mid Suffolk around ending loneliness in our communities. These free, interactive workshops will:

- Explore the health, wellbeing, economic and social impact of loneliness across rural Suffolk, using research and evidence highlighted by The Campaign to End Loneliness
- Inform and better equip you for the challenges ahead; how to spot and offer practical support to help lonely people in your own community
- Raise awareness of some successful events and initiatives that encourage a strong sense of community Enable you to meet and network with likeminded professionals, volunteers and public servants who serve the diverse rural population across the Babergh area
- Identify current and potential “community champions” who help to connect service providers with relevant groups, people and service users

A light lunch and tea will also be provided.

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The **Mid Suffolk event** will be held on Monday 11 April 2016 at Eye Community Centre, between 10am and 3pm.

The **Babergh event** will be held on Wednesday 23 March 2016 at Chamberlin Hall in Bildeston, between 10 and 3pm.

Anyone wishing to attend either can RSVP via [coffee.caravan@btinternet.com](mailto:coffee.caravan@btinternet.com) or by telephone on 01379 855 338.

You can view videos from a similar event in 2014 online at:  
<http://vimeo.com/111851111> and <https://vimeo.com/111798921>

## Newsletter ideas

What topics would you like to see covered in future editions of the Town and Parish Council newsletter? Please let us know by emailing [duncan.merren@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:duncan.merren@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk)