

Town & Parish Council Newsletter

Newsletter No: 29 June 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

Devolution Settlement to be debated by councils

Proposed devolution deals for East Anglia published last week would deliver £300m over five years for housing and £45m a year (for 30 years) to increase jobs, provide better infrastructure and drive growth in local businesses and the economy across the region.

Negotiations with government have seen the funding on offer increase from what was in the original deal published in March - £175m for housing and £30m a year for infrastructure.

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Discussions also led to a proposal to have two deals (Norfolk/Suffolk and Cambridgeshire/Peterborough), which council leaders and LEPs believe is the best way to get the most benefit for the people, places and businesses across East Anglia.

Key elements of proposed Norfolk/Suffolk deal are:

- £25m funding each year for the next 30 years (£750m) to support economic growth, development of local infrastructure and jobs (this will increase the local economy to £43bn and create 95,000 jobs by 2026)
- £130m investment over five years to support the building of new homes across Norfolk and Suffolk (including £30m across Ipswich and Norwich). This will enable around 10,300 homes to be delivered
- Over the lifetime of the deal around 200,000 homes could be delivered
- Control of a £225m guaranteed transport budget for the next four years
- Control of an existing c£20m annual adult skills fund to ensure the training offer matches the needs of local businesses and the local labour market
- Control of an existing c£2m annual Apprenticeship Grant for employers
- Greater control over who (and how) delivers transport services in Norfolk and Suffolk, ensuring that transport integrates better and there are more options for local residents
- More control and influence over investment in key roads across Norfolk and Suffolk, thus ensuring maintenance and improvements can be prioritised locally, rather than having to compete with other works across the country
- A commitment to providing superfast broadband and improved mobile phone reception in more communities, particularly in rural areas
- That the relevant councils will work with the NHS to bring together health and social care services to provide a more joined up, single service for residents
- Relevant authorities and partners take an Norfolk/Suffolk wide approach to flood and coastal risk management to better protect people, property and land from flooding

Both this deal and the Cambridgeshire/Peterborough would each have their own Combined Authority and Directly Elected Mayor but there would be joint working across East Anglia to improve transport and other infrastructure.

The Combined Authorities would decide the most effective and efficient level to deliver services to ensure the best possible outcomes for communities.

Andy Wood, who has led negotiations with Government on behalf of council leaders and the LEPs said: “The main focus of all our discussions has been to ensure we got the best possible settlement for the people of East Anglia. I believe what is on the table is one of the best settlements in the country.

“The timeframes have certainly been challenging but I believe the proposed deals represent a great opportunity for Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Government has recognised the importance of East Anglia to the economy, and the different needs and opportunities of its town and cities. Through productive negotiations we have been able to secure more funding for East Anglia than was in the original deal.”

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Government has been clear that councils need to approve the proposed deals before they will formally agree them.

All councils, including Babergh and Mid Suffolk, and both LEPs will debate the matter before the end of June. If all councils and LEPs endorse the deal and the associated governance scheme relevant to them, public consultation will take place during July and August.

Views from public consultation are reported to the Secretary of State for him to consider before creating combined authorities and putting in place arrangements for mayoral elections in May 2017.

To view the deal documents and other information visit: www.eastangliadevo.co.uk

Farewell Message from Charlie Adan

Charlie Adan, Chief Executive – Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils



As you will know from the last newsletter, I will shortly be leaving Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils to take up the post of Chief Executive at the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames. I will be leaving at the end of July and wanted to take this chance to say farewell to all of the Town and Parish colleagues who have worked in our communities and with both Councils during my time here.

While I am very excited to be taking up this new role with Kingston – the unitary London Borough Council has ambitious plans for the next few years – I will be sorry to say goodbye to everyone in Babergh and Mid Suffolk, and am very aware of how the groundbreaking and transformational work we have undertaken together, and the experience that work has given me, is what made it possible for me to secure this new position.

Over the past few years we have reshaped our team at Babergh and Mid Suffolk: with new skills, new capacity and new capabilities, we are better placed than ever before to deliver the services our communities need and the investment – such as in new council homes – that will help our districts meet the future needs of our residents.

But we cannot be complacent, as the challenges of delivering growth and prosperity, and of successfully answering the financial challenge all of us in local government face, are going to demand new, collaborative solutions.

Success will, in a large part, depend on ever closer working between the District Councils and our communities, something I am more confident than ever Babergh and Mid Suffolk can achieve. Throughout my time here I have seen first-hand the incredible value of the role you, as town and parish councillors, play in representing

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your communities. From your discussions with us at Liaison Meetings to your comments submitted on Planning Applications in your parishes, your hard work and willingness to engage has been invaluable and will give our districts the strength to answer the challenges we face.

When I arrived at Babergh and Mid Suffolk five years ago it was a very exciting time to join, as we pioneered the integration of two councils' workforces and created one shared service, winning an MJ Award in the process. As I prepare to leave I know that my successor will be facing just as exciting a role, building on the work of our Engagement Events – an update on which is below – and embracing the opportunities our Devolution Deal offers. I won't pretend it will be an easy role, but I can assure the next Chief Executive that they will have the support of an incredible team at the District Councils, dedicated and active Members and Parish Councils that are willing to engage and work hard to build a better future for their communities.

While I may be leaving Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils my personal connections with Suffolk will continue to draw me back: I have family here and will certainly be coming back often to visit and keeping in touch with how the districts are meeting their latest challenges.

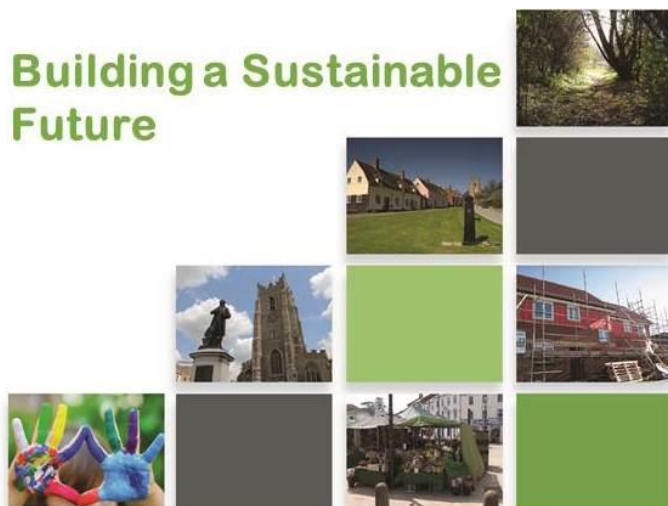
The last few years have not been easy and we have at times faced an uphill struggle, but colleagues I have worked with, the people I have met and the challenges we have faced and things that we have achieved together are memories I will carry with me for the rest of my life. Thank you.

Councils Opening up Conversation on Growth

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are continuing to go out into the community to discuss growth, house building and the challenges and pressures we all face.

The two districts are facing major pressures to build more houses, with a growing population combining the factors such as increased life expectancy and smaller households driving demand for more homes. To ensure all residents understand what these pressures are, as well as what challenges and what opportunities they bring, the district councils have been opening up the conversation on growth to the public under the title "Building a Sustainable Future".

Building a Sustainable Future



To help start this conversation, council officers are hosting dozens of Building a Sustainable Future events throughout the districts, with the first few already successfully held in locations around Mid Suffolk.

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All the events are open to all residents to drop in and talk with officers about the pressures the districts are facing and how to respond to these without endangering the unique character and identities of Babergh and Mid Suffolk. There is also the opportunity to discuss the impact new housing will have on economic growth, job opportunities, the sustainability of local services and infrastructure. Further information can be found on our websites at:

<http://www.babergh.gov.uk/OurFuture/> or <http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/OurFuture/>

Over two dozen events will be held in total, offering residents across the districts the opportunity to join in over the coming weeks.

Everyone in the district is encouraged to come along to any of the events that will be held. To find a time that is suitable for them, a full schedule of the events can be found online at:

<http://www.babergh.gov.uk/OurFuture/Events/>

or

<http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/OurFuture/Events/>

An information booklet detailing the purpose of the campaign, and how residents can engage and find more information, is being delivered to every home in both districts.

Line Up Confirmed for Suffolk Armed Forces Day

With Armed Forces Day on 25 June, the Suffolk Armed Forces Day Event taking place in Stowmarket has confirmed its line up.

Serving members of the Armed Forces will also be in attendance, with stands and activities, including a climbing wall, staffed throughout the afternoon from 6 Regiment Army Air Corps and the 3rd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment.

There will also be entertainment from The Mementos and Georgia Ollivander, who will be joining many others at Pikes Meadow in Stowmarket for the Suffolk Armed Forces Day event, from 12 noon until 9pm on Saturday 25 June.

The event, entry to which is free, will begin at Red Gables, in Stowmarket, at 11.45am, from where a

The Mementos



Suffolk Armed Forces Day
Saturday 25 June 2016 (12pm-9pm)
Pikes Meadow, Stowmarket



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parade, including members of the Royal British Legion, Suffolk Army Cadets and the RAF Cadets, will march down to Pikes Meadow for 12 noon where the event will be formally opened by Clare, Countess of Euston, Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk. From then until 5.30pm there will be a chance to take part in games such as Battle Stations laser tag and the Lego Brickologists for younger visitors and performances by:

- The Stowmarket Concert Band
- The Wattisham Military Wives Choir and the RAF Honington Military Wives Choir
- The Suffolk Regiment Re-enactors
- The Ipswich Diamonds Majorette Troupe
- ... and others.

From 5.30pm visitors will be invited to gather round and settle down for musical performances from the Mementos, Georgia Ollivander and the London Girls.

A shuttlebus service will run throughout the event from Tesco on the Cedars Park Link Road, who have offered to provide free parking, to Pikes Meadow. Visitors will also be able to park at PPG Industries on Needham Road, a seven minute walk from Pikes Meadow.

Armed Forces Day is an annual, national, campaign that gives everyone the opportunity to show their support for the men and women of the Armed Forces including currently serving troops, service families, reservists, veterans and cadets. Similar events will be taking place across the UK, enabling people to come out and show their support, and giving a much-valued morale boost for Armed Forces personnel and their families. This year's national event takes place in Cleethorpes.

Members of the public can follow the official Armed Forces Day twitter feed via @ArmedForcesDay and use the hashtag #SaluteOurForces

Elizabeth Gibson-Harries, Chairman of Mid Suffolk District Council, said: "We've got a fantastic line up for Saturday, and the support from across the community has been simply outstanding. This is a chance for all of us to show our military community just how much their work and their dedication is appreciated, and I know I'll only be one of many turning out on the 25th to show that appreciation.

"We're very fortunate to have so many groups providing entertainment on the day: if you're free come down to Pikes Meadow, bring your friends, your family, your neighbours, anyone who wants to support our Armed Forces and join in the fun."

Major Jamie Milnes, 6 Regiment Army Air Corps Community Engagement Officer, said: "Armed Forces Day is an excellent opportunity for both the Military and Civilian Communities to come together and celebrate the work of the UK's Armed Forces both at home and overseas. It is an important reminder of the commitment that Armed Forces personnel make to the defence of the United Kingdom and the sacrifices made by the serving men, women and families of Regular and Reservist personnel.

"This year's Suffolk Armed Forces Day event at Pikes Meadow is shaping up to be an outstanding day and the hard work of everyone taking part will be very well received by all members of the Armed Forces Community and their families."

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Mid Suffolk District

New Councillor elected for Barking & Somersham

Following a by-election on Thursday 2 June Anne Killett, Green Party Candidate, was elected the new Mid Suffolk District Councillor for Barking & Somersham ward.

Dr Killett was elected with 212 votes. The full Declaration of Result of Poll, published following a count on Friday 3 June, is available online at:

<http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/UploadsMSDC/Organisation/Democratic-Services/Council-and-Democracy/Electoral-Services/03-06-16-Barking-Somersham-Declaration-of-results.pdf>

New Dementia-Friendly Exercise Class in Stowmarket

A new 'dementia friendly' exercise and social class is up and running at Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre.



Cllr Barry Humphreys, Mayor of Stowmarket, and Cllr Diana Kearsley, Mid Suffolk Member with Special Responsibility for Community Activities attend the launch event of the new Exercise Classes at Stowmarket Leisure Centre

Front row, left to right: Cllr Barry Humphreys, Mrs Tracy Humphreys, Cllr Diana Kearsley and Class Instructor Bob Halls

District Council, Care UK, Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk, Healthwatch Suffolk, Hillcroft House Healthcare Homes Group Ltd, Leading Lives, Mid Suffolk Organisations

The Living Well classes, which are held at Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre in Stowmarket, are aimed at people who are 60+. The sessions have been designed by experienced instructor Bob Halls, providing exercises which can be enjoyed either as chair-based or standing. Included is time for socialising and a fun element to the session too. The sessions have been funded by the Pargiter Fund.

The classes are being operated on a trial basis, with funding acquired through the Stowmarket Dementia Action Alliance, which includes members from the Alzheimer's Society, Babergh & Mid Suffolk

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Forum, South Suffolk Leisure, Stowhealth, Sue Ryder-The Chantry, Suffolk Art link, Thornham Walks, Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre and Fiona Palmer of United Response.

The classes run on Monday afternoons from 2pm to 3pm.

Cllr Julie Flatman, Mid Suffolk District Council's Portfolio Holder for Community Capacity Building and Engagement, said: "Both myself and Mid Suffolk District Council are proud to be working in partnership with the Stowmarket Dementia Action Alliance (DAA) and the Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre to promote this new class.

"The council is committed to encouraging people to take responsibility for their own health, wellbeing and mental health and these types of classes provide a vital lifeline to people and carers in our community who may be affected by dementia."

And Cllr Diana Kearsley, Member with Special Responsibility for Community Activities, added: "Having personal experience of people affected by dementia, I know how important interaction through activity is and by encouraging people suffering with dementia to come to these classes, we will raise awareness to others to enable us to all work towards making Suffolk more 'dementia-friendly'."

Fiona Palmer, Project Development Manager at United Response, said: "If you would like to enjoy exercise and meeting new people while having fun, if you are a family carer or someone living with early-onset dementia and would like to try something new, please come and join us!

"Members of the Stowmarket DAA will be available at these weekly sessions and we look forward to meeting you."

To book contact Bob Halls on 01449 674980, or pop into Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre, Gainsborough Road, Stowmarket and ask at Main Reception. The sessions are £3.95 per class. Carers come free, but must remain in the session and hopefully take part.

Mid Suffolk's First LDO out for Consultation

A Local Development Order covering the Stowmarket Food Enterprise Zone is out for comment after being adopted for consultation by Mid Suffolk's Planning Referrals Committee.

Members of the public have until 13 July to comment on the draft Local Development Order (LDO), the first of its kind to be proposed in Mid Suffolk. Once the consultation is closed the responses will be considered and the Committee will decide whether or not to formally adopt the LDO, the design of which has been funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

If adopted, the LDO will allow businesses within the Stowmarket Food Enterprise Zone (FEZ) to erect commercial 'B class' buildings without returning to the Committee for additional planning permission.

'B class' buildings are commercial buildings that house offices, factories or warehouses. Any buildings built under the LDO will still have to comply with the criteria

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set out in the LDO itself, including restrictions on eave height and materials and design. The full criteria can be found at the web address below.

Any of these new buildings would be required to be built within a strict and pre-defined area of the FEZ, but could take place without going through the full planning process for each one.

Members of the public can have their say at:

<http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning/stowmarket-enterprise-park-draft-ldo>

This is the first LDO to have been adopted for consultation by Mid Suffolk District Council, and comes one week after Babergh District Council opened consultation on their first LDO.

LDOs are made by local planning authorities and give a grant of planning permission to specific types of development within a defined area. The streamlined planning process they allow creates certainty and saves time and money for those involved, without permitting unrestricted development or removing a planning authority's oversight. LDOs cannot provide planning permission to alter any aspect of a listed building.

Stowmarket FEZ is also an Enterprise Zone site within the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership's Space to Innovate initiative. Businesses that move to this site will benefit from Business Rate relief as well as the LDO. Enterprise Zones are part of a national government scheme to support business growth.

Babergh District

Great News for Hadleigh Street Market

Suffolk Market Events will be lending their expertise to Hadleigh Market in a 14 month partnership to bring their experience and knowledge to Hadleigh's seven century old market.

It's no secret amongst the people of Hadleigh that their weekly, Friday morning street market has diminished over the last couple of years. For a market town with roots deeply embedded in trading, a Market Charter dating back to 1252 and a community loyal to its High Street, it is tragic that a once busy little market square is now reliant on just three regular traders.



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The decline of the market has been a topic of conversation amongst locals for some time and Babergh District Council, the owners of the Market Place, have now stepped in to help turn the market around and secure its future.

Babergh District Council approached Justine Paul, owner of award winning local business Suffolk Market Events and the person responsible for the success of Lavenham, Sudbury and Nayland farmers' markets, in the hope that she may be able to lend her expertise to Hadleigh and the result is a fourteen month partnership focused specifically on improving the town's market.

'Well run markets become an intrinsic part of their surroundings', says Justine who goes on to say that 'one of the most widely recognised roles of a town centre is shopping but retail goes beyond just economics and can also contribute to the social well-being of local communities, serve as a key driver for tourism by increasing the attractiveness of town centres and make a significant contribution to the vitality and viability of town centres by contributing to their socio-economic health. Evidence from all my other markets demonstrates that their impact is clearly three fold – social, environmental and economic.'



Justine Paul of Suffolk Market Events

Using Justine's expertise and experience the aim is to increase the number of weekly traders attending the market and increase the variety of stalls whilst avoiding over duplication of the products on offer. All the stalls will sell high quality products and a number of reviews will be carried out during the fourteen month period to assess the impact and success of the market improvements and to plan for long term sustainability of the market.

'The people of Hadleigh have been visiting and supporting Hadleigh Market for centuries,' says Justine, 'and the heritage, history and loyalty of the town are reason enough to try and ensure that the weekly market is encouraged to survive and indeed prosper once again. I think it is fantastic that Babergh has recognised that the market needs improvement and are investing to try and ensure that this happens. I am delighted that Babergh have approached Suffolk Market Events and I very much look forward to working in partnership with Babergh to give Hadleigh a street market the town can be proud of.'

Work is underway on the project and Hadleigh Street Market will be relaunched on Friday 2 September.

If any local producers would like further information on having a stall at the market please contact Justine Paul for further information at justine@suffolkmarketevents.co.uk or by calling 07704 627973.

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Repair Work underway on Cornard Road, Sudbury



Damage to the wall along Cornard Road

Temporary traffic lights have been installed on Cornard Road in Sudbury while maintenance work is carried out on the wall between Belle Vue Park and the road. The wall has suffered damage from natural sources, including the weight of vegetation and penetration of roots in the soil behind it.

You can check the status of the road, along with all road closures and roadworks in Suffolk, on the Suffolk

County Council website at:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roadworks/roadworks-in-suffolk/>

Babergh's First LDO Out for Consultation

Babergh's first Local Development Order, on Jimmy's Farm, is out for comment after being adopted for consultation by Babergh's Planning Committee.

Members of the public have until 13 July to comment on the draft Local Development Order (LDO), the first of its kind to be proposed in the district. Once the consultation is closed the responses will be considered and the Committee will decide whether or not to formally adopt the LDO, the design of which has been funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

If adopted, the LDO will allow Jimmy's Farm to carry out several improvements without returning to the Planning Committee for additional planning permission, including:

- Installation of refreshment kiosks and facilities
- Construction of permanent storage buildings on the site of current temporary storage
- Raising of a second polytunnel for rearing turkeys
- Conversion of a barn into an indoor children's play area

Each of these improvements would be required to take place within a strict and pre-defined area of the property, but could take place without going through the full planning process for each one.

Members of the public can have their say on our website here:

<http://www.babergh.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning/orwell-fez-jimmys-farm-draft-ldo/>

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This is the first LDO to have been adopted for consultation by Babergh District Council, and follows on from the designation of Babergh's first Food Enterprise Zone (FEZ) in Wherstead.

LDOs are made by local planning authorities and give a grant of planning permission to specific types of development within a defined area. The streamlined planning process they allow creates certainty and saves time and money for those involved, without permitting unrestricted development or removing a planning authority's oversight. LDOs cannot provide planning permission to alter any aspect of a listed building.

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