

Town & Parish Council Newsletter

Newsletter No: 32 November 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

Appointment of New Joint Chief Executive

Both Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have approved the recommendation of a cross party Joint Appointment Panel to name Arthur Charvonias as their preferred candidate for the post of Joint Chief Executive.

Arthur Charvonias is currently employed as Strategic Director at Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils.

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Both Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils approved this recommendation unanimously at two Full Council meetings on Monday 31 October 2016.



In a joint statement, Cllr Jennie Jenkins, Leader of Babergh District Council and Cllr Nick Gowrley, Leader of Mid Suffolk District Council said, "All the candidates went through a rigorous two day recruitment process and the standard was very high. However, Arthur quickly emerged as the candidate with precisely the right

combination of skills and expertise needed to ensure we continue to break new ground with the vision in our Joint Strategic Plan and the implementation of our ambitious and exciting Public Access Strategy. In addition to this, the cross party appointment group felt Arthur's experience of joint working across two district councils, and the wider Suffolk Public Sector family, made him the ideal candidate to lead our two councils through the many challenges and opportunities ahead."

Although Mr Charvonia will not officially take up his new role until the New Year he has already begun attending key meetings.

"I am delighted to be selected to join Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils at this exciting time," said Mr Charvonia.

"My recent experience at Suffolk Coastal and Waveney puts me in an ideal place to help lead the Councils through the challenges of building on their successful partnership, as well as the forthcoming move to a new headquarters."

"I obviously bring with me an in-depth knowledge of working in local government within Suffolk and have a proven track-record of providing improved services to local people in a difficult financial climate."

"I am committed to working with my new colleagues, to engage with and listen to local residents to identify their needs and ambitions. We need to deliver improved services to our communities in innovative and accessible ways."

Biography

Mr Charvonia has worked in Local Government for the last 11 years and been a Strategic Director for eight years. He has spent the last six years as a joint Strategic Director of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils.

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A qualified barrister, Mr Charvonia originally worked in London practising family, housing, licensing, criminal and immigration law. Since then, he has worked at Norfolk Constabulary, as well as the London Borough of Waltham Forest, before joining Waveney and Suffolk Coastal District Councils.

Born in North London, he was educated in Hertfordshire, before returning to London to attend King's College before doing his Bar Vocational Course at the Inns of Court School of Law and completing his barrister training, at Chambers.

Mr Charvonia moved to East Anglia in 2000. He is married with three children and a dog Charlie.

Better, Simpler and effective website launched



Council Leaders Nick Gowrley (L) and Jennie Jenkins (R) inspect the new website

Providing a better service for residents that is simpler for staff to deliver and is cost effective for tax payers is the foundation of the changes being made to how the public access our services. That is why in the last few weeks we have begun the roll out of our new website, and we are seeking views from local people on the new site as it develops over the next three months.

With 87% of the UK's adult population having used the internet in the last three months

we know people are using the internet more and therefore it is important we provide access to our services via our website in the most effective way possible.

National research has shown that the cost to local authorities of its residents accessing its services online compared to via the telephone can save as much as £2.68 per enquiry. While those residents needing face to face support will continue to receive it, the new website will mean more people can contact the Councils 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



Discussion of the new website at November's Liaison Meetings

Senior members of the Councils met with the Town and Parish Council Liaison Groups in recent weeks to show how the new website looks and to answer questions that were raised.

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For example in response to the concern that was raised on internet speeds across the county, we were able to explain that the new site takes into account challenging low broadband speeds. The site has a low bandwidth and will have a limited amount of images and functions that would normally require faster bandwidth.

Our work on improving public access is all about providing a better service for residents that is simpler for staff to deliver and is cost effective for taxpayers. Our new website is fundamental to that and this is why we want to hear from people using the site so we can ensure it is the best it can be.

The new website can be viewed at:

<http://beta.baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk.testing.onesuffolk.default.onesuffolk.uk0.bigv.io/>

Or by visiting www.babergh.gov.uk or www.midsuffolk.gov.uk and following the link on the home page to the new site. Once on the new site users can send feedback using the feedback button at the top of the home page.

Councillors Shortlisted for National Awards

On Tuesday 1 November Babergh and Mid Suffolk members joined other representatives from across the UK to pay tribute to the best and most innovative councillors in the country.

The councillors gathered in London for the LGiU's Cllr Awards. This seventh annual Awards scheme is the only national showcase honouring the hard work of councillors from across the country. The winners were selected by a judging panel made up of local government experts and councillors.

One Babergh member and one Mid Suffolk member were shortlisted for awards out of over two hundred submissions:

- Cllr Gerard Brewster, Mid Suffolk District Council Portfolio Holder for Business Growth and Increased Productivity and member for Stowmarket (South), was shortlisted for the LGiU award for District Councillor of the Year
- Cllr Jennie Jenkins, Leader of Babergh District Council and member for Leavenheath, was shortlisted for the LGiU award for Leader of the Year



Cllrs Jennie Jenkins (L) and Gerard Brewster (R) at the Cllr Awards in London

Sadly neither received the award for their category but the evening offered a chance to meet with outstanding councillors from across the country and learn how other authorities are meeting the challenges all local government is facing.

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Cllr Gerard Brewster said: “Being shortlisted for District Councillor of the Year was a great experience, and I want to thank the LGiU for the work they put into the awards. This shows that we in Suffolk can lead the country in the way we deliver for our constituents and communities and I look forward to continuing to work hard, both for Stowmarket and for all of Mid Suffolk, over the coming years.”

Cllr Jennie Jenkins said: “The LGiU puts us in touch with other councillors across the country, and it was an honour to be shortlisted from such a vast pool of women and men working hard for their communities. A leader is only as good as their team and being on that list of seven was a testament to the dedication and talent of all the councillors and staff at Babergh who have worked so hard to keep delivering the services our communities need in a changing world.”

Get your Recycling Right

A campaign has been launched by the Suffolk Waste Partnership to highlight the importance of people getting their recycling right.

This campaign sees a leaflet being sent out to every household in Suffolk to highlight what can and can't go in your recycling bin, which aims to serve as a reminder – and a new video is also be available online to further highlight the issues.

In Suffolk more than half of our household waste is recycled, but contamination levels have been rising as people increasingly put unsuitable items in their kerbside recycling bins. These items are potentially dangerous, can have a negative impact on the environment and ultimately cost the taxpayer extra money to clean up.

All recyclable waste collected from Suffolk households is taken to the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Great Blakenham, where it is sorted and baled before being sent on for recycling. This facility is designed to only accept and process certain materials. If the wrong items are delivered they have to be removed, sometimes by hand.

To ensure the correct items are put into their recycling bins, residents across the county are being asked to remember the following points to combat contamination:

- Textiles and clothes can no longer go in the recycling bin, either bagged or loose. Instead people are asked to donate their clothing to charity shops, or to take it to their nearest recycling banks.
- Anything smaller than 4cm, such as loose bottle tops or shredded paper, won't get recycled they fall through the sorting process. However, bottle tops can be recycled by simply washing and squashing plastic bottles and putting the tops back on.
- Aluminium foil needs to be rolled into a tennis ball size before being placed in the recycling bin.
- Food waste, glass, electrical items, and batteries are just some of the common contaminants found. These items can't go in your recycling bin at home but they can be recycled elsewhere. Information on where they can be recycled are in the leaflet and online.

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- Some people are even putting used nappies in their recycling bins. These must always go in the rubbish bin.

Cllr Clive Arthey, chairman of the Suffolk Waste Partnership, said: “While it is great that we are recycling more than half of our household waste here in Suffolk, this campaign will hopefully help us improve the quality of Suffolk’s recyclable material and save taxpayers money.

“For example, 1,500 nappies are picked by hand from people’s recycling every day. This is a horrible job and spoils the other recyclables, costing both time and money to sort out. If you follow the advice in the leaflet and on our website and only put the correct items in your recycling bin, we can improve the quality of recyclables going to the MRF and will be able to recycle even more.

“Textiles and items of clothing are no longer being accepted in the recycling bins and we would ask people to take unwanted textiles to a charity shop, a recycling bank or their nearest Recycling Centre.”

More information can be found on the Suffolk Recycling website at:

<http://www.greensuffolk.org/recycling/>

Christmas & New Year Waste and Recycling Collections

As usual, the festive calendar in late December and early January means that, due to bank holidays, it has been necessary to amend the usual waste collection days across Babergh and Mid Suffolk.

You can find the full details of the changes to collection dates on our new website, for Babergh:

<http://beta.baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk.testing.onesuffolk.default.onesuffolk.uk0.bigv.io/assets/Waste-Services-Bins/Documents/BDC-Colour-Front-Page.pdf>

And Mid Suffolk:

<http://beta.baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk.testing.onesuffolk.default.onesuffolk.uk0.bigv.io/assets/Waste-Services-Bins/Documents/MSDC-Colour-Front-Page.pdf>

Please do circulate these calendars to anyone you feel could make use of them. We also have greyscale versions available for any black and white newsletters, email duncan.merren@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk for a copy.

This year will also see a return of the Christmas Tree Collection Points that were a hit across both districts last year, allowing residents to recycle their trees once the festive period is over. We are currently finalising the locations of the collection points: watch our websites for the full details as soon as they’re agreed.

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You can find details of waste collection days for the rest of 2017 for Babergh at:

<http://beta.baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk/testing.onesuffolk.default.onesuffolk.uk0.bigv.io/assets/Waste-Services-Bins/Documents/BDC-A4-Colour.pdf>

And for Mid Suffolk at:

<http://beta.baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk/testing.onesuffolk.default.onesuffolk.uk0.bigv.io/assets/Waste-Services-Bins/Documents/MSDC-A4-Colour.pdf>

Have Your Say: BT Phonebox Removals

There are almost 100 public payphones in Babergh and Mid Suffolk that BT are considering for removal: have your say on whether these are still used by your community.

BT are considering the removal of many under-used public payphones, as fewer and fewer people use these phoneboxes. Overall use of payphones has declined by over 90 per cent in the last decade and the need to provide payphones for use in emergency situations is diminishing all the time, with at least 98 per cent of the UK having either 3G or 4G coverage, providing the opportunity to call emergency services even when there is no credit.

As part of this work BT has initiated a consultation exercise in which local communities will have the opportunity to adopt a phone box and make them an asset that local people can enjoy. It's really simple to do and it costs just £1, for further information please visit:

<http://business.bt.com/phone-services/payphone-services/adopt-a-kiosk/>

As part of the consultation process, BT wants to hear your views on these proposed removals. The Council is responsible for coordinating consultation responses, and we will respond to BT on a case by case basis (whether the proposed loss of the phone box is agreed, objected to or whether the community wish to adopt the box themselves). If you wish to contact the Council regarding this, please email us at: BTConsultation@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

You can find a full list of the telephone boxes being considered for removal in each district on our websites, along with additional information and links. Find the webpages at:

<http://www.babergh.gov.uk/council-business/council-and-democracy/consultations/current-consultations/proposed-british-telecom-bt-public-payphone-removals/>

or:

<http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/council-business/council-and-democracy/consultations/current-consultations/proposed-british-telecom-bt-public-payphone-removals/>

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Community Buildings Advice Service

The Community Buildings Advice Service is a free and impartial service provided by the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership to help communities minimise the carbon footprints of their buildings and cut energy costs. Here they explain what they can offer:

Suffolk's village halls and community centres play a vital role in our lives. By helping you install technologies such as LED lighting, better insulation and renewable energy; these buildings can be kept comfortable, cheap to run and an enticing space to use all year round. Safeguarding these vital assets for generations to come!

What can we offer you?

Community Building Energy Audits:

A free assessment of your building, identifying ways to cut your running costs and minimise your greenhouse gas emissions. Whether you've got refurbishment plans in mind or not, this audit can help you make an informed decision about the best future for your community space.

Help to upgrade your heating system:

Worried about an unreliable boiler, or have expensive electric heaters that are good at warming your head but leave your feet in the cold? We can help you find the right green heating option for your building, from air and ground source heat pumps to biomass, micro-CHP and condensing boilers.

Grants and Funding:

Our help doesn't stop at the report; we want to help you make the recommendations a reality. We can signpost you to the latest funding options and put you in touch with installers so you can obtain suitable quotes. Moreover, the savings identified in our audit can be useful evidence when making grant applications - which we would also be delighted to help you with!

If you are interested in taking advantage of this free, impartial service, please contact John Taylor on 01473 264 595 or email john.taylor3@suffolk.gov.uk

A new Volunteer Recruitment website for Suffolk

"Volunteer Suffolk" is a new volunteering database and website to advertise volunteering roles in Suffolk, helping local organisations to recruit volunteers.

"Volunteer Suffolk" will launch in early 2017, and is run by Community Action Suffolk (CAS). Between November 2016 and January 2017, the Volunteering Team at CAS will be showcasing the new service at free events across Suffolk and providing training on the new system.

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The new website aims to offer both organisations and potential volunteers a user-friendly service to access volunteering opportunities in Suffolk. Carolyn Shaw, Volunteering Manager at CAS, said:

“We are excited to launch this new, simple online volunteering service. Volunteer Suffolk will offer people instant and simple access to available volunteering opportunities in Suffolk.

“Suffolk’s charities and voluntary organisations will benefit from improved access to advertise and manage their opportunities easily. By owning this service, CAS can respond quickly to support requests.

“As CAS has created this service specifically for Suffolk, it will give us greater insight into volunteering in the county. We will be able to monitor and share data about volunteering activity in Suffolk. We hope that this simple and joined up approach will benefit everyone.

CAS will be running events to demonstrate “Volunteer Suffolk” at locations across the county in the coming months, with the website going live in the new year. Places are free and can be booked online below:

[Monday 28 November 2016](#), 10am to midday: Hyndman Centre, Bury St Edmunds

[Tuesday 29 November 2016](#), 10am to midday: The Mix, Stowmarket

[Wednesday 30 November 2016](#), 10am to midday: Brightspace, Ipswich

[Thursday 8 December 2016](#), 1pm to 3pm: The Delphi Centre, Sudbury

[Tuesday 10 January 2017](#), 10am to midday: Burton Centre, Haverhill

[Wednesday 11 January 2017](#), 10am to midday: Kirkley Centre, Lowestoft

For further information on the “Big Switch” and Volunteer Suffolk, please contact Jo Belfield on jo.belfield@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk, or 01473 345383 / 07990 576893

Mid Suffolk District

London Orchestra returned to Stowmarket

City of London Sinfonia, one of the country’s leading professional chamber orchestras, performed two Lullaby Concerts at Stowmarket United Reformed Church on Wednesday 26 October.

Specially designed for children aged 2 – 7 and their parents and carers, the concerts featured an exciting blend of audience participation, fun and fabulous orchestral music, all woven together by charismatic presenter Claire Henry. In this year’s brand new show, entitled *A Day at the Fair*, the orchestra was joined by folk artists from the East Anglian Traditional Music Trust to create a magical mixture of musical styles.

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After each concert there will be a chance for children to try out a range of orchestral instruments too!

The Lullaby Concerts are produced by Orchestras Live, a national music charity that brings orchestral music to thousands of people in culturally under-served areas across England. This year's Lullaby tour will go also to Lowestoft and Newmarket in Suffolk, Clacton-on-Sea and Rayleigh in Essex, and Stroud in Gloucestershire.

Cllr Julie Flatman, Portfolio Holder for Community Capacity Building and Engagement at Mid Suffolk District Council, said "We are thrilled to welcome back City of London Sinfonia to Stowmarket. Over the last few years their interactive concerts have become very popular with young families in this area."

Stuart Bruce, Partnership Manager at Orchestras Live, said: "We have been holding Lullaby Concerts in Mid Suffolk and Babergh for many years and we're very much looking forward to next week's tour, which will enable lots of children to have an inspirational first experience of live orchestral music."

We hope to see the Lullaby Concerts return next year and will update you via this newsletter when they next perform in the district.

Babergh District

Hadleigh Porch Project Temporarily Relocating

Babergh District Council are providing temporary accommodation for the Hadleigh Porch Project to better serve the community.

The Project have moved into the Babergh District Council Offices on Corks Lane today and will be running their classes between 3pm and 8pm from Tuesdays to Thursdays.

This move will be on a temporary basis to provide a space in Hadleigh where the Project can interact with the local community. The Project will be returning to their base at Deanery Tower once their offices have been refurbished.

The Porch Project was set up in 2009 by St Mary's Church in Hadleigh aims to support young people's well-being through social activities. The Project currently works with 450 young people in Hadleigh and the surrounding area.

The Project works to build confidence in young people by developing their social skills and encouraging their personal development through social activities, learning and support programmes, school visits and street work.

Cllr Jan Osborne, The Portfolio holder for Community Capacity Building and engagement commented: "We at Babergh have worked with the Porch Project for several years and I am delighted we can support them. The Porch Project provides a

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vital contribution to young people in Hadleigh and the surrounding area and we will help them to work with the community for many years to come.”

Mental Health Wellbeing Event in Sudbury

A stand organised by the Sudbury VASP provided information on mental health wellbeing at Sudbury Library as well as a market stall on Thursday 13 October to promote World Mental Health Day.

The Sudbury Voluntary and Statutory Partnership (VASP) stand on mental health was held in Sudbury Library this week promoting wellbeing in the community. The stand offered a selection of leaflets from across the partnership on how to improve wellbeing as well as promoting awareness of Mental Health.

As well as a stand in the Library, the VASP hosted a market stall on the 13 October in Sudbury Town centre from 10am-2pm with free advice from the VASP’s experienced partners.

The Sudbury VASP is an informal partnership dedicated to improving mental health services and awareness.

Cllr Jan Osborne, Portfolio holder for Community Capacity Building and Engagement commented “The Sudbury VASP provides a vital contribution to the local communities by trying to improve mental health wellbeing and to dispel the stigma surrounding it. As a partner in the Sudbury VASP, we at Babergh District Council are proud to support awareness on mental health and to provide continued support for Health and Wellbeing in our Communities.”

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