

Town & Parish Council Newsletter

Newsletter No: 19 October 2014



Welcome to our joint newsletter. It is aimed at keeping all town and parish councils, across both Babergh and Mid Suffolk, informed about our plans to meet the financial, and other, challenges facing us.

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Upcoming Liaison Meetings

The Town and Parish Liaison Meetings will take place on Tuesday 4th November at 10.00am and 6.30pm at Mid Suffolk in the Council Chamber at Needham Market and on Thursday 6th November at 10.00am and 6.30pm at Hadleigh United Football Club, Tinkers Lane, Hadleigh IP7 5NG for Babergh.

Items on the Agenda are:

- Mobile Phone and broadband infrastructure
- Filming of Council meetings
- Sky lanterns and balloon policy
- Community Achievement Awards and
- Planning policy

An email giving further details will be sent out to all parishes by the end of this week, a good number of parishes have already indicated their attendance although there are still places available and we welcome any parishes, particularly those that have not attended before.

Community Infrastructure Levy Workshops to be Held

We wanted to give you the latest update on our work on CIL, the Community Infrastructure Levy project.

As you know, we are currently developing a robust evidence based CIL framework; we have finished the first stage of this process and have consulted on our Preliminary

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Draft Charging Schedule. We are now entering the second stage of the process and will be consulting on the Draft Charging Schedule.

Since our first round of consultation closed in July we have been analysing the responses we received in order to develop a Draft Charging Schedule in line with the new evidence brought forward. We have contacted Peter Brett Associates, the authors of the initial viability study, and are working with them to review the evidence provided and consider amendments to the document.

We have also had very successful meetings in September with the Town and Parishes and infrastructure providers regarding the Infrastructure list. This list is often referred to as a “123 list”, after the regulation governing the list in The Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations (2010) and will help ensure that there is no duplication of funding between infrastructure funded via CIL and infrastructure funded via Section 106 agreements. These meetings have fed into the development of the infrastructure list.

What Happens Next

Both the Infrastructure List and the Draft Charging Schedule will be taken to an extraordinary meeting of Babergh’s Strategy Committee and to an extraordinary meeting of Mid Suffolk’s Executive Committee at the end of October for their consideration, before we put the Draft Charging Schedule out to public consultation in early November. We will then be in touch to let you know that we are once again seeking your views.

Join the Conversation – Community Infrastructure Levy workshop

In order to provide as much information as possible to regarding Community Infrastructure Levy, how it will change things for Parishes and the consultation, we will be holding meetings in early December in both Hadleigh and Needham Market. These meetings provide the opportunity for you to engage with the project team, speak directly to officers working on CIL and for us to answer any key questions you may have.

The meetings, which are to be held between 10am – 12pm and between 6.30pm – 8.30pm on both dates, will be on:

- Monday 8th December in Needham Market
- Tuesday 9th December in Hadleigh

We will inform you of the specific venues as soon as they are confirmed. If you are able to attend these meetings please let us know via supportservices@babergh.gov.uk.

If you need any further information on CIL, you can continue to find information on our website (including links to the Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule and the Viability Study mentioned above), at:

<http://www.babergh.gov.uk/home/cil-consultation>
www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/home/cil-consultation

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Please do contact us if you have any questions.

Community Achievement Award Nominations Now Open

Do you know someone that inspires others in your community? Someone that gets stuck in when the going gets tough and the tough get going? Then why not consider nominating them for either the Babergh or Mid Suffolk Community Achievement Awards 2015.

Both Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have launched the next round of nominations for the Community Achievement Awards. Both schemes aim to give recognition and honour to those individuals and groups who strive to make a real difference in their communities to make them better places in which to live and work.

Now local communities are being invited to nominate people again. To be eligible, nominees must be active in the communities of Babergh or Mid Suffolk districts, work in the local community on an unpaid or voluntary basis, and who the community feel should be recognised for their contribution.

This community work could come in any shape or form, from fundraising work, to campaigning for improved local services or providing a long-term service to the community.

You may already have received nomination forms, which have also been sent to schools, voluntary groups and charities.

Commenting on the Babergh awards, Cllr James Long, Chairman of Babergh District Council, said: "We pride ourselves on giving those who make outstanding contributions to their community the recognition and appreciation they deserve - and have done so for the last 20 years.

"We want to celebrate by awarding those really special people in our communities who give up their time voluntarily to serve others."

Mid Suffolk Community Achievement Awards, which is in its eight year, used to be held bi-annually but a decision has now been made to host it every year.

Cllr Diana Kearsley, Communities Portfolio Holder from Mid Suffolk District Council, said: "These awards give us the opportunity to say thank you to someone in the local community who deserves recognition and praise for their efforts. Their vital contribution is an example to us all. Without their selfless dedication, our quality of life would be much diminished.

"They were so well received earlier this year, we have decided to make this an annual event and recognise and celebrate those that work so hard in the communities that we serve."

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The winners will be honoured at either the Mid Suffolk Awards Ceremony on 12 March 2015 at Haughley Park Barns or the Babergh Awards Ceremony on the 18 March 2015 at Stoke-by-Nayland Golf Club.

The closing date for nominations is 1 December 2014. More details, including a nomination form, are available on the council's website: www.babergh.gov.uk or www.midsuffolk.gov.uk.

The events are being organised by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council in conjunction with generous sponsors, Prolog and the East of England Co-Op.

For more details about the awards, please contact Emma Bendall, Babergh and Mid Suffolk Communities Officer - Grants, on 01449 724650 or email: emma.bendall@midsuffolk.gov.uk.

Drop-In Event on Affordable Housing Proposals for Great Blakenham

Friday 24 October 2014 – 3.30pm to 7pm
Parish Rooms, Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham

Following a Public Meeting held on 3 September the District Council invites local people to attend this engagement event to seek their views on the proposed site layout for the development of land off Kingfisher Drive, Great Blakenham before a formal planning application for development is submitted. People will have another chance to comment on any revised layout plans as part of the planning process.

Representatives from Mid Suffolk's Strategic Housing Team and Communities Team, the Parish, District and County Councils, Havebury Housing, and Barefoot and Gilles (architects) will be available to answer your questions. Plans will be displayed showing the proposed new development.

Any homes built will first be made available to people who have a good local connection to the parish of Great Blakenham. Any remaining vacant properties would then be made available district wide. The new homes will be advertised for letting on the Council's Choice Based Letting system called Gateway to Homechoice. To register on the Gateway to Homechoice system, please visit www.gatewaytohomechoice.org.uk where you can also find more information on housing options.

A partnership approach to these proposals has been taken with Great Blakenham Parish Council, Mid Suffolk District Council, Suffolk County Council and Havebury Housing Partnership.

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Powering Up Suffolk: Community Energy Workshop

How to develop renewable energy schemes for maximum community benefit.

Thursday 13th November 2014, 1:00pm – 4:30pm
John Peel Centre, Stowmarket, IP14 1ET
www.johnpeelcentre.com/index.php/find-us

One of the main ways we can make Suffolk the Greenest County is to increase the amount of electricity and heat we produce from renewable energy sources. Whether it's putting solar panels on schools, planting trees for woodfuel or offering shares in larger schemes, community groups are bringing local ownership back to the energy sector and sharing the financial benefits.

This workshop will look at the enormous potential for local initiatives to produce power through sustainable energy, and will be a chance to hear from support organisations and groups in Suffolk that are already pumping power into the grid. However big or small your community group, you can make a difference.

The day will cover:

- How community groups across Suffolk are taking control of their own energy supplies. With Power4KelsaleCC & Transition Lavenham - www.transitionlavenham.co.uk/
- How to identify which renewable energy sources are viable for your community.
- An introduction to renewable energy technologies, from Suffolk based installer, Mosscliff - www.mosscliff.co.uk/schools_and_community.html
- How to plan and fund your community energy project, with Adam Marvel, PURE Leapfrog - www.pureleapfrog.org/
- Matchmaking session: a chance to network with businesses and landowners willing to host a community energy scheme or speak to community groups who have already taken the first step.

To register visit www.greensuffolk.org/poweringup

Christmas Waste Recycling Calendars

As usual, the festive calendar in late December and early January means that, due to the bank holidays, it has been necessary to amend the usual waste collection days across Mid Suffolk and Babergh. Please find attached the collection schedule for the Christmas period, along with a Waste Collection Calendar for 2015.

Council Filming Protocol Approved

Following on from the last newsletter's article on the filming of council meetings, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have now had time to consider our draft Filming Protocol. As you know, the recent guidelines from the Department for

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Communities and Local Government require that all local government bodies, including Town, Parish and District Councils, accommodate any requests to film public meetings as far as possible, requiring all of us to consider how we can best accommodate citizen journalists at our council meetings.

Both Babergh and Mid Suffolk's Councillors have now approved their own Filming Protocol, with amendments made separately by each Council, and the final protocols, which could be of use in devising your own approach to filming of your meetings, can be found online:

Babergh: <http://www.babergh.gov.uk/assets/Uploads-BDC/Organisation/Democratic-Services/Council-and-Democracy/Your-Councillors/Babergh-Filming-Protocol.pdf>

Mid Suffolk:

<http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/UploadsMSDC/Organisation/Democratic-Services/Council-and-Democracy/Council-Meetings/Mid-Suffolk-Filming-Protocol.pdf>

How to Contact Your Council

You can find attached an up to date copy of our Joint Contact Details, providing email addresses for you to contact all of our services. Please do feel free to share them with any member of your communities who wishes to contact us.

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

Newsletter Ideas

What do you want to see covered in the next newsletters?

We try hard to bring you as wide a selection of information as possible but there may be some areas you are keen to know more about. Let us know by emailing

duncan.merren@midsuffolk.gov.uk