

Town & Parish Council Newsletter

Newsletter No: 23 June 2015



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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New Portfolio Holders announced

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have announced their new Portfolio Holders following their first Full Council meetings.

Babergh

Cllr Jennie Jenkins: Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance & Resources

Cllr Frank Lawrenson: Portfolio Holder for Environment

Cllr David Holland: Portfolio Holder for Housing

Cllr Jan Osborne: Portfolio Holder for Health & Wellbeing and Communities

Cllr Simon Barrett: Portfolio Holder for Growth and the Local Economy (including Planning)

Cllr Peter Patrick: Portfolio Holder for Public Access

Cllr Nick Ridley has become Chairman of the Council, having previously served in the same role between 2012 and 2014.

For details of all councillors and their contact details please visit:

<http://www.babergh.gov.uk/council-business/council-and-democracy/your-councillors/gallery-of-elected-councillors/>

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Mid Suffolk

Cllr Derrick Haley: Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance & Resources
Cllr David Burn: Portfolio Holder for Environment & Environmental Health
Cllr Nick Gowrley: Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing
Cllr Diana Kearsley: Portfolio Holder for Communities
Cllr Gerard Brewster: Portfolio Holder for Economy & Stowmarket Regeneration
Cllr John Whitehead: Portfolio Holder for Planning
Cllr Derek Osborne has become Chairman of the Council.

For details of all councillors and their contact details please visit:

<http://apps.midsuffolk.gov.uk/cmiswebpublic/Members.aspx>

Parish Liaison meetings

Last week we held four Parish Liaison meetings (two in MSDC on Tuesday and two in BDC on Thursday). The turnout was really good with over forty delegates attending each venue. Thank you very much to everyone who attended.

The sessions relating to planning issues and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) were particularly well received. We were also joined by Ed Hubbard from 4Global Consultants to seek views from participants on sports and leisure facilities within their communities. Jim Friend gave a brief overview of the services available from The Suffolk Association of Local Councils.

Feedback has been very positive and we've had several suggestions for topics for future events. If you have anything you would like to suggest, please email Josephine Beever - josephine.beever@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) presentation

The Babergh and Mid Suffolk Grants Team is working with the Heritage Lottery Fund and The Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, to offer a presentation and workshop for those looking to make a bid for funding.

HLF supports all kinds of projects, provided they make a lasting difference for heritage, people and communities.

The planned morning workshop on 7 July at Stowmarket Scout Hut, Milton Road North, Stowmarket IP14 1EX is open to all within Babergh and Mid Suffolk.

Kate Brown from HLF and workshop facilitators will help identify what courses of action can be taken to secure funding. For further information please contact josephine.beever@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk.

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Community Emergency Volunteer training

Please find attached a revised program for the Community Emergency Volunteer training for the rest of 2015.

This training is not just for the co-ordinators in your groups. It is open to any volunteers in your plan. This includes those who have volunteered to assist with equipment, to help on the day, anyone in your key organising group & anyone who is involved in starting to write a plan or pull a group together. For instance, if you have included the WI or Good Neighbour Schemes as part of your response, these courses are open to them as well.

Please ensure details of all courses are circulated to your volunteers, regardless of their key level of involvement. If you have any queries about who's eligible for the courses, please email Sue Herne at EmergencyPlanning@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk.

The **Managing & Recruiting Volunteers Course** is excellent. There are some great tips about recruitment, managing and holding on to your volunteers over time, as well as how to deal effectively with difficult volunteers. It is an interactive day with lots of discussions, helpful forms and an information pack is given to all delegates to take away. It also touches on the roles and responsibilities of trustees, etc. It highlights a lot of skills that can be transferred into many other volunteering and workplace roles.

A date for your diaries is also the **Conference** which will be taking place on the 13 November at the Village Hall in Stowupland from 14:00hrs – 20:00 hrs. Again, this is open to all levels of volunteers in your group/plan. More details will be circulated once the speakers have been confirmed.

For further information or to book a course, please email EmergencyPlanning@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Month	First Aid	Health & Safety	Managing & Recruiting Volunteers	Social Media (1/2 day)	Rest Centre	New Starters
July 2015					3 July BDC (P) 09:30 - 12:30 15 July FHDC (P) 09:30 - 12:30 23 July MSDC (P) 09:30 - 12:30	
September 2015	Wed 23 Sept BDC 09:45 – 16:00		Fri 25 Sept Council Chamber SCDC 09:30 -16:00	Wed 9 Sept Dove Room MSDC 18:30 – 21:30 Postponed from 15 th April)	10 Sept WSH (P) 09:30 – 12:30 14 Sept (T) BDC 09:30-12:30	Wed 16 Sept WSH SEBC 09:30 – 12:30

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					18 Sept BDC (P) 09:30 - 12:30 30 Sept (T) MSDC 09:30-12:30	
October 2015	Sat 10 Oct Dove Room MSDC 09:45 – 15:30			Fri 23 Oct SEBC 09:30 – 12:30		Wed 7 Oct BDC 09:30 -12:30
November 2015			Sat 7 Nov MSDC, Dove Room 09:30 – 16:00			

N.B There will be a Community Emergency Planning Conference on Friday 13 November running from 2PM - 8PM, we'll share the programme once that has been finalised.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

You may be aware that the Community Infrastructure Levy is a planning charge, introduced by the Planning Act 2008 as a tool for local authorities to help deliver infrastructure to support development in their area. It came into force on 6 April 2010 through the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010.

Both Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have been investigating whether a Community Infrastructure Levy would be beneficial for the districts. This planning charge does not replace the traditional Section 106 agreements entirely but if adopted would work alongside to ensure each development contributed towards the cost of much needed infrastructure.

Over the last 12 months both authorities have conducted three formal consultations around various elements of the Community Infrastructure Levy. On 18 March 2015, both authorities formally submitted documents to the Planning Inspectorate for examination. These included the draft charging schedule, supporting documents and representations received from consultees and local communities.

The examinations for both authorities are coming up and are public events. These are being held on:

Babergh District Council's examination:

Wednesday 17 June: 9.30am Council Chamber, Hadleigh offices.
 Further details <http://www.babergh.gov.uk/planning-and-building/community-infrastructure-levy-cil-in-babergh/>

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Mid Suffolk District Council's examination:

Thursday 18 June: 9.30am Council Chamber, Needham offices.

Further details <http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/planning-and-building/community-infrastructure-levy-cil-in-mid-suffolk/>

Once the examinations are complete the Inspector will prepare a report recommending the charging schedules be approved, rejected or approved with modifications. If the charging schedules are approved both Babergh and Mid Suffolk Members will then decide whether or not to formally adopt the charging schedule at their Full Council meetings.

Tenants urged to join Housing Board

Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils are looking for six tenants to become members of their Housing Board. These tenants will play a part in deciding future spending on repairing and improving homes, developing new council housing and ensuring the housing service is managed in the best way it can be.

As tenant members they will work alongside councillors and oversee the development of business plans and approve the development of Housing Landlord strategy and policy. They will also have a consultative role in determining council housing rents and budgets.

Potential candidates need to be current council tenants or leaseholders living in Babergh or Mid Suffolk properties and over the age of 18.

The Board, which was formed in April 2012, comprises 12 people, of which six are tenants and the other six are elected councillors, from across both districts. Each tenant will represent the ward* in which they live. Meetings are held monthly and tenant representatives can claim expenses for travel and care costs.

They are entitled to an allowance for their attendance at the board. A comprehensive training and induction plan is also provided to ensure tenants can feel confident in their roles.

With over 7,000 tenants and a £30 million budget between both councils, all members of the Housing Board have a crucial role to play in deciding how these homes are managed.

Interested tenants can apply for an application pack from Victoria Smy, Communities Officer for Tenant Involvement on 01449 724781 or email:

victoria.smy@BaberghMidSuffolk.gov.uk. Deadline for applications is 12 noon on 19 June 2015.

All tenants will decide who is elected to the Board through a postal vote. Each tenant can vote for a candidate for their individual ward area, up until 30 July. The results will then be announced on 31 July. There needs to be an overall majority of votes to be elected.

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Anyone interested in becoming a tenant member should contact the Resident Involvement Officer on 01449 724781.

Mid Suffolk to host opera for babies, pre-school and parents

Following two well attended performances in Babergh last month, a new and enchanting opera designed for a very young audience and their parents will be performed across Mid Suffolk in June.

Orla and the Sun is a magical, multi-sensory, interactive production combining live theatre with singing, storytelling and play.

Designed by Sarah Booth, the story of Orla, who cannot understand why the sun keeps following her, is aimed to captivate a very young audience and encourage participation throughout.

Tickets are free of charge but booking is required. Please call **01449 724638** to reserve your space.

The performances are as follows:

Wednesday 17 June - Eye Town Hall: 1:30-2:30pm

Thursday 18 June - Stowmarket Reform Church: 1:30-2:30pm

Helping residents to 'green up' their street

A recent venture, which enabled some residents in Stowmarket to enhance their neighbourhood by planting trees on the roadside near their homes, has proved so successful that Mid Suffolk and Babergh are now planning to extend this opportunity throughout both districts.

Resident groups who would like to improve their local environment with a tree lined road or simply an individual who would like a tree on the verge outside their house are being invited to contact Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils where, for a one-off fee of £60, they will get a tree planted for them, together with the practical advice and guidance needed to maintain it until it is established.

The idea for this venture came about after twelve residents in Chilton Avenue, Stowmarket expressed a wish to see replacement trees planted in their road after the old ones had been removed by the landowners, Suffolk County Council.

While reduced resources had made it difficult for Mid Suffolk to plant trees and maintain them, officers were able to come up with a scheme which involved getting the residents together to form the Chilton Avenue Tree Fund. This then enabled the committee to gain access to additional outside funding and raise the £720 needed to pay for twelve new trees to be planted.

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Since completion of the planting in December 2014, Mid Suffolk and Babergh have begun working with residents in nearby St Peters Road and St Mary's Road who have also expressed a wish to have trees planted on their roadside verges.

The enthusiastic response we have received from residents in Stowmarket has prompted us to extend this initiative across both Babergh and Mid Suffolk and we would be very keen to hear from any individual who would like a tree outside their house or a group of residents who are interested in establishing a tree lined street.

Those wishing to find out more about this scheme should contact Alice Martin, Assistant Arboricultural Officer on 01449 724942 or email at alice.martin@midsuffolk.gov.uk

Aviva Women's Tour: Wednesday 17 and Thursday 18 June

Don't forget the Aviva Women's Tour starts on 17 June and the route travels through much of Mid Suffolk on Stage 1 and Babergh in Stage 2.

Stage 1 starts in Bury St Edmunds and travels through Mid Suffolk villages including: Gedding, Felsham, Rattlesden, Stowmarket, Stowupland, Forward Green, Stonham Aspal, Pettaugh, Crowfield, and Hemingstone before heading to Henley, Ipswich and Aldeburgh.

Stage 2 on 18 June starts and ends in Essex and travels through Sudbury, Boxford, Hadleigh, East Bergholt and Brantham.

There will be a programme of rolling road closures on the route as the tour passes through our districts with temporary parking restrictions in Sudbury, Boxford, Hadleigh and East Bergholt. Please look out for warning signs advising of the parking restrictions prior to the race.

For further information regarding the Women's Tour, log onto the official tour website www.womenstour.co.uk where you can view the stages, download maps of the route and learn more about the teams.

Aviva Tour of Britain

Britain's most prestigious cycling event returns to Suffolk this year. Stage seven of the men's race on Saturday 12 September, will start in Fakenham and race through Norfolk before crossing into Suffolk. The route will take in Stowmarket, Needham Market, Hadleigh and East Bergholt before racing under the Orwell Bridge and into Ipswich town centre for the finish.

In the past, these races have been a fantastic event for spectators to see some of the world's top cyclists racing through our beautiful villages, towns and countryside.

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Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are working in partnership with Suffolk County Council, SweetSpot (race organisers) and other partners to deliver a family friendly cycling festival with a focus on active lifestyles in the build up to the Tour and on the day of the stage itself.

We would like to invite you and your community to be part of this great opportunity. There are a number of ways you could become involved from ensuring there are spectators along the route when the riders come through to working with local groups/organisations to host a community event to celebrate the Tour.

There is a limited amount of funding available if you would like to organise an event. For further information please call Jo Beever on 01449 724654 or email josephine.beever@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

For further information about the Men's Tour, please visit: www.tourofbritain.co.uk

Citizens Advice Bureau drop-in sessions

The Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) has started monthly drop-in sessions at the Babergh Offices on the last Wednesday morning of the month for members of the public.

Advisor Lesley Fisher-Glenesk, will be based in the information point at reception to provide drop-in services and advice, including debt, benefits, employment, consumer issues and relationships. No appointment is necessary and confidential matters will be discussed in the privacy of a meeting room.

Wingfield Barns seeks new Directors

Wingfield Barns is seeking to appoint two new volunteer Directors to its Board.

It was formed in 2010 and is committed to delivering a cultural, educational and artistic programme to both the immediate and wider community. A programme not otherwise easily accessible in such a rural environment. It is also a beautiful venue for a small number of weddings each year.

Wingfield Barns is a Community Interest Company (CIC) a business model intended for social enterprises that want to use their profits and assets for the public good and for the benefit of the community.

If you are interested in becoming a Director, please send a short CV and covering letter to the CIC's Chairman, Dr Simon Bennett at the address below or email enquiries@wingfieldbarns.co.uk.

Wingfield Barns, Church Road, Wingfield, Suffolk IP21 5RA

Tel. 01379 384505.

For further information please visit www.wingfieldbarns.com.

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Garden waste collection service

To help make recycling easier for residents, Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Council operate a garden waste collection service across both districts.

The service offers residents a cost effective and convenient way to recycle their garden waste all year round.

All households may apply for the garden waste collection service. However, acceptance to the scheme will be subject to availability and the suitability of access to your property by the collection vehicle.

What does it cost?

The cost to subscribe to this service is £50.00 which includes a one-off £5.00 delivery fee. For this you will receive a fortnightly collection of your garden waste and the hire of a 240 litre brown bin for the annual subscription period. Renewal invoices are sent to subscribers at the end of each annual subscription period.

***Please note credit card payments are subject to 1.5% surcharge**

The collection service operates all year round on a fortnightly basis with a minimum of 24 collections during each annual subscription period. Please note there are no collections over the Christmas and New Year period.

To subscribe to the service, please telephone the Waste Service helpline 0845 606 6045 or complete the online form:

<https://babergh.firmstep.com/default.aspx/RenderForm/?F.Name=c7Q5Q21B6ye&HideToolbar=1>

New calendars are now available to download for existing customers

The new garden waste collection calendars are now available online. To download your copy, please visit the links below:

Babergh

<http://www.babergh.gov.uk/waste-services/garden-waste/brown-bin-calendars/?stage=Live>

Mid Suffolk

<http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/waste-services/garden-waste/brown-bin-calendars/?stage=Live>

Please be advised we do not plan to post calendars to customers in future. If you would like to receive a printed copy of the calendar, please call the Waste Services Team on 0845 606 6045 or email recycling@midsuffolk.gov.uk

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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 stuart.atkinson@babberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk.