

Town & Parish Council Newsletter

Newsletter No: 35 July 2017



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 in a reactive format to make your reading as easy as possible, whatever device you use. 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://baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk/communities/town-and-parish-council-newsletters>

Across Babergh & Mid Suffolk

Liaison Meetings Update

Following the recent Town and Parish Council Liaison Meetings, we wanted to give you an update on some of the work being done:

Our New Website

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When discussing our new joint website, it was suggested that an improvement to our website would be a “login area” specifically for your Clerks. We’re taking that on board and will be starting to develop an area of the website for you.

You told us that you’d like contact details of the Senior Leadership Team, links to the planning portal and links to bin collections dates; but what else would be useful for you? [Let us know](#)

A New Name

Also at the liaison meetings we asked for your ideas about what we should call the two public walk in centres in Sudbury and Stowmarket. To date we have called these “Customer Access Points” but we recognise that this isn’t the right name for us to stick with once these centres open. You started to give us some suggestions, but if you have any more immediate thoughts on what these could be renamed to which will make sense to residents, then please [let us know](#).

Babergh & Mid Suffolk End of Year Report 2016/17 Published

Babergh and Mid Suffolk have just published their End of Year Report for 2016/17: it is published on [our websites](#).

What is the report? It’s something we’ve produced as a guide to some of the work done and goals achieved over the financial year, and how we are working towards our Strategic Goals. It covers a wide range of activities that Babergh and Mid Suffolk carry out and how our work impacts communities throughout the districts.

For the first time, we’ve used videos to show some of the case studies in our districts: you can view these by clicking on the panels in the report above, which will link through to the specific video on YouTube. These show the real-world impact of the work we do, and how council officers contribute to better outcomes for our businesses and our communities.

Please do take some time to read the report and find out more about how your District Councils have been working and continue to work, and see what strides we are making towards delivering our strategic priorities.

Have Your Say on New Ward Boundaries

The independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England is asking local people for their help to draw up a new pattern of council wards for Mid Suffolk District Council and Babergh District Council.

The consultation is the first stage of an electoral review which will re-draw ward boundaries across both districts.

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The Commission has also announced that it is minded to recommend that each council should have fewer councillors in future. For Mid Suffolk, that means 34 councillors should be elected to the council in future: a reduction of six. And for Babergh, 31 councillors should be elected to represent the area in future: a reduction of twelve from the current arrangements.

The Commission now needs information from local people and groups to help it to produce a new pattern of wards to accommodate councillors across both districts.

In drawing up new boundaries, the Commission aims to deliver electoral equality for voters in district council elections so that each councillor represents roughly the same number of voters. The review also aims to ensure that the new council wards reflect, as far as possible, the interests and identities of communities across the districts.

Professor Colin Mellors, Chair of the Commission, said: “We are asking local people and organisations to help us draw up new wards for Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils. As we develop the recommendations for each council, we will take into account local community identities as well as ensuring electoral equality for voters.

“If you have a view about which communities or neighbourhoods should be part of the same council ward, then we want to hear from you. And if you think a road, river or railway makes for a strong boundary between communities in your part of your district, then this consultation is for you. Alternatively, if you’re simply interested in the way your council is run, just log on to our website to explore our interactive maps and have your say.

“Your views will make a difference.

“We will carefully consider all evidence that is provided during this phase of the review whoever it is from and whether it applies to the whole of your district or just a small part of it.

“Residents will then have a further chance to have their say after we publish our draft recommendations for both councils in October 2017.”

Local people have until 14 August 2017 to submit their views. Further information on the review and interactive maps of the existing wards can be found on the [Local Government Boundary Commissions website](#).

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New Geographies Invite Nominations for Site-Specific Artworks

The East Contemporary Visual Arts Network (ECVAN) is delighted to announce the launch of New Geographies, a three-year Arts Council England-funded project that invites members of the public to nominate locations for 10 major site-specific visual arts commissions across the East of England.

ECVAN is seeking 'overlooked or unexpected places' in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. Nominations submitted thus far include the Petrified Forest of Mundon, Essex; the Concrete Pyramid off Great Yarmouth's coast; The Chapel of St Peter-On-The-Wall in Bradwell-on-Sea; the abandoned Tesco site in Chatteris, Cambridgeshire; and Pontins Holiday Park, Hemsby.

New Geographies officially started on 18 July 2017, with nominations submitted via a [dedicated website](#) until 22 October 2017. Following further consultation, ten leading UK and international artists will be commissioned, with the first announcement made in January 2018. The commissions will be unveiled in Summer 2018, Autumn 2018, Spring 2019, Summer 2019 and Autumn 2019. The commissions will be accompanied by an extensive community engagement programme and an artist and curator development initiative.

Donna Lynas, Director, Wysing Arts Centre and Chair, ECVAN, says: 'The idea is for us to create a new map of the East of England, one based on personal thoughts and reflections rather than historical or economic centres. Any location will be considered, whether poetic or prosaic, and if selected artists will respond to these places by making work that will be sited in each of the locations. We hope these new commissions will be enjoyed not only by the people and communities that nominated them, but also bring visitors who will be able to explore the East of England through this new map of ideas and reflections; these New Geographies.'

Hedley Swain, Area Director, South East, Arts Council England, said: 'New Geographies is an exciting project that will explore the unique landscapes and rich heritage of the East of England and then immortalise them through the creation of new contemporary art works. Community engagement really sits at the heart of this project and I look forward to seeing many more people of all ages and backgrounds getting out to see contemporary visual art, and perhaps being inspired as artists themselves.'

Community Housing Fund News

Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils have been awarded £189,742 and £225,476 respectively from the Community Housing Fund for 2017/18 by the Government to assist with the delivery of Community-led housing schemes and initiatives.

Both Councils' Cabinets have recently approved how the funding will be used over the next 12 months or so. There will be workshop events organised in September to

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provide information on the funding available and the different forms of Community-led housing groups.

The dates will be circulated soon and all Parish and Town Council Clerks will be sent details of the events which will operate similarly to the Parish and Town Council liaison events with venues around the districts. The workshops will give details of what the money can be used for, how to apply for funding and how to set up a Community Land Trust.

For further details contact Julie Abbey-Taylor on julie.abbey-taylor@babergmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Volunteer Suffolk – a New Website

A new survey has revealed that almost half of all charitable organisations in Suffolk have no paid staff and are run solely by volunteers.

Research of groups in the county, carried out by Volunteer Suffolk, found that 44% of groups would not exist without the help of people who work for free. 58% of groups often found it difficult to find local people with time to spare, with 57% stating this was mainly due to the lack of a local database.

Christine Abraham, Director of Community Services at Community Action Suffolk, the organisation that led the work to develop and launch the Volunteer Suffolk website in March, said: “We were responding to a real community problem and an incredible 60% of those we surveyed said the new service was improving links to volunteers and opportunities on the doorstep”

The website already boasts more than 200 volunteering opportunities, added by local organisations and charities. These range from short-term and one-off roles, to temporary positions and long-term roles.

There are also “10-minute volunteer” opportunities on offer which simply involve sharing a Facebook post to raise awareness, sourcing a raffle prize or putting up a poster at work.

The website also provides helpful volunteering tips, latest news and volunteers’ stories.

Volunteer Suffolk is a product of the Suffolk Volunteering Strategy and was made possible thanks to a steering group of representatives from Suffolk’s public, private and voluntary sectors.

Mid Suffolk District

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Mid Suffolk's New Cabinet Appointed

At Mid Suffolk's Annual Council Meeting on Monday 22 May, Mid Suffolk District Council re-elected Cllr Nick Gowrley as Leader, who has appointed members of a new Cabinet model of governance.

Under the revised constitution the leader of the council, elected by all Members, appoints members of the Cabinet to help direct the council. The leader may also assign portfolios to some Cabinet Members as appropriate.

Cllr Derrick Haley was elected Chairman of Mid Suffolk District Council, with Cllr John Levantis elected as Vice-Chairman.

Cllr Nick Gowrley was also re-elected as Leader of Mid Suffolk District Council, and appointed his Cabinet Members and Portfolio Holders. Mid Suffolk's new Cabinet Members are:

- Cllr Gerard Brewster, Cabinet Member for Economy
- Cllr David Burn, Cabinet Member for Environment
- Cllr Julie Flatman, Cabinet Member for Communities
- Cllr Nick Gowrley, Cabinet Member for Assets and Investment
- Cllr Glen Horn, Cabinet Member for Organisational Delivery
- Cllr John Whitehead, Cabinet Member for Finance
- Cllr David Whybrow, Cabinet Member for Planning
- Cllr Jill Wilshaw, Cabinet Member for Housing
- Cllr Penny Otton, Cabinet Member without Portfolio
- Cllr Andrew Stringer, Cabinet Member without Portfolio

Cllr Nick Gowrley also appointed Cllr John Whitehead as Deputy Leader of the Council.

The new Cabinet Model replaces the previous Executive Committee and Portfolio Holder model, streamlining the decision-making process. This both strengthens the Governance of the council and also provides greater clarity and accountability for officers working to direction from Members.

This will also provide greater transparency, with Forward Plans of cabinet business to be published online regularly covering the upcoming three months of Cabinet business on a rolling basis.

Cllr Nick Gowrley, Leader of Mid Suffolk District Council, said: "This new Cabinet model of the Council's governance, complete with clear responsibilities and publicly available forward plans, is a way to guarantee that the Council is as open, transparent and inclusive as possible.

"But this change is also about focusing on what matters to our residents: a new Portfolio for Organisational Delivery will ensure we put our residents at the heart of

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everything we do, and continue to provide excellent access and responsiveness to everyone in our communities.”

OVO Tour of Britain to Return to Mid Suffolk

The OVO Energy Tour of Britain – the premier men’s cycling race in the UK – will be coming through Mid Suffolk on Friday 8 September.

Stage Six of the Tour is being held in Suffolk, starting in Newmarket and ending in Aldeburgh all on 8 September. As part of this route the Tour will pass through Mid Suffolk, taking in Walsham-le-Willows, Eye and Stradbroke, where a sprint stage will be held.

Find out more, including the full route, on the [Tour of Britain website](#).

Megan Wins Litter Awareness Competition

Megan O’Mahony from Somersham Primary School has won the annual Schools Litter Awareness Poster Competition run by Mid Suffolk District Council.

The winning design was chosen by Cllr David Burn, Mid Suffolk District Council’s Cabinet Member for Environment, who went along to the school on Friday 14 July to present nine-year-old Megan with her award together with a Monkey Bin for the school.

Megan was also able to unveil her design on the side of Mid Suffolk’s Litter Collection Vehicle, where it will encourage residents to bin their rubbish for the next year.

The competition, which has become an annual event in Mid Suffolk, asks students to think about the impact that littering has on the environment and the knock-on effects for both people and animals. It is hoped that by engaging with children of this age group they will not become litter droppers of the future.

Cllr Burn said: “Megan is a worthy winner because the message on her poster is direct and compelling. I like the simplicity of her drawing and the litter really does look a mess! All the children who entered the competition did really well and it is clear from their work that they learn something about the importance of keeping our environment litter free, which is our main aim.

“We’ve been running this competition for seven years and it gets bigger every time, but if any primary schools out there aren’t involved please do get in touch with us and we can make next year’s competition even bigger and better.”

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Photographs of Megan and her winning entry are available on our [Facebook page](#) or our [Flickr](#).

Living Well Classes Launched in Stowmarket

New Living Well Classes, aimed at older residents, have now launched in Stowmarket.

The new classes are held every Monday from 2-3pm at the Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre. Aimed at less physically able residents, these classes include a mix of chair based and standing exercises and are appropriate for all abilities, while being Dementia Friendly.

Bob Halls, an experienced Cardiac Rehab Trainer, will be running the classes that are designed to keep you healthy and active for day to day life. Every attendee will receive one free trial class, after which there is a charge of £3.90 per class.

To book, call 01449 674 980, or just turn up on the day. Community Transport is available through Connecting Communities, who you can call on 01449 614 271.

Babergh District

Babergh's New Cabinet Appointed

At Babergh's Annual Council Meeting on Tuesday 23 May, Babergh District Council re-elected Cllr Jennie Jenkins as Leader, and has unveiled the new Cabinet system supporting her to run the Council.

Under the revised constitution the leader of the council, elected by all Members, will appoint members of the Cabinet to help direct the council. The leader will also assign portfolios to some Cabinet Members as appropriate.

Cllr Peter Burgoyne was re-elected Chairman of Babergh District Council, with Cllr Kathryn Grandon elected as Vice-Chairman.

Cllr Jennie Jenkins was also re-elected as Leader of Babergh District Council, and appointed her Cabinet Members, each responsible for a specified portfolio of Council business. These Cabinet Members are:

- Cllr Jan Osborne was appointed Cabinet Member for Housing
- Cllr Tina Campbell was appointed Cabinet Member for Environment
- Cllr Margaret Maybury was appointed Cabinet Member for Communities

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- Cllr Lee Parker was appointed Cabinet Member for Planning
- Cllr Peter Patrick was appointed Cabinet Member for Organisational Delivery/Finance
- Cllr John Ward was appointed Cabinet Member for Economy

Cllr Jenkins also took responsibility for the Assets and Investments Portfolio, and appointed Cllr Jan Osborne as Deputy Leader of the Council.

The new Cabinet Model replaces the existing Strategy Committee and Portfolio Holder model, streamlining the decision-making process. This both strengthens the Governance of the council and also provides greater clarity and accountability for officers working to direction from Members.

This will also provide greater transparency, with Forward Plans of cabinet business to be published online regularly covering the upcoming three months of Cabinet business on a rolling basis.

Cllr Jennie Jenkins, re-elected Leader of Babergh District Council, said: "This new Cabinet model is designed to make our work transparent, our responses swifter and our council stronger. By doing this we will be able to focus more clearly on what matters to our residents.

"By making it clear what decisions are made by which parts of the council, and publishing a full forward plan of Cabinet business, we hope to help make local government more open and more accessible for our residents."

Full details of all Babergh District Council Members are available on our [website](#)

Evie Named Poster Competition Winner

Evie Giddings from Shotley Primary School has won the annual Schools Litter Awareness Poster Competition run by Babergh District Council.

The winning design was chosen by Cllr Christina Campbell, Babergh District Council's Cabinet Member for Environment, who went along to the school on Tuesday 11 July with local District Councillors Derek Davis and Peter Patrick to present ten-year-old Evie with her award together with a Monkey Bin for the school.

Evie was also able to unveil her design on the side of the council's Litter Collection Vehicle, where it will encourage residents to bin their rubbish for the next year.

Students are asked to think about the impact that littering has on the environment and the knock-on effects for both people and animals. It is hoped that by engaging with children of this age group they will not become litter droppers of the future.

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Cllr Campbell said, “The quality of entries in this, our second annual competition, was incredible, and made choosing a winner very difficult. However, the visual impact of Evie’s design stood out to make it the winning entry and I was delighted to be able to give Evie her award personally.

“This competition is part of a much wider push to reduce littering in our districts and the enthusiasm and creativity the children always bring to the task makes me confident that we as a community can really hit back against littering throughout Babergh.”

Images of Evie's winning design are available on our [Facebook page](#) or our [Flickr](#).

Shanties on the Shore Held at Woolverstone

Shanties on the Shore, a new concert developed by John K Miles and Dean Parkin, was debuted at The Hayworth Theatre on Thursday 22 June.

The concerts, at the Hayworth Theatre at Ipswich High School for Girls in Woolverstone, performed by the internationally renowned City of London Sinfonia alongside 200 young people from the Shotley Peninsula, were inspired by the works of Arthur Ransome.

Shanties on the Shore was created and developed by 200 young people attending eight educational settings on the Shotley Peninsula. The concerts were led and produced by composer John K. Miles and poet Dean Parkin, who supported the local schools to come together for the first time to create this unique piece inspired by the local heritage and natural beauty of the area.

Shanties on the Shore is part of a wider programme of events and activities developed by the Shotley Peninsula Tourism Action Group to celebrate the author in 2017, 80 years after the Swallows and Amazons novel ‘We didn’t mean to go to sea’, which was written from and features real locations on the Shotley Peninsula, was published.

Each of the two 45-minute concerts – both held on Thursday 22 June –included performances from local schools. These schools included:

- Chelmondiston Primary School
- Holbrook Academy
- Holbrook Primary School
- Ipswich High School for Girls
- Royal Hospital School
- Shotley Primary School
- Stutton Primary School
- Tattingstone Primary School.

Shanties on the Shore has been developed by Babergh District Council, the Shotley Peninsula Tourism Action Group and Orchestras Live, working in partnership with the

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City of London Sinfonia, Arts Council England, Suffolk County Council, The Nancy Blackett Trust, Suffolk Music Service and Primary and High Schools along the Shotley Peninsula.

Cllr Margaret Maybury, Babergh District Council's Cabinet Member for Communities, said before the concerts: "It's always wonderful to welcome the London Sinfonia back to Babergh, and this year's performances of a brand-new concert promises to be a spectacular celebration of both Arthur Ransome and our beautiful coastline."

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