

Councillor's Report for Bildeston Parish Council Meeting

9th October 2023

Report from Babergh District Councillor, Deborah Saw

Newberry Farmhouse

A site visit has been arranged with the owners of the above property, Cllr Lindsay, the Principal Heritage Officer, Babergh District Council and Melanie Hall, Community Liaison Engineer, Suffolk Highways to discuss a solution to lorries damaging this listed building.

Paddocks Way

The areas in front of the bungalows are now clear. Paddocks Way will be on a monthly schedule by the Neighbourhood Officer. The Parish Council alerted me to maintenance issues at the car park. The grass has now been cut and weeding, hedge-cutting and general tidying up are on Public Realm's schedule.

Strategy into Action

The new administration has set its overall political priorities for its term.

<https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/news/coalition-puts-climate-housing-and-community-at-heart-of-its-priorities/>

Now it is time for communities to tell us what you think. Are we focusing on the right issues? What do we need to do more of or less of?

We are embarking on a major engagement exercise with residents, communities, businesses, stakeholders and partners – so they can tell us.

Views will be sought in a range of ways, both online through a survey, here

[Public participation platform of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils | CitizenLab](#)

and in person workshops with a range of groups from farmers to business and community group over the next six weeks. The responses will then help shape our priorities and the plan of action for the next 3.5 years. We will promote any consultation through all our usual channels and would be grateful for your support in helping to spread the word.

The first element in this exercise is the parish/town council liaison meeting which I know the chair of the Parish Council and the Parish Clerk will attend on

Monday 30th October, 9.30-11.30 am at the Stevenson Centre in Great Cornard.

There are some items on the agenda which I think you would find interesting including an update on the Joint Local Plan.

Items for presentation and discussion will be:

- Workshops on BMSDC's new Corporate Plan
- An update on the progress of the Joint Local Plan (JLP)
- An update on the "healthy behaviours" work from Communities
- Increasing democratic engagement across the district
- Grant Funding (from the Communities team)

Climate Roadshows

Residents can find out more about the climate action they can take within their communities at community roadshow events this month. The roadshows will give residents the chance to speak to local groups and organisations about climate action tips about how to lower their energy bills, initiatives, and opportunities in their area.

The roadshow nearest to Bildeston takes place in Hadleigh on Saturday 14th October between 2-5pm at the Ansell Centre.

Net Zero Business Advice Service

Community and environment charity Groundwork East has partnered with Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, along with the county's other local authorities, to deliver free and impartial expert advice to help businesses and organisations save energy, reduce their emissions and establish tailored decarbonisation plans.

The new Net Zero Business Advice Service will provide free support to enable businesses, the voluntary sector and other organisations working within Suffolk to understand their greenhouse gas emissions, to set a plan to reduce these and access grant funding to implement carbon reduction actions.

With several energy efficiency and sustainability grant schemes now in place across Suffolk Groundwork East can identify which ones offer the best return.

Advisors from Groundwork East will be able to identify new actions for organisations or establish the anticipated cost and carbon savings that planned actions will achieve; whether this is a switch to a low carbon heating system, installation of solar PV or focusing on upgrading to lower polluting vehicles.

More information about the Net Zero Business Advisor can be found at carboncharter.org/suffolk-business-consultancy or people can call 04173 350370 or email netzerosuffolk@groundwork.org.uk to speak to a Net Zero consultant.

Capital Grants

You will be able to apply for a capital grant for any improvements you might want to make to the village hall or any recreational facilities. The window for applications opened on 4th December and will close on 31st January. We could also explore CIL funding which would allow you to bid for larger pots of money but again CIL is for capital funding.

New, improved website

Babergh has launched its new website, www.babergh.gov.uk

We think it is much more accessible and easier to navigate. Next step improve the forms

Save our Wild Isles Community Fund

Aviva, in partnership with WWF and the RSPB, is giving **£1 million** to support community groups across the UK to protect and restore nature in their local area.

This fund will give you £2 for every £1 you raise to help your project reach its fundraising target quicker, with a total match available of £15,000 per community project. Projects accepted will receive a one-off £500 pledge when they go live on the website and start their fundraising campaign.

The Save Our Wild Isles Community Fund will close for new applications on 11:59pm on Wednesday, 1 November 2023. There is still £300,000 in the fund.

<https://www.saveourwildisles.org.uk/community/fund>