

Councillor's Report for Bildeston Parish Council

4th December 2023

Report from Babergh District Councillor, Deborah Saw

Bildeston issues

Noise Complaints – TMJ

I have liaised with residents, Environmental Protection at the Council and Clare Taylor of TMJ regarding the ongoing noise issue. Joanna Hart of the Environmental Protection team has been to visit residents to assess the noise nuisance.

Newberry Farmhouse

The Heritage team is collating examples of vehicle strikes on listed buildings in order that I and the Heritage Department can write to both the Highways and Heritage Cabinet members at SCC. Heritage believes the incidence of strikes is increasing. We are also collecting examples of Highways instituting preventative action.

What's happening at Council

The Joint Local Plan

Part One of the JLP was formally adopted by the Council on 21st October. Officers are now working on Part Two, but it is likely to be the Winter of 2024 before allocations are confirmed. The completion date for the JLP is 30th June 2025. One of the 'unknowns' is national policy. The Levelling up and Regeneration Bill has now had Royal Assent, but the actual detail will come through secondary legislation and the timetable for that is unclear.

The Living Well in Winter Grant

The Living Well in Winter Grant is aimed at supporting people in our communities over the winter months.

Who can apply?

Voluntary and community organisations can apply, such as Parish Councils, Uniformed Groups, Sports Clubs, Pre Schools, Village Halls, Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) and Faith settings where the wider community is able to attend. Organisations must be place-based and already be providing a service to residents of Babergh or Mid Suffolk.

Groups can apply for a minimum amount of £500.00 and a maximum amount of £2,000.00. Applications can be submitted from Monday 13th November until Sunday 17th December.

If successful, the funding must be spent within six months. This is a competitive process.

Examples of eligible projects are:

- After school clubs

- Continuation or provision of warm or social spaces
- Lunch clubs/supper clubs
- Activities that offer experiences to develop core skills and try new hobbies.

If you have any questions about Living Well in Winter Grants, please contact the Grants Team at BMSDCGrants@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk.

Call to Landowners

Babergh, working with the Woodland Trust, is asking local landowners to help us plant more trees and improve biodiversity by identifying land which could be planted on or improved for nature.

Of particular interest, is land of less agricultural value, near or next to land that may already be good for wildlife (woods, wetlands, meadows, heathland), or that can help join up other existing habitats, helping wildlife move more easily through the landscape.

A tree survey launched by the Greens revealed that just over 10 per cent of the district is covered by trees, compared to a national UK average of 15 per cent. This low level is a result of our agricultural heritage as trees have been cut down to make room for agriculture. We want to get to 15 per cent as a start. The internationally recognised target for tree coverage is 30 per cent, so there's a lot more to be done.

The council has and is planting hundreds of trees on the limited land it owns and we want to support others to be doing the same with advice and support on funding, how to manage new habitats, or even generate new income from it through possible habitat bank and carbon offsetting.

If you are interested, please register that interest by emailing the Babergh biodiversity team, biodiversity@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Consultation: Time to make our listed buildings ready for the future?

The Council has launched a consultation to ask residents' views on changing the system of listed building consents to allow owners of listed buildings to make improvements to improve the energy efficiency of their homes and business premises. Listed buildings give our area its unique character and are one of its greatest assets. We must conserve this rich heritage, but at the same time this initiative could cut needless red tape for energy efficiency upgrades which are balanced and sensitively designed.

The current system is burdensome in terms of time and cost, creating a barrier for homeowners. This new, forward-thinking approach would encourage them to get work done, such as better insulation.

This would help reduce energy bills, protect buildings from climate change and cut carbon emissions. We would like to identify solutions to these critical issues which both meet the needs of our residents who live in these important buildings whilst protecting what is special about our district.

If you own a listed building, we want to hear from you please respond to this short survey. The consultation closes on 29th December: [Local Listed Building Consent Order \(LLBCO\) \(smartsurvey.co.uk\)](https://smartsurvey.co.uk)

