

District Councillor Report to Bildeston Parish Council

Monday 3rd June

Bildeston Issues

I liaised with Chamberlain Hall regarding grant funding for additional battery storage for its solar panels. Initially the Hall was going to apply to the County Council's *Greenest County Fund* but that requires the organisation applying to match fund. After checking with the Babergh Council's Grant Team I was able to tell the Hall's trustees that they could apply for a Capital Grant from Babergh without the need for match funding.

Regarding the tree in the stream near the bridge on the way to Chelsworth and trying to get it removed before it causes damage, initially I contacted Anglian Water who said it was the landowner's responsibility. Then I contacted the Environment Agency as did the district council at my behest.

The Environment Agency responded that it needed to prioritise its activities on incidents that cause serious and significant risk and that it was unable to respond to every environmental incident reported to it. It concluded its response by stating that it may in some cases, after assessing the risk, decide that no further action will be taken. It may come and remove the tree but it seems unlikely.

I have contacted the Regional Director of Orbit Housing regarding arranging a meeting with the PC and the construction manager for the Ipswich Road site as it appears that work may begin shortly

I have been in contact with the Housing Department regarding complaints about repairs to tenants' homes.

I have also been in contact with Environmental Protection regarding the continuing issue with noise from TMJ. A noise abatement notice has been served with a three month correction period. I shall update the meeting following further discussion with EP.

Council Issues

Today, (3rd June), marks the start of the pre-election period, candidates must get their nomination papers in today. It also means the Council cannot publish any material that appears to support any political party. Meetings of full Council, Cabinet and Committees can be held but they must not consider anything political! Given all the discussions we have and the decisions we make are by definition political all these meetings will be delayed until after the election.

The deadline to register to vote is 11:59pm on 18 June 2024. You can do this online [Where do you live? – Register to vote – GOV.UK](#)

If you want to [apply for a postal vote online](#), you must apply by 5pm on 19 June 2024.

If you want to [apply for a postal vote by post](#), you must get your postal vote application to your local Electoral Registration Office by 5pm on 19 June 2024.

If you need Voter ID, a voter authority certificate, you will need to apply by 5pm on 26th June and also if you are going to vote by proxy for someone else.

Joint Local Plan: Call for Sites

As part of Part 2 Joint Local Plan the Council invited landowners to submit sites for possible residential development. This known as the ‘*call for sites*’ process. Just because these sites have been forward doesn’t mean they have any status.

They will be subject to formal assessment and public consultation processes as the JLP - Part 2 progresses. Just because a site is being promoted, this does not automatically mean that it will go forward as an allocation in the JLP or be supported for development of the proposed use.

Consultation will begin in 2025.

Possible sites can be found here: [Joint Local Plan - Part 2 - Call for Sites 2024 \(cloud.microsoft\)](#)

Supplementary Planning Documents

The Council has prepared three draft supplementary planning documents (SPDs) for consultation. The documents relate to:

- Biodiversity and trees
- Housing
- Livestock and poultry

The documents provide further guidance and detail for development proposals. The deadline for comments is 19th June and you can comment online here. [Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council - Consultations \(oc2.uk\)](#)

Suffolk Community Awards

Nominations are open for 17 separate categories of awards. These awards recognise and celebrate those who have improved the quality of life of a community in the county. Entries can be submitted online until 14th July, [Home - Suffolk Community Awards](#)

Nature Recovery Strategy

The Norfolk and Suffolk Recovery Partnership has launched two surveys: one for the public and one for landowners; to find out which aspects of nature are most important to people and it will give the Partnership data on the priorities it should pursue. Deadline – 30th June.

[Find both surveys](#)