

## **PAUL CLOVER/MARGARET MAYBURY, DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT FOR GREAT WALDINGFIELD PARISH MEETING 2<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER 2023.**

### **Local Flooding**

Major disruption has been caused by the recent floods with a number of incidents in the parish. In order to help mitigate the Govt. have announced a variety of measures to assist those affected.

These include:

- Up to £500 cash to qualifying households
- Three months relief (at least) on council tax and business rates
- Up to £2,500 to help businesses get back on their feet in the form of a recovery grant
- Up to £5,000 to make houses/businesses more flood resilient via a repair grant scheme

The forecast for Storm Ciaran, locally, is for the bigger problem to be from the wind than the rain and that there is no forecast for further flooding. Updates will be posted on Babergh's social media platforms. In order to assist the council it is important that any flooding or fallen tree incidents are reported as early as possible.

### **Lavenham Ward Tour**

On 13<sup>th</sup> October, Councillor Maybury and I met with three Babergh officers including the operations manager. Included in the list of sites we visited to discuss issues were Meadow Close parking and play area. As the play area has significantly been smartened up, consideration is being given as to whether the climber/slide unit should be repaired or replaced and we will update you on this alongside the scheduled timeline for works.

Tenterpiece parking including provision of disabled bay and trip hazards on the pavement were detailed, as were parking problems in Spring Street. Pegtile Court was also visited as was Church Street car park which was badly affected by the flooding due to blocked drains.

### **Housing Officer Visit**

On 16<sup>th</sup> October, Councillors Maybury, Morey, the Parish Clerk and I met with two Babergh Housing Officers to discuss the issues at Meadow Close, including illegal parking on council land, fly tipping disrepair of housing, overgrown vegetation, access requirements and illegal boundaries being installed amongst other matters. We then moved on to Tenterpiece where similar problems surrounding parking, access and volume of traffic persist.

### **Parish Boundary Review**

Please be aware that any parish boundary review the parish council believes should be changed for electoral purposes for local (not county) elections should be made soonest to the Monitoring Officer at BDC as the five year boundary review of 2018 will soon be upon us.

### **Rural Coffee Caravan**

The Rural Coffee Caravan has a number of slow cookers to donate to residents who are struggling with energy bills. They cost about the same as an electric light bulb to run – much cheaper than an oven and can help provide healthy meals. The slow cookers come in two sizes: single dweller and family models. If any resident would like one I have a small stock and can access further as required.

Cllr Maybury had the pleasure of speaking at the recent Lavenham Life experience detailing the work of a district councillor. Her talk was entitled “So, what do I do”. An enjoyable afternoon included nine speakers, the chance for questions and answers plus a reception at the inspiring Pre School.

Cllr Maybury has also attended services within the church and attended coffee mornings, associated meetings and a harvest festival supper.

Lastly for October, Cllr Maybury volunteered at the library when a successful *Lego* event for our younger residents was held plus helped out at the fund raiser when the talented Tracy Borman gave a talk on her latest historical novel, *Anne Boylen and Elizabeth I*, entitled, *The Mother and Daughter who changed history*.

Please remember to have your say on the consultation currently being held to help shape the future of Babergh District Council’s priorities. The consultation is at <https://baberghandmidsuffolk.citizenlab.co/> and runs until 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

Cllr Margaret Maybury Nov 2023