

PAUL CLOVER/MARGARET MAYBURY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT 9TH MAY 2024.

Babergh Cabinet proposal to introduce car park charges in the town centres of Lavenham, Sudbury and Hadleigh update

The cabinet decision to implement car parking charges has been called in to Overview and Scrutiny on the basis that due consideration was not given to the weight of the petition, public or town, parish or district councillor consultations. Nor were the papers proposing one hours free parking properly presented for debate to Cabinet. O&S have again drawn up a number of recommendations to be presented at Cabinet. One of which was that Great Cornard parish council should be consulted following repeated requests from them for a meeting. Great Cornard parish council arranged an EGM in line with this O&S requirement and Acting leader councillor Ward said he would attend. However on the day of the meeting he contacted the parish council to say he did not realise that members of the public would be attending, that he was concerned the meeting could become violent and he would not be attending. Needless to say both the parish council and residents have taken a certain amount of umbrage at this suggestion.

Sudbury Market Hill car park

Working with Sudbury Chamber of Commerce we conducted a survey to evaluate store owner's opinion on the forthcoming proposal to close market hill car park in the summer as an experiment in creating 'Café culture'. What became clear very quickly is that they were not in favour nor had they been consulted on the matter by Sudbury Town Council. Stakeholders who served food and drink said they would not be putting out tables and chairs other than directly in front of their stores on warm days nor would they be employing extra staff. The survey results were forwarded to Suffolk who along with other financial considerations took the decision to terminate the market hill closure experiment.

753 Bus Service

Congratulations to Lavenham parish council in the sterling work carried out in collaboration with Suffolk County Council to enhance the 753 bus service to include evening journeys and a Sunday operating timetable. We do hope as many residents as possible make use of this improved service, which at £2 per journey, makes sense for us all to use and make it a success.

Lavenham Traffic Issues

Following a meeting with local MP, James Cartlidge, the parish council, Suffolk County Council and other bodies, we would like to pledge our support for the Parish Council's very reasonable proposal to help solve Lavenham's problems with lorries, in particular, using the A1141 through Lavenham as a short cut between Hadleigh and Bury St Edmunds. We will help in whatever way we can.

Energy efficient homes and Babergh position on National Grid plans

The Govt have added another £1.6m boost to the £2.25m funding to make council homes more energy efficient. Babergh Council have informed the National grid of their opposition to plans to install more electricity pylons between Bramford and Twinstead.

And finally....

A big thank you to the parish chair, Irene Mitchell for all the hard work and many achievements where what is best for Lavenham has always been at the centre of her focus. It has been a pleasure to work with you.