

PAUL CLOVER/MARGARET MAYBURY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT FOR LAVENHAM PARISH MEETING 5th DECEMBER 2024.

BDC staff awarded extra day's holiday over Christmas period

The Chief Executive has announced that all Babergh council staff are to be awarded an extra day's holiday over the Christmas period. We have challenged this and discovered that the cost of funding this is £63,500. At a time when many Councils budgets are projected to be in deficit we believe this sends the wrong message to residents.

Proposals for a Unitary Authority for Suffolk and Norfolk

You may have heard that the Government is potentially reviewing a White paper on whether to make certain Councils a Unitary Authority where County and District Councillor roles are combined with a view to streamlining costs. Case histories show that where this method of administration is implemented, it does not necessarily follow that costs savings are made and local communities are less well served.

Government Consultation on Remote Attendance and Proxy voting for District Councils

Another Government initiative is to open a consultation on remote attendance and proxy voting for Council meetings. Our view is that this would be a backward step in serving the best interests of residents. Face-to-face debate is already proven to be the best process for achieving thoroughly thought through and considered decision making. It is unlikely that a series of talking heads will achieve similar outcomes.

Kingfisher Pool

Despite previous reports that the Kingfisher Pool will reopen on the 11th December, It has now been announced that there will be a further delay with a reopening date being pencilled in for somewhere in mid-February 2025. Naturally this inordinate delay is very disappointing.

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) adopted by Babergh

These new documents relating to Housing and intensive Livestock and Poultry farming lay down clear new guidelines following consultation. On Housing there is more detail

on the number and type of new properties required to ensure the right mix to meet housing need, including adequate provision for affordable housing.

Funding for Solar Panels on school roofs

The Suffolk Public Sector Leaders Group has agreed £3.72m of funding for a Schools Solar Installation and Climate Action Fund project.

Community Grants application simplified

The process by which Community Grants are administered is to be simplified and made more streamline for organisations. The briefing paper for organisations will appear on the new Community Funding webpages.

The Paddocks Handover Celebration

We are very much looking forward to celebrating the handover of the Paddocks tomorrow and would like to congratulate all involved in this marvellous initiative.

Lavenham Christmas Fairs

Congratulations to the organisers behind both events. They appeared very popular and we hope that satisfactory donations were raised by both. It only remains for us to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year!