

FEB 2019

COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Next Council meeting on 19th February 2019

The cabinet will debate and decide on a number of issues in early February, including:

- General Budget and 4 year plan (goes to full council in late February)
- Leisure centre investment
- Business Rate relief policy

I would like to remind you that full reports from past Council and Cabinet Meetings, can be found online at:

Babergh: <http://baberghmidsuffolk.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=521&MId=1017>

Mid Suffolk: <http://baberghmidsuffolk.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=522&MId=1029>

COMMUNITIES STRATEGY

A consultation on a draft Communities Strategy has been launched, inviting feedback on how the councils plan to lead on the key challenges and opportunities facing the two districts.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils' consultation will be open from Monday 21 January, closing at noon on Friday 1 March 2019.

The key issues summarised in the strategy include developing and building stronger relationships with local communities and partners, empowering communities to be more self-sufficient and finding solutions which deliver the greatest impact to those in need.

Organisations and individuals can take part in the consultation by filling out the survey on the councils' website.

COUNTY LINES

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are part of the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (WSCSP) which has specific responsibilities on the work for County Lines and the ongoing development of the Tactical Action Plan which has been developed to support this work across West Suffolk.

County Lines typically involves gangs grooming and using children and young people to deliver drugs to customers out of their areas – this often involves deception, intimidation, violence, debt bondage and/or grooming. They are increasingly exploiting children - often boys aged 14-17

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are required to support the delivery of key actions in the Tactical Action Plan and will continue to be part of this action group, aimed at stopping the use of County Lines.

JOINT PARKING PLAN

The draft Joint Area Parking Plan, which does not include any proposals to increase car parking charges in Babergh, but will allow greater enforcement for illegally parked vehicles, sets out eight parking policy objectives and what they are intended to achieve. They include proposals that will:

- Establish a principle whereby parking will be allowed where possible and controlled where necessary
- Utilise off-street parking places to assist with traffic management and support local communities
- Set out how parking petitions and consultations will be managed
- Establish standard on-street parking scheme operating hours, with scope for different timings where need is proven
- Make clear the council's position on parking on footpaths

The policies will be used to guide councils' decision making around parking. The proposed plan does not set out specific proposals for parking restrictions for specific areas, nor is it a blue-print to change current paid parking arrangements.

The plan will be considered by Babergh District Council's cabinet on Wednesday 6 February 2019. If approved, the consultation will be launched in February and run for six weeks.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) & S106

In 2018 Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils passed £549,674.93 from developers to local infrastructure projects in their districts.

The figure, available on the councils' new online Developers Contributions Database, the first such public database in the country, follow over £279k paid in 2017, and over £377k in 2016.

In total £1,207,029.06 has been paid out for community infrastructure over the last three years across the two districts. Lavenham has benefitted from some of this and is set to benefit again having submitted a request for further funding for community projects.

JOINT LOCAL PLAN

Having boldly stated that the Joint Local Plan will be voted on in January, it has now been delayed and will now not go out to public consultation until June/July 2019.

WEIGHT RESTRICTION – WATER STREET

The temporary weight restriction (one way) in Water Street has now started. The build out work as traffic calming measures has also been completed and many residents have been pleased with the easier flow of traffic in water street.

I am aware that some have raised concerns over the large blue sign and its location, being in the way of one of Lavenham's most famous views, that being the view up the hill looking north. We will work with highways (Suffolk County Council) to see if there is anything that can be done.

PHILIP GIBSON

I was saddened to hear the news about Philip Gibson, who was himself a district councillor for Lavenham until 2011. He then continued to provide voluntary help as a parish councillor until recently and of course was also a stalwart of the market place community having run the angel gallery for many years, his efforts for the village will be sorely missed.