

MAY 2018

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council Meeting 24th April 2018.

At Full council Lavenham Tourist Information Centre (TIC) was discussed, alongside tourism support in general, following a question I posed to the Cabinet member for the Economy (John Ward). Cllr Barrett was particularly vibrant in his support for the Lavenham TIC as was I.

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) framework for claiming and spending by district and parish councils was submitted and discussed and approved. The scheme allows CIL funds, a levy based on floorspace of new developments and collected when construction commences, to be spent on infrastructure, including public transport, open spaces and health facilities.

The scheme works on a twice-yearly bidding round (starting in May and October 2018), when infrastructure providers, including Town and Parish Councils and Community Groups, can bid to receive funds from CIL. Bid schemes which meet the CIL criteria, particularly involving collaborative spend with funds from other sources, will receive resources to allow projects to go ahead. Details of how to apply are available on our website at:

<http://www.babergh.gov.uk/planning/community-infrastructure-levy-and-section-106/community-infrastructure-levy-cil/spending-cil/>

Or:

<http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/community-infrastructure-levy-and-section-106/community-infrastructure-levy-cil/spending-cil/>

In addition to funds spent through this scheme, money collected via CIL is also passed to local communities: 25% is retained by Lavenham PC (due to a Neighbourhood Plan in place). These funds are paid every six months.

The new Babergh leader John Ward has made some cabinet changes and the full cabinet list is now as follows:

- John Ward - Leader and Cabinet Member for the Economy
- Jan Osborne - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing
- Nick Ridley - Cabinet Member for Planning
- Peter Patrick - Cabinet Member for Finance
- Margaret Maybury - Cabinet Member for Communities
- Tina Campbell - Cabinet Member for the Environment
- Frank Lawrenson - Cabinet Member for Assets & Investments
- Derek Davis - Cabinet Member for Organisational Delivery

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&MIId=1017>

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

BABERGH MID-SUFFOLK MERGER ON HOLD

After a lot of commentary and discussion and public telephone polls on the proposed merger between Babergh and Mid-Suffolk, the merger is now on hold following an announcement by the Babergh leader and Mid Suffolk leader. The idea has not been buried, but is merely on hold at present.

HOUSEBUILDING/PLANNING

The s106 contribution was finally confirmed for the Bears Lane Development and as such building will (or has already) be started very soon.

During initial ground testing works an unacceptable amount of mud was left on the road and when notified the developers were quick to clear it up. Therefore please do let me know if you hear or see any issues surrounding the building work.

I continue to urge anyone who wishes to comment, good or bad on planning applications, to do so by emailing planning@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk and explaining your objection or support.

LAVENHAM TIC

The Lavenham Tourist Information Centre will undergo a change in operation as Babergh look at new ways of providing this service, without all funding and input coming from them. At present Babergh are asking for ideas on how the TIC can operate in the future and the Parish Council are involved in this.

Babergh are looking at a wider tourism strategy involving the whole area, in which they have taken some ideas from East Suffolk who moved to a more technology based offering.

WATER STREET

Although Suffolk County Council Highways promised a start date for the temporary weight restriction in Water Street of 30th April 2018, they will fail to meet this target. This is the third date we have been given as a start date which they have missed and hugely frustrating.

CHILTON WOODS

A paper setting out the proposed next steps for the Chilton Woods development was considered by the Cabinet of Suffolk County Council on 17 April.

As you may know, proposals for Chilton Woods have been on the cards for many years. In October 2017, Babergh District Council, granted outline planning permission, subject to a S106 being agreed. This S106 contribution was achieved before Easter and the County are therefore in a position to push forward with this development.

There remains a number of matters that any developer would need to seek agreement from Babergh District Council on including the detailed layout of the scheme, design and appearance of buildings and landscaping. As part of this process public consultation would be carried out.