

**Report for Chelmondiston Parish Council from Jane Gould,  
Babergh District Councillor**  
Meeting date: 4 February 2020

**Countryside and Public Realm**

My ward tour with Peter Garret who is the Corporate Manager of the countryside and public realm team is to be on Friday 21 February. This will be an opportunity for me to raise any ward issues and view them on the ground. Action can be agreed that needs to be taken to resolve any issues found and if there are any improvement projects, these can be looked at as well. I will report back to you after I have been.

**Neighbourhood Development Plans**

Aldham and Elmsett have become the latest communities to have their Neighbourhood Plans adopted by Babergh District Council.

Neighbourhood Plans should set out a positive vision for how an area can be developed in ways that meet identified local need. Unlike more traditional types of plans or statements produced by town or parish councils, successful Neighbourhood Plans also have statutory weight and status; they become part of council's Development Plan, and will be used when determining planning applications in the relevant area.

Aldham's Neighbourhood Plan was formally adopted at Babergh Full Council on 21 January, following a referendum held in the parish on Thursday 5 December 2019 which saw over 91% of votes cast in support of the plan. Elmsett's Neighbourhood Plan was adopted by Babergh District Council in December, following a referendum in November which saw 94% of votes cast in favour of the plan.

Neighbourhood Plans must be formally adopted within an eight week period following a successful local referendum. This usually takes place at Full Council; however, December's meeting was cancelled due to pre-election rules ahead of the General Election. This meant Elmsett's plan was adopted in an 'out of meeting' action instead.

Cllr Clive Arthey, Babergh District Council's cabinet member for planning, said:

*"It's great to see Aldham, one of our smaller parishes, come together to prepare and now have their Neighbourhood Plan formally adopted; my congratulations to them and also to Elmsett for having reached this stage. We have many parishes working on or thinking about Neighbourhood Plans, which continue to play a crucial role in how we plan positively for the future and add value at the local level."*

This now brings the total number of adopted plans in Babergh and Mid Suffolk to twelve, with more than 35 other parishes across the two districts currently drawing up their own Neighbourhood Plan. A full list of adopted plans, and further information can be found on the council's website.

### **Planning**

I don't know of any new planning applications in the parish.