

Report from Jane Gould, Babergh District Councillor for Chelmondiston Parish Council for meeting on 4 June 2019.

At the first annual meeting of the newly elected District Council on May 22 John Ward was elected leader again.

The Conservatives, who had enjoyed a majority for the last four years, failed to win enough seats to claim power. They are two seats short of a majority but a coalition has now been formed which means four Conservatives, three Independents and one Liberal Democrat will serve on the cabinet.

There was anger among the Green group, we won four seats with 23% of the people who voted, voting Green, and we felt that as one eighth of the council are Green Councillors it merited a cabinet position. I quote our Green leader, Robert Lindsay, who said "I am more than disappointed, I am actually quite angry about it."

The task of working together begins. We are all aware of the issues facing Babergh and will work to find solutions that move us forward in an appropriate way, I am pleased that John Ward says "We have a lot to do and it will, I am sure, be a busy and exciting time. I know that officially Babergh is classed as 'no overall control' however, this should really be 'we are all in control, together'. The will is clearly there to make this arrangement work, so let's do it."

I am on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and The Licencing and Regulatory Committee. I am also representing Babergh District Council on the Suffolk Flood Risk Management Scrutiny Subcommittee and the Joint Gypsy and Traveller Steering Group.

With regards to issues specific to Chelmondiston there has been a request for the hedge at the top of Meadow Close, on the Main Road to be cut and Peter Garrett who is the Corporate manager for Countryside and Public Realm has reported that the section they are responsible for will be cut again in June, he is monitoring the situation and has asked that he be informed when the task is completed. The other sections, it is assumed are privately owned and will be cut by whoever owns them.