

News and information from Jane Gould, Babergh District Councillor, to the Parish Councils and residents in Orwell Ward October 2021

Ward News

It's good to see the village gates as you enter and leave Tattingstone on the A137, they are certainly eye catching for drivers and along with the SID and active community speed watch teams will, we hope, make a difference to speeding through the village.

Fuel update

The message from all Suffolk Resilience Forum members at present is that our service supplies remain stable. We have shared social media messages urging residents to be mindful of others when considering whether it is necessary to refuel their vehicles, however, we are now avoiding further proactive communication in an attempt to reduce attention and allay public concern. The resilience forum continues to monitor the situation carefully and will keep everyone informed should there be any need for further action over coming days.

An update on Covid-19 in Suffolk

The regular Suffolk Coronawatch bulletin continues to give an up-to-date snapshot of case numbers across the county and shows how Babergh compares to our neighbouring districts and borough. An update on the vaccine rollout can be found on the SNEE NHS COVID-19 Vaccination Service website. In the meantime, we continue to play our part in response to the pandemic alongside public sector colleagues within the Suffolk Resilience Forum, supporting in the event of local outbreaks as well as continuing to offer support to our communities and businesses as they recover from the impact of the pandemic.

Waste vehicles switch to HVO Fuel

Babergh and Mid Suffolk are the first rural UK councils to switch their fleet to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO), slashing carbon emissions by up to 90% and supporting the councils' carbon neutral aims. Its 35 waste lorries are the first to transfer and will be followed by its smaller public realm and housing services vehicles. The fuel will also support a circular economy, as the certified sustainable HVO fuel is solely produced from waste cooking oil.

Wellbeing Strategy

Councillors gave the go-ahead to a new Wellbeing Strategy, building upon the councils' continued commitment to helping its residents live happy, healthy and independent lives. The strategy was approved at Full Council meetings last month. It aims to ensure that everyone in Babergh and Mid Suffolk has the best possible conditions for good wellbeing, and consideration has been given to the approach required by the councils and its partners to achieve this, as well as the strategic objectives required to get the right results.

Considerate Constructors Scheme

At the 21st September Council meeting my Green Party colleague, Leigh Jamieson, submitted a motion asking the Council to sign up as a client partner of the Considerate Constructor Scheme. This scheme aims to achieve best practice in the industry, particularly around areas of safety, the community, the environment and the workforce. By becoming a client partner it demonstrates that the Council is an organisation that proactively chooses to demonstrate its commitment to raising standards in the construction industry.

Have your say on the future of parking in Babergh

New tariffs in Babergh car parks, which continue to include an hour's free parking, are now not due to come into effect until January next year, avoiding unnecessary disruption in the run up to Christmas and allowing additional time to work with businesses to introduce a reimbursement scheme, in the meantime however, we are inviting everyone to have their say on our future parking strategy with feedback helping to shape plans for the next decade.

Babergh towns to benefit from CCTV system upgrade

A new state-of-the-art CCTV system is now fully operational helping Sudbury and Hadleigh remain safe towns that people are proud to visit and call home.

Success for Babergh and Mid Suffolk at national awards

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils received national recognition this month for their innovative support of communities through Covid and beyond, winning bronze in the overall Council of the Year category of the iESE Public Sector Transformation Awards 2021, silver for service improvements by our Planning Enforcement team and gold for our Virtual High Street initiative supporting local retailers. The councils' Housing Solution team was also highly commended in the 'Community Heroes' category of the Municipal Journal.

Councils empower communities to plan for the future

Proposals to streamline the Neighbourhood Plan process have been approved by Babergh and Mid Suffolk councillors, supporting the councils' ongoing ambition for residents to help shape development in the districts.

Joint Local Plan public examination resumes

The Hearing Sessions for the public examination of our Joint Local Plan have resumed. Sessions are being held virtually, enabling them to be fully inclusive, whilst also ensuring public safety, and are being live streamed in real time on the councils' Joint Local Plan YouTube channel, should you wish to follow the plan's progress.

Local Energy Showcase will champion green businesses

The Local Energy Showcase, organised by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, will promote how different types of energy can be used by communities and businesses to, help reduce their impact on the environment, lower costs and contribute to the fight against climate change. The event, which takes place on the 21st and 22nd October at Wherstead Park, is open to all businesses with an interest in finding out more about local energy solutions as well as community groups and parishes who would like to understand and explore the benefits of using local energy solutions. Would any of you be interested in attending this event?

Districts gear up to celebrate world-class cyclists

Spectators of AJ Bell's Women's Tour can enjoy an array of community events in Babergh and Mid Suffolk, as riders race through the districts on Saturday 9 October.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any issues that you think I can help with and all the very best to you all.

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