

**News and information from Jane Gould, Babergh District Councillor.**

**To the residents in Orwell Ward**

**4 May 2020**

We are currently waiting to hear what the government say about how lockdown may be released and what the road map may look like; I think we could say that we are at the end of the beginning phase!

### **VE day 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

This Friday we will be marking the 75th anniversary of VE Day. Lockdown has meant the cancellation of events planned across the district but there are still plenty of ways for us to be involved.

At 11am on Friday there will be a two minute's silence, allowing us all to unite in remembering and honouring the service and sacrifice of those in the Second World War. There will be an official statement released on behalf of the chair of Babergh District Council, Cllr Kathryn Grandon and Babergh will be sharing and retweeting local and national content on their social media feeds and supporting the gov.uk 75 VE day website. Do please take this opportunity to take a look at the resources available on the site and feel free to share.

We also urge you to pay tribute to the Second World War generation by sharing your own family stories of parents or grandparents who were involved in the conflict, some of whom may have paid the ultimate sacrifice. You can do this privately within families, in conversation with friends or, publicly on social media using the hashtag #VEDay75 . So although it may not be the commemoration it was supposed to be we will still remember.

### **Support during lockdown**

Babergh and Mid Suffolk received 167 calls to the Home But Not Alone helpline last week, which is in place to provide urgent assistance for

vulnerable residents who have no other support available. The Freephone service (0800 876 6926) is staffed seven days a week, between 9am and 5pm. As a result of the fantastic local support networks in place within Babergh and Mid Suffolk, we are continuing to receive fewer referrals than other district councils.

During lockdown, it is even harder for vulnerable children and adults to report mistreatment. There are early indications that domestic abuse, self-neglect and drug and alcohol use has increased at this challenging time, whilst referrals to the police and other statutory organisations made by family, friends and the community have declined considerably. This is inevitable when people are social distancing and places a responsibility on us all to “See it, Recognise it, Report it”. If you are concerned about someone’s welfare, then please report it on 0808 800 4005. This can be done anonymously and all referrals will be followed up. Find out more about the Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership's response to COVID-19. Although national figures show that calls made to domestic abuse helplines have risen, this has not been replicated in Suffolk and we have seen no increase in contact. Our #YouAreNotAlone social media campaign continues to signpost residents to guidance on domestic abuse support available.

## **COVID -19**

### **Small Business Grants**

We have continued to see uptake of the Government Small Business Grant and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant and so far £32.3m has been distributed to over 2,800 businesses. All eligible businesses were initially contacted by letter, and earlier this week we wrote again to those who have not yet applied, as well as contacting them by telephone to ensure they claim the money they are entitled to, the grants do not need to be repaid and can be used to help with ongoing costs through the coronavirus crisis.

This week, New Anglia LEP launched a scheme totalling over £10m to support businesses and economic growth in Suffolk and Norfolk, while the Government has announced a Bounce Back Loan scheme for small businesses which will provide loans of up to £50,000 interest free for 12 months. Business owners can find out what financial support might be available to them using the Government's Business Support Tool and the New Anglia Growth Hub is continuing to offer a range of advice and guidance for businesses during this difficult time.

## Garden waste

As you know we had to pause our garden waste collections in March in order to protect and prioritise essential general rubbish, clinical waste and recycling collections. I'm sure you have all heard that these collections will restart following the normal schedule from Monday 11 May for those in 'area 2' and Monday 18 May for those in 'area 1'.

Please find below some information to support the restart of collections:

- Residents should check their collection day and or area on our website first, and make sure their bin is out on the right day at **6:30am**
- Only the bin(s) should be put out for collection - residents should not overfill them and must be able to close the lid.
- Any additional waste should be emptied into their bin(s) over several collections, or temporarily stored.
- We continue to encourage residents to keep composting, as well as reduce their waste to ease pressure on services. Composting offers can be found on the Suffolk Recycling website.
- No residents will be out of pocket from the stoppage - no new invoices have been issued since the collections were forced to stop and subscriptions will be amended to reflect the missed collections with more details on our website.

The waste team thank you in advance for your continued support for all our crews.

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.

Jane Gould

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Orwell ward

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