

Report to Parish

Work is continuing on the development of EV charging points across designated Babergh car parks at Lavenham, Hadleigh and two car parks in Sudbury at North St and Girling St, these should be up and running late in October if all goes to plan.

More sites are being designated for Babergh and Mid Suffolk following the latest Climate Briefing I had with the officers there including at Pin Mill for 2024. We are also looking towards Ebike stands for charging with support for maintenance with an appointed Bike doctor to enable good and long running usage of these types of bikes. This will feed into the EV infrastructure implementation plan which has just had it's first drafting, members of a task and finish group for the Carbon Reduction Management Plan are being assigned which it is hoped will consist of 12 members cross party.

Issues regarding the two houseboats illegally moored at Pin Mill have been addressed to me relating to mooring rights, environmental waste and sewage, and there is a perceived lack of action from the Environment Agency to enforce the law with respect to houseboats moored on the river. This is a site of protected conservation and is a RAMSAR status site and also involves local stakeholders of which there are many, for example Associated Ports of Britain, National Trust, local residents, Babergh District Council, Chelmondiston Parish Council and Ipswich Borough Council.

I am presently being kept up to date by officers exploring ways of enforcing prosecution to the houseboat dwellers and as events unfold I will keep you posted and informed.

I recently attended vehicle inspections for taxi rank companies at a lorry park in Sudbury as part of my role involved with Licencing and Regulatory Practice, to examine the proper checks all taxis must undergo to be considered fit for use. There were 20 vehicles inspected overall during a 3 hour period.

I am also sitting on a panel for a hearing later in September for a licence to be granted for a taxi hire company applicant based in Ipswich.

At Cabinet level there have been plans approved for a new café and toilet facilities at Belle Vue Park in Sudbury. A report which will go before Babergh's cabinet members on September 5th focuses on approval for funding for the

project – as part of wider plans for investment in improvements to the park. The plan would include demolishing the existing toilet block which has stood since the 1930s and replacing it with a modular building housing a community café alongside a more modern and accessible toilet block for visitors and residents alike.

Finally I am able to report I allocated £500 of locality funds to Freston Parish Council for a Defibrillator which will be housed at The Boot Pub and will make a tremendous difference for emergency use for local residents who will need it for an ambulance call to the Ipswich Hospital and prove invaluable to the community.