

**News and information from Jane Gould, Babergh District Councillor,
to the Parish Councils and residents in Orwell Ward
July 2022**

Ward news

Congratulations to all parishes that held Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Some of my locality funding was requested, and given, to the Chelmo Fest which has received positive feedback, well done to the team who worked very hard to make the event happen. I have a fresh allocation of locality funding for this year so if any of you have projects that I can help with please let me know in the first instance and then the form to fill in is quite easy.

Helping local communities to tackle the climate emergency

A £150,000 fund has been opened to applications from not-for-profit organisations looking to deliver community-based carbon reduction projects in Suffolk. The Suffolk Climate Action Community Match Fund is available to:

- charities
- community interest companies
- parish councils
- voluntary groups
- other not-for-profit organisations

Projects must contribute to Suffolk's Climate Emergency Plan and support our vision for Suffolk to become carbon neutral by 2030. This could include:

- improving the energy efficiency of buildings
- promoting walking and cycling
- using sustainable/recycled materials
- raising awareness of climate change through events, among others

The fund is being provided by the Suffolk Public Sectors Leaders group. This includes both Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, as part of its work to address the climate emergency. It will support up to 50% of costs (up to a maximum of £10,000) for projects that can demonstrate support from others in the community - in the form of contributions from multiple other sponsors for the remaining project

costs. Community fundraising platforms online can be a great way of promoting a project and drawing in donations from sponsors. Then, once sufficient community sponsorship has been raised, a full application to the Match Funder scheme can be submitted.

Residents' survey 2022

Babergh have received more than 1,000 responses as part of our residents survey since it launched in June. Please be reassured that the survey is genuine and not a scam. Residents are randomly selected to take part by Opinion Research Services, who is carrying out the survey on Babergh's behalf.

Update on Energy Rebates

Since the launch of the Energy Rebate Scheme almost 56,000 households have received their £150 energy rebate. As of the end of last week (24/06), £4,020,450 has been paid to 26,803 households in Babergh which is 84% of those identified as potentially eligible. The next payment run will be Friday 1 July. Households who do not pay their Council Tax by direct debit were issued a letter earlier this month instructing them how to claim their energy rebate. The closing date for completing the online form to select a payment option (either credit to their bank account or Council Tax Account) is midnight on Monday July 4, after this date, we will automatically credit the Council Tax accounts of those households who do not respond. As at July 27, the return rate was 57% for Babergh. This week we have also issued letters to households where a query was raised that meant payments couldn't be made. These households now have three weeks to complete the online form.

CCGs replaced by Integrated Care Board

July 1 saw the formal statutory launch of the Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board - and closure of NHS Ipswich and East Suffolk, NHS West Suffolk, and NHS North East Essex clinical commissioning groups. The move should mean closer working between health and social care partners for the good of our local communities.

Parking Strategy

The information evening for the Parking Strategy in our area was in Holbrook village hall last week and was attended by people from a number of our villages. A lively debate was had around parking but. Please can I encourage residents to complete the parking strategy survey so that we can have as much data as possible to inform the strategy.



Still time to take part in our parking strategy survey!

Our second phase of consultation for our parking strategy is well underway.

While our roadshow events might now be over, our online survey will still be available until 31 July, so please do encourage all our residents and businesses to join the hundreds of others who've already had their say.

[Find more information and link to the survey on our website](#)

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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