

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

Residents urged to have their say over whether council tax bills should be reduced by up to 100% for those on low incomes

A public consultation is underway over a plan to cut council tax for the poorest households in Babergh. The consultation, which runs to November 24th, asks for views on how the council should run their Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2023/24 and whether bills should be reduced by up to 100% for working age adults with the lowest incomes.

Winter Warmth funding for community causes

Thousands of pounds were made available to grassroots groups last month to keep the doors of their activities open for longer this winter. The Winter Warmth Support Grant offered groups and non-profit organisations between £250 and £5,000 to cover the rising costs of energy, rent and food and to keep operating without passing on these increased costs to residents.

CIFCO continues to make a profit for Babergh

Babergh and Mid Suffolk's commercial property company CIFCO made a £6.7m profit last year and generated £3.7m in net income for the councils to plough back into services.

Tree canopy results live on website

Earlier this month, cabinet approved the full publication of our pioneering tree canopy strategy to help increase tree coverage across the districts. This means the survey data which includes trees on both council-owned and private land, is now publicly available as an interactive map via the councils' website. I'm pleased to be able to promote this in our ward with parishes, landowners etc so they can better

identify the areas they can get the most benefit from tree planting, with support available via our planting schemes.

Bird Flu Outbreak

The Animal Plant and Health Agency (APHA) has detected a number of cases of bird flu (avian influenza) across our region including a recent outbreak in Needham Market. Norfolk, Suffolk and parts of Essex now form part of a regional Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ). This means there is now a legal requirement for all bird keepers in our districts, and further afield, to implement enhanced biosecurity measures to help protect their flocks. Our teams continue to support APHA and Suffolk Trading Standards as required, with more information available on the Government's website including posters for town and parish noticeboards if required. Residents should be advised to report dead wild birds to the Defra helpline (03459 33 55 77) if they find:

- one or more dead bird of prey or owl
- 3 or more dead gulls or wild waterfowl (swans, geese and ducks)
- 5 or more dead birds of any species

Otherwise, it is landowner's responsibility to arrange safe disposal of the carcasses.

2023 Review of Parliamentary constituencies

The Boundary Commission for England will publish its revised proposals for new constituency boundaries on Tuesday 8 November 2022. This will trigger the final four-week consultation period of the 2023 review, which will close on Monday 5 December 2022. If you have any queries, you can contact the Boundary Commission via email or on 020 7271 1102.

Residents to help name new bin lorries

In a competition launched on Monday 31 October Babergh residents are being invited to help name our new environmentally-friendly bin lorries, the biggest upgrade to our fleet in almost 10 years. Residents have until midnight on Sunday 13

November to submit names for 22 brand-new bin lorries, with winners contacted later in the year.

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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