

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

October 2022

Ward news

It's encouraging to see that Parish Councils on the Peninsula are thinking about creative ways of mitigating the impact of the rise in energy prices on residents. Together with the Babergh communities team I'm sure we can identify the local need and work towards alleviating some of the pressures people will face.

Bird flu outbreak

The Animal Plant and Health Agency (APHA) has detected a number of cases of bird flu (avian influenza) in poultry, and wild and captive birds, across the east of England, including in Nedging in Babergh. In response, the agency has declared a regional Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) in Norfolk, Suffolk and parts of Essex. 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 will be supporting APHA and Suffolk Trading Standards over coming days 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 safely arrange safe disposal of the carcasses.

Housing Tenants surveys

Housing Services will be carrying out several new surveys with our tenants, to gather data about our service provision. Monthly telephone and online surveys will be carried out with tenants on three of our key services: our repairs service, the experience of moving into one of our homes, and how we dealt with an anti-social behaviour complaint. We will also survey tenants via telephone and online on a quarterly basis to understand satisfaction with the service overall in order to make a

return to the Regulator. In March this year, we carried out a baseline survey to understand what the levels of tenant satisfaction currently are. The results of the baseline can be found on the councils' website. Acuity Research and Practice Ltd have been appointed to work with us for the next three years to help collect the measure data needed. The new Tenant Satisfaction Measure requirements come into force from 1 April 2023 and the councils will need to report the first year of results to the Regulator in the summer of 2024.

Suffolk Retrofit Conference

Suffolk Climate Change Partnership, which includes our councils, is hosting a Suffolk Retrofit Conference on October 13. The event is aimed at architects, engineers, contractors, consultants, surveyors and landlords



among others. The hope is to unite local businesses, public sector leaders and training providers to explore the commercial, environmental, public health and socio-economic benefits of retrofitting homes at-scale and deliver a carbon-neutral Suffolk by 2030 in line with Suffolk's Climate Emergency Plan. I would encourage any interested local businesses to register, it's an online conference which we're all getting used to now aren't we!

Parking strategy

As I write this report the Parking Strategy is due to come to Cabinet on Monday 3 October, more details to follow after the meeting.

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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