

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

Ward News

It's good to see that in Orwell ward, as a result of the Babergh District Council Winter Warmth Support Grant, Woolverstone Parish Council and Tattingstone Village Hall were both awarded funding. Woolverstone Parish Council received £1,040 and they are aiming to establish a weekly Warm Space for the next 5 months. The funding will be used to cover venue hire, heating, refreshment and advertising costs. Tattingstone Village Hall received £1,100 which will also be used to establish a weekly Warm Space from December to March and will also feature refreshments and regular activities. The funding will help cover the costs of energy bills and provision of refreshments; these projects will provide a valuable service for their communities in the coming months.

End of Term reports

This month we have published new reports showing the impact of our work across Babergh and Mid Suffolk since the district elections in 2019. The individual reports for each council, titled '*What have we done for you?*', detail the incredible breadth of what we do and the positive change we have delivered against our strategic priorities. They cover the councils' work including economic development, planning, supporting communities and tackling climate change; they outline the support given to thousands of residents and businesses during the pandemic, and the initial work during the cost-of-living crisis and also map where millions of pounds in Community Infrastructure Levy payments have been made across both districts. These payments have funded a range of projects from school extensions to village hall improvements. The reports are also being shared across our social media channels and are available to view on computers in local libraries and at our customer access points in Stowmarket, Shotley, Hadleigh and Sudbury. We are also providing towns and parish councils with posters featuring QR codes to help residents find the

information. Please help us to share them amongst your own communities and networks.

Debate Not Hate

“The abuse and intimidation of councillors must end” - that's the call from our councils amid rising concerns about toxicity in public and political discourse. Both councils have agreed motions stating a zero-tolerance approach, after new national figures showed around 70% of councillors nationwide have faced abuse in the last year.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Parish Briefings

Following the recent review of the CIL Expenditure Framework, members have agreed that CIL briefing sessions should be provided to district councillors and town/parish representatives at regular intervals throughout the year. The first of these briefing sessions will be:

- Tuesday 6 December 5:15pm - 6:45pm
- Thursday 8 December 5:15pm - 6:45pm
- Tuesday 13 December 5:15pm - 6:45pm
- Thursday 15 December 5:15pm - 6:45pm

All district councillors and town/parish representatives will be invited to attend any one of these sessions which will be delivered virtually via Teams, by infrastructure officers Richard Kendrew and Roy Emmerson. The presentation and documents will be sent to attendees after the session. You only need to attend one event.

The briefing sessions will cover the following topics:

- CIL collection – the types of developments that generate CIL
- what constitutes a site commencement
- how Neighbourhood CIL can be spent
- what has been funded through District CIL funding
- building a project funding package through CIL and external sources
- outstanding CIL and debt recovery

Services and support continue over Christmas period

Our call centre and customer service pop-ups will be open on non-bank holiday days. Contact information is all available on our website. Of course, bin collection dates change over the Christmas period so our crews can enjoy well-earned breaks over the bank holidays. Residents can check dates and find our Christmas collection calendars on our website.

Green Suffolk launches free climate change awareness course

Green Suffolk, which includes our councils, has launched a free, easy-to-access, short online course to help our communities learn more about climate change. It's open to everyone whether individuals, businesses looking to train staff, community groups, or town and parish councils, so please do share this resource with your local networks!

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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