

Monthly Report - Apr'24 - Sproughton & Pinewood Ward

Council Housing Repairs - Progress!

A new 'Totalmobile' IT system is being introduced to reduce council house repair times. The Totalmobile service will allow council house tenants to book repairs straight away and appoint the right contractor to the job, to reduce waiting times and tenants having to chase the council for action. Totalmobile is a system used by many councils around the country including many housing associations such as Orwell Housing. This is the start of implementing an integrated front to back system.

Didn't realise I was quoted in the 09Apr EADT on this issue

"Helen Davies, a Liberal Democrat Babergh cabinet member, made clear that the council was committed to tackling council house delays and improve services for tenants. She said: "When we first saw the state of the housing area, it didn't look great but people have worked really hard to turn this around and we're starting to see the impact of these efforts now so thanks go to the housing team for all their efforts."

Car-Parking - Sudbury, Hadleigh & Lavenham

Following on from last months cabinet meeting when car-parking charges were approved 6-2 in Lavenham, Hadleigh & Sudbury, I checked the minutes to see my points on free parking for those on the school run and those in receipt of Universal Credit were included. They were 😊. The decision was then called in by one of the impacted councillors - Overview & Scrutiny have asked the cabinet to reconsider 1hr free parking. This will happen in early May.

Norwich to Tilbury 180km of new Pylons

We (myself + Sproughton PC) went to James Cartlidge's (MP) Pylons meeting in Hintlesham to listen to the new ESO report that evaluates various options including some that didn't seem to have been considered before! All the attendees preferred offshoring, second option is undergrounding 'High Voltage Direct Current' cables (HVDC) - not as expensive as traditional undergrounding and is looking like a good option. If you want to know more go to www.pylonseastanglia.co.uk sign the petition and send an email to National Grid. Sproughton is impacted by pylons but not as badly as some parishes. See <https://yorkshiregreen.participatr.co.uk/index.php> which is an interactive map showing the potential path of the pylons. Leaflets are being delivered to those impacted by the pylons.

All Member Emergency Planning Training

We had an interesting training session earlier on in the month on emergency planning. There are a myriad of plans covering heavy weather up to problems at the Sizewell site. Most of these plans are in the public domain. The training covered the following:-

1. The Civil Contingencies Act (2004) as it affects local authorities
2. The function of the Suffolk Resilience Forum
3. The role of the Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Unit (JEPU)
4. Roles and responsibilities of local authorities in preparing for, responding to & recovering from an emergency
5. The role of Councillors in emergencies

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The Free Compost Events returns

Babergh is giving away free compost to mark this year's International Compost Awareness Week (5 - 11 May), The two nearest locations for the ward are:-

- [Morrisons Car Park, Hadleigh](#) (Sunday 5 May from 9am)
- [Needham Lake](#) (Sunday 12 May from 9am)

Casework

Work continues. I seem to be exchanging regular emails with Highways now. Work is scheduled on i) Hadleigh Road late May ii) Church Lane in the next 3-6months and iii) Belmont Road in July. Outstanding is my meeting with the portfolio holder but we are just trying to find a suitable date to discuss possible designs for Sproughton High Streets road layout.

In terms of casework, see below. Rarely can anything be closed down in just one or two emails. There are a number of outstanding pieces of work at any one time:-

Category	Open	Closed	Category	Open	Closed
BDC			SCC		
CiL	1	0	Flooding	3	0
Environmental Health	1	1	Lighting	1	0
Grants	1	2	Traffic	6	0
Housing	0	1			
Planning	1	0			
Public Nuisance	0	1			
TOTALS	4	5		10	0

If you ever have an issue to raise with me please use the contact details below. I look forward to hearing from you.

Helen Davies

Councillor Helen Davies: District Councillor for Sproughton & Pinewood

Posts: Babergh Cabinet - Member without Portfolio,
Vice Chair - Babergh Planning Committee,
Member - Joint Local Plan Working Group,
External Appointment - Greenways

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