

Monthly Report - Jun'24 - Sproughton & Pinewood Ward

Locality Budget

The new financial year is well underway as is this year's locality budget. All district councillors get £2,000pa - I split mine equally between the two parishes.

Last year's money went to Sproughton - recycling bins (now installed in the Tithe Barn), dog bins (installed on the playing fields & by Ladderfield) & small bench (installed by Ladderfield) and Pinewood - new bench by Ellenbrook.

So far this year I've only had one request. So, don't forget to make your request (eligible are organisations within the parishes of Sproughton & Pinewood whose work benefits the local community - normally charity, school, trust or parish council).

Capital Grants

Community groups in Babergh are now able to apply for financial support in the form of capital grant funding. The scheme covers the cost of a project up to a maximum of £10,000 and is available for projects such as improvements & repairs to social infrastructure, including anything from village halls, communal spaces to play areas and sports facilities. The application window is open until Sunday 14 July. [Find out more about the scheme, including how to apply, on the councils' websites](#)

New EV Chargers in Babergh

Babergh & Mid-Suffolk received a grant of £300,000 to install EV chargers in council carparks. Overall 47 have been installed. The aim is to help people transition to an electric vehicle & hence reduce emissions. The 22kW fast charge-points can charge two cars at the same time, resulting in 94 new EV parking bays spread across a number of council car parks in the districts. New chargers in Babergh have been installed at:-

<u>Hadleigh</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maiden Way• Stonehouse Road• High Street	<u>Sudbury</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Girling Street• North Street• Station Road
<u>Lavenham</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cock Inn	

Locations were specifically chosen to provide an off-street EV charging option for residents living nearby, who currently use on-street parking spaces. However, they are also available for all other car park users - including visitors and tourists. The chargepoints will be added to EV location services like Zapmap to make them as easy as possible to locate when planning a journey or visit.

Norwich to Tilbury 180km of new Pylons

The consultation period for this has been extended due to the general election. Revised closing date is Friday 26th July 24. Please go to www.pylonseastanglia.co.uk & sign the petition also send an email to National Grid.

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See <https://yorkshiregreen.participatr.co.uk/index.php> which is an interactive map showing the potential path of the pylons. Leaflets were delivered to those impacted by the pylons in Sproughton, Pinewood is unaffected by this.

Flooding on Hadleigh Road

SCC have spent a couple of weeks fixing the flooding issue at the bottom of the hill on Hadleigh Road. This did necessitate temporary trafficlights which resulted in long queues during rush hour BUT the ditch alongside Church Lane has been dug out and lined and a new a new drainage chamber put in. SSC also dug out the ditch on the opposite side of the road to Church Lane and should have jettted the pipe underneath the road. The next batch of heavy rain should test this out - fingers crossed this works!!

Parking at Suffolk One

Pinewood PC and I met with some of the leadership team at Suffolk One to discuss the problem of student cars parking in residential areas close to Suffolk One. The college does have a Code of Conduct on this, telling students to park responsibly. Students are supposed to park in Park & Ride where spaces have been reserved for them but as we have seen in the local & national press this doesn't always happen. I have had a number of residents contact me on this issue. After the discussion with Suffolk One I put forward the suggested solution to SCC who are looking at this. Essentially First Buses are being asked to divert the Park & Ride buses past S1 so students can catch the bus both to & from S1 to where they have parked at Park & Ride. This should eliminate students concerns around parking there when it is dark/cold/wet - some students have said they feel unsafe along part of the part from/to Park & Ride. Some residents have said they would like to see parking restrictions if the situation doesn't improve..

New Portfolio - Climate Change, Nature Recovery & Biodiversity

We now have a new leader of the council as part of the four year rotation of leaders from each of coalition parties - Deborah Saw from the Green Party. As part of the reorganisation I have acquired a new portfolio. This results from splitting up the Environment Portfolio - I think I've got the best bit, the other bit is waste collection recycling & car-parking amongst others. Now trying to get my head around it.....

Casework

Work continues..... 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 which fall into the categories below. You'll see I have more success closing the Babergh ones down than SCC. Gives the SCC ones involved infrastructure they tend to take longer anyway e.g. flooding on Hadleigh Rd I logged it in Nov'23 and closed it Jul'24 - the residents had been working on it for much longer! Heavy lorries at all hours of the day and night along the Hadleigh Road is another problem as it disturbs residents and the feeling is that the lorries are exceeding the weight limit for the road as well as using the road outside the permitted hours:-

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Category	Open	Closed	Open	Closed
	BDC		SCC	
CiL	1			
Environmental Health	2	1		
Flooding			2	1
Grants	1	2		
Housing	1	2		
Lighting			1	
Planning	1			
Policy		1		
Public Realm	1	1	1	
Public Nuisance		1		
Roads	1		8	1
TOTALS	8	8	12	2

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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