

Monthly Report - Oct'24 - Sproughton & Pinewood Ward

GENERAL UPDATES

Form Hadleigh Council Offices converted to Homes now on the market

The first 11 homes have been completed on the site known as Bowlers Croft, following a sympathetic conversion of the buildings to preserve and enhance the original structures, ensuring the character and features are retained. Babergh District Council's joint venture company Babergh Growth, which is a partnership with Norse Group, worked with Gipping Construction on the development. Councillors, directors and project leaders recently received the keys and enjoyed a tour of the homes. The development will see the original buildings transformed into 49 new high-quality homes, a mix of one, two, three and four-bedroom apartments and one cottage, which are ideally located close to shops, schools, and the town's amenities.



There's me in the front! We toured the modern office conversion which have been turned into really nice flats. Also saw the listed cottage that has been converted into a 3 bed home. They are conveniently sited for the town & shopping.

There are questions to answer on the cost of this conversion work as it has cost more than originally budgeted for. Some of this will be down to Covid and the subsequent supply issues increasing the cost of materials plus inflation.

A grant aimed at tackling social isolation in winter has returned for a second year, thanks to funding from Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils.

The Living Well in Winter grant will help local organisations such as town and parish councils, village hall or playing field committees, sports clubs and sports centres, charities, social enterprises, community shops, and community interest companies deliver new and existing accessible spaces and activities during the colder months. Last year, a total of 34 projects received funding from the grant (20 in Babergh and 14 in Mid Suffolk). Successful projects included community cafes, additional family sessions at preschools, coffee and chat sessions, and activity clubs. The grant window has opened again, enabling applicants to address issues like social isolation and decreased physical activity, which are exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis, particularly during the winter. Other eligible projects might also include lunch clubs, after-school clubs, the continuation of warm spaces, subsidised family sports sessions, hobby workshops and beyond. Organisations can apply for a minimum of £500 and a maximum of £2,000, and have until Friday, 8 November to do so. To find out more information or

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submit an application form, visit the grants and funding page on the [Babergh District Council](#) or [Mid Suffolk District Council](#) website.

Suffolk councils took part in 'Recycle Week in October

Recycle Week ran from 14 to 20 October and is organised by Recycle Now, is now in its twenty-first year. It is intended to highlight the nation's recycling habits through activities happening across the UK. The latest Recycle Now research shows that while we're a nation of recyclers - nine out of ten people regularly recycle - nearly eight out of ten of us (79%) put one or more items into the bin that could have been recycled. To highlight the plight of the four ill-fated packaging items, Recycle Now has created a team of characters to bring the campaign to life and is asking everyone to 'rescue me - recycle'. The condemned containers include:

- Dee Dee the deodorant
- Yogi the yoghurt pot
- Rey the plastic trigger spray
- and humble Hube - the toilet roll tube

(I already recycle these 😊) The group will feature on recycling and refuse lorries in parts of the UK, in school education packs and on social media. Life-size characters have been produced to highlight the key message and featured in media throughout Recycle Week. A week of fun activities with a serious message, 'rescue me - recycle' aims to empower people in Suffolk to look out for the four items missed most often in the weekly recycling collection. Suffolk councils will be encouraging residents to keep them in circulation by recycling. Apparently over 58% of the Suffolk rubbish bin contents could still be recycled or composted. The 'rescue me - recycle' campaign is asking residents to think about all those packaging items that might commonly end up in their rubbish bins, especially those from the bathroom and bedroom, and ask if they could be placed in the recycling bin instead.

Babergh increase in fees and charges ahead of next year's budget.

Babergh cabinet met last week to discuss proposals for the increase of next year's fees and charges. Babergh has a predicted £1 million deficit for February, added to an already identified £6.7 million gap, means steeper increases are needed than in Mid-Suffolk which has a £6.3m surplus. The aim is to recover the true cost of the services provided. Currently these are not fully recovered as Babergh has been subsidising them for several years at least. Some fees will go up to recovery cost immediately others will take a couple of years to do so. The income from the proposed fees and charges for the next financial year would increase by £1.42 million, or just over 37 per cent (Mid-Suffolk's proposed increase is at 9.7%). Legally councils have to have a balanced budget - this will go some way towards that. Basically if Babergh don't charge for some of these services, we would need to consider whether we needed to provide them. These are all services people need and value - no one wants to cut them.

PORTFOLIO

Copdock 2 Capel Cycle Path

A public consultation has just gone out on a Copdock 2 Capel cycle path. The general idea is to convert one side of the dual carriageway to cycle and footpath. There are a couple of kinks to work out regarding the exact route at the top of the old London Road. Improvements to the

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footpath and roadway are proposed at the Capel end. There is funding to consult, design and cost this project. Further funding would be needed to deliver. For more info see <https://arcg.is/OXHjSW>.

Ezy-Bike Pods

The Sustainable Travel Working Group have been looking for sites install bike pods that hold 2 electric bikes that can be rented for half/whole day. Ideas for sites were Hadleigh, Sudbury & Alton Water. Unfortunately Anglia Water have declined, Hadleigh don't think its worthwhile in their town centre so we are back to the drawing board a bit. Thoughts on possible locations welcome.....

Call for Land Summit

The Forestry Commission are now working with a number of people who attended this summit. It seems that over 20% of attendees ended up contacting either the Forestry Commission, Suffolk Wildlife Trust or Babergh which is pretty good - well above normal expectations. I have asked to be kept up to date on this to see what projects end up being funded.

LCWIP

Part of the river path between Bramford & Claydon is being upgraded at the moment. I have asked if the path between Sproughton & Ipswich can be improved and it appears a bid for CiL money is being prepared. More details to follow.

Landscape Mitigation Strategy

The NSIP planning officer & Biodiversity lead are working on this standard approach template at the moment. Waiting on the first draft.....

THE WARD ITSELF

Parking at Suffolk One: I have drafted the BSIP bid for additional stops at Suffolk One to coincide with lesson times & end of the college day. Closing date is 14Nov. I do not know how quickly they respond. The cost is around £23k pa, for it to become self-funding an additional 7,667 trips per annum by paying passengers will be needed and am not certain that it is achievable, so longer term funding may be needed but that is a battle for another day. I am still planning on canvassing residents close to the school but feel this is going to be a difficult one to get agreement on.

Traffic A14 Diversion via Sproughton: Work on the A14 continues. Complaints are at fairly consistent levels. We'll be meeting with Highways and SCC again to keep the pressure on as to ways to improve the situation. Any issues please contact our parish clerk or myself.

30 Sep Traffic Exhibition: Collation of the responses is underway but this is taking longer than hoped. The results will be published by Sproughton PC once known.

Church Lane Flooding: Work continues on trying to resolve this. The landowners have been contacted, one of which is the parish council who are looking at what can be done (probably

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involved diggers, ponds & pipework!). The other landowner remains to be convinced that they are not the source of the problem! I hope to be able to send evidence to prove otherwise.

Taylor Wimpey Phase 2 Design Codes

One of the conditions for approval of Phase 2 was the need for TW to produce a design code that met the requirements of the Sproughton Neighbourhood Plan Design Codes. Both Cllr Jermyn & myself have met with Taylor Wimpey to discuss the design codes, escort them on a walk around the parish to highlight the architecture that is typical of the area that should be taken into account. The public consultation is underway and leaflets delivered to cover how to respond. We have a follow-up meeting on 18Nov.

Solar Energy Site Visit

Clearstone Energy invited Sproughton & Bramford PC's & district councillors to a walkaround of the site for their proposed battery storage application. This is actually the second battery storage application so this area is definitely becoming semi-industrialised. They do appear to have considered the impact of their development on the area and have thought about mitigation measures. Whether or not these enough remain to be seen. The application will go into Mid-Suffolk planning shortly.

CASEWORK:

Work continues..... I can't go into details as residents info is confidential but the stats are below:-

OPEN	BDC			SCC	
Category	Both	Spr	Pine	Spr	Pine
CIL	1				
Climate Change					
Environmental Health			2		
Flooding				1	1
Grants					
Health Care					
Housing		1	1		
Lighting					
Planning		1			
Policy					
Public Realm			2	1	
Public Nuisance					
Roads			1	5	3
Transport					
TOTALS	1	2	6	7	4

CLOSED	BDC			SCC	
Category	Both	Spr	Pine	Spr	Pine
CIL					
Climate Change					
Environmental Health		1			
Flooding				1	1
Grants		2	1		
Health Care		1			
Housing		1	1		
Lighting					
Planning					
Policy	1				
Public Realm		1			
Public Nuisance		1			
Roads				2	
Transport					
TOTALS	1	7	2	3	1

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

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