

Parish Council - District Councillor Report (May 2024)

Dear Councillors,

No weather 'commentary' from me this month...!

Firstly, I'd like to thank all Parish Councillors for making my first year, in my role, as the communities district councillor (albeit temporary 'stand in') so welcoming and for the support many of you have given me during this period. In all honesty, it doesn't feel like a whole year has gone by!

There have, of course, been elections on the 2nd May. This has created a bit of a 'pause' in Council business due to purdah and potential decision-making political sensitivity.

On other matters a few notes below on general community action themes as follows:

Activity

- Brockley Wood Mineral Extraction Site Application to SCC – Its looking like a possibility there could be a Judicial Review (JR) raised by various interested parties to consider the legality of the decision process undertaken by SCC. Whether or not this goes ahead, BDC district councillors from all the neighbouring communities will be fully supporting traffic mitigation measures throughout the most effected villages.
- Norwich Tilbury Grid Extension Project – I attended the meeting at Hintlesham Community Hall (along with many of our parish councillors) to listen to alternative options to pylons. I would urge everyone to respond to the NG final (statutory) consultation that ends on the 18th June. Go to www.pylonseastanglia.co.uk for detailed information.
- Ongoing meetings with, several residents, across a range of planning, social housing, land ownership and environmental issues.

Babergh Notes

As I said in my introduction, Council has been somewhat on 'pause' throughout April.

The car parking issue remains a large item on the Council's business agenda. The decision taken by BDC cabinet has been 'called in' by a group of councillors, predominantly, where their communities have been potentially most impacted. The 'process of decision making' has been reconsidered by BDC O&S committee and been sent back to cabinet, with further recommendations, for reconsideration.

Babergh planning committee met this month to consider a single development in Bildeston for a total 48 affordable homes for housing association, Orbit Homes on a 3.1Ha site. The application was approved subject to several development conditions. Many of the new homes will be subject to 'social rent' levels and give opportunities for shared equity ownership.

The BDC Overview and Scrutiny committee met on the 22nd April when we considered the 'call in' decision to reconsider the car parking review decision making process. As ever, I remain open to any residents who would like to be briefed on specific anonymised examples of the council's work, in this area, please let me know. These meetings are also open to parish councillors and members of the public wishing to attend either in person or online.

District Councillor Resident Surgeries

My regular meeting opportunity for residents in Capel St Mary library. The next meet up will be Tuesday 9th July 10-12 (Sorry about June, I'll be away from the UK). No appointment is necessary, but if residents need more of a confidential chat, please let them know beforehand so I can arrange some privacy.

John (Whyman) Cllr - Babergh Council Member – Capel St. Mary

John.Whyman@babergh.gov.uk

Mobile: 07928 512597