

**Report to Great Bricett Parish Council
for Full Council Meeting on Tuesday 24th November 2015
from David Whybrow, Mid Suffolk District Councillor.**

1.0 Planning (since 22nd September 2015 to date of report issue)

- 1.1 Validated – I'm not aware of any Applications validated within the parish
- 1.2 Decisions – I am not aware of any Decisions within the parish
- 1.3 Permitted Developments – I'm not aware of any PD's within the parish
- 1.4 Appeals – I'm not aware of any appeals within the parish.

2.0 Proposed "one-off" Mid Suffolk Locality Award Programme.

In my last report I made the Council aware of this "one off" Award Programme which commenced as planned on 1st October 2015.

This is an opportunity for not-for profit groups or organisations to receive direct support from their District Councillor. It is a 'One Off' Awards Programme and I have a total allocation of £5000. Awards made can range from £250 upwards but I can make no more than 10 Awards in total.

The application deadline is 8th January 2016.

All applicants will need to complete the Application Form demonstrating how their activities meet the strategic priorities of the Council. Application Forms need to be returned to the Communities Team for co-ordination and forwarding onto me. Assessment and payment of successful applications is likely to be immediately after the deadline.

Any questions or queries you may have on the Awards can be supported by the Communities Team:

Emma Bendall: Tel: 01449 724650 Email: emma.bendall@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Gillian Hilder: Tel: 01449 724631 Email: gillian.hilder@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Josephine Beever: Tel: 01449 724654 Email: josephine.beever@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

As before, for your easier reference, I have attached the Application Form for you to distribute on to groups and organisations within the Parish. Forms are also be available directly from the Communities Team or to download from the website.

The criteria information for applications and a set of Applicants Guidelines are also attached.

Please don't let this opportunity pass without at least applying for an Award.

(See attached The Joint Strategic Plan, Locality Award Guidance Notes and Locality Award Application Form in this reports Appendices.)

3.0 Devolution in Suffolk

There has been a great deal of activity in connection with the potential devolution opportunities. The Suffolk 'bid' was approved by all Councils and submitted to the government for consideration and scrutiny. The government have subsequently led Suffolk towards a wider devolved grouping including Norfolk and also involving the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership and a further combined 'bid' was submitted. The main elements of the emerging proposal are:

- 180,000 new homes by 2036
- 95,000 new jobs by 2026
- 10,000 new Apprenticeships by 2026
- £43 billion annual total Gross Value Added (GVA) by 2026, an annual GVA increase of £11 billion by 2026
- Every young person earning or learning by 2026
- Public Sector productivity savings of at least £275 million
- 10,000 new businesses by 2026

Following further government comment a “Challenge Team” was formed to continue development of the ‘bid’ and provide greater detail where requested. A meeting hosted by Lord Heseltine between the Challenge Session Team and senior civil servants on 4th November was a positive one. There was recognition as to the ambitious nature of the proposals and there is now to be further working with the Government to develop them in more detail. The main areas of focus for the work currently being undertaken are:

- Engaging with the two counties’ MPs to ensure that they have all the information they need about our emerging proposals
- Developing the governance elements. The proposals are based on having light touch governance, dependent on the responsibilities devolved. This has been made this clear in discussions with Government. The only county devolution deal to date, Cornwall, has no Mayor.
- Considering how Suffolk and Norfolk might wish to work with Cambridgeshire in the future. There are a number of issues and viewpoints across the Norfolk and Suffolk councils and these will be discussed in details at a meeting of all the leaders on 7th December
- Discussions continue between local workstream leads and senior civil servants around the elements of the devolution deal, looking to finalise the ‘asks’ and ‘offers’ for consideration by Councils in Norfolk and Suffolk. This includes more information about the future financial outlook.

Our team was told not to feel constrained by the perceived deadline of the Autumn Statement on 25th November in completing these extra details. It is understood that only two successful devolution bids will be announced at the time of the Comprehensive Spending Review. Nonetheless, the team are keen to be able to go to Government with a finalised proposal sooner rather than later.

Whatever the final version of our proposals, there will be consultation with stakeholders and each participating council will need to vote upon them.

4.0 Community Achievement Awards – looking for unsung heroes.

Nominations are now open for the first joint Babergh and Mid Suffolk Community Achievement Awards. Is there someone you know who goes above and beyond in helping others? Someone whose tireless work and dedication to the community inspires others? If so, let the Council know.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, in partnership with the East of England Co-Op, are looking for the men and women who have given hours of their time to their communities, to be recognised by their first-ever Joint Community Achievement Awards in April.

The awards, judged by a panel including district councillors and young people from local schools, will recognise 30 members of both communities, across four categories:

1. Rising Star: recognising young people (below 18) who have made an outstanding contribution to their community
2. Community Hero: recognising a person who has provided selfless service to a voluntary body or made a significant contribution to their community
3. Action in the Community: recognising the work of groups of people whose actions affect the wider community
4. Outstanding Local Business: recognising a business located within Babergh or Mid Suffolk which has made a significant contribution to their the social or environmental wellbeing of the district and its residents

Eligible community work could come in any shape or form, from fundraising work to campaigning for improved local services or providing a long-term service to the community. Nomination forms etc should already have been sent to you.

The winners will be recognised at a formal dinner in April at Wherstead Park, compered by Mark Murphy from BBC Radio Suffolk.

Both Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Councils have previously run their own Community Achievement Awards, but this year marks the first time the two councils have run a joint awards event.

For more details contact Josephine Beever on 01449 724 654 or via josephine.beever@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk. Applications are open until 12 noon on Thursday 31 December 2015 and can be made online via: www.babergh.gov.uk/CAA or www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/CAA

5.0 Litter and dog bin emptying service

There will be a price increase from April 2016 for the bin emptying services. The increase will be £5 per bin bringing the costs up to £30 per litter bin per annum and £35 per dog bin per annum.

6.0 Member and Officer visit to Wattisham Airfield

A liaison session was convened on Friday 20th November to provide an informal opportunity for Lead Officers and Ward Members to meet soldiers and their families and to have direct discussion about some of the issues and challenges at the Camp. There are approximately 2000 people who work on the camp of whom a significant proportion are resident. Although the drop-in rate was low it was agreed that there was mutual benefit from such initiatives to explore further the opportunities to improve and strengthen the relationship between military personnel, the civilian population locally and the Council.

7.0 Town and Parish Newsletter for September 2015

I've also appended the above which you should have received directly at the end of September.

8.0 Conclusion

I trust the forgoing is informative and relevant.

Finally, if there are specific matters that you would like me to investigate or report on – just ask.

Contacts details as follows:

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david@dswwhybrow.com

07799 068 926

Or visit me at The Old Rectory, Stowmarket Road, Ringshall. IP14 2HZ

10.0 Appendices

The Joint Strategic Plan; Locality Award Guidance Notes; Locality Award Application Form;
SPSL Group Devolution Proposal 2015-09-04