



Councillor David Whybrow (Conservative)  
Mid Suffolk District Council Member for Ringshall Ward

Report to Great Bricett Parish Council

Full Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016

## 1.0 Planning (since 27 September 2016 to date of report)

### 1.1 Validated (awaiting Decision) -

- 1.1.1 Land to the south of Bricett Hall, The Street, Great Bricett  
Reference 4548/16  
Construction of farm road and new vehicular access (previously approved  
under planning permission 1894/11)  
Validated 12 Nov 16  
Consultation expiry 21 Nov 16  
Target Determination 07 Jan 17

1.2 Decisions – There are no Decisions in the reporting period.

## 2.0 Parish Precept 2017/18 & Taxbase

This is just an update to remind you on a few matters for you to take into account whilst you are considering your 2017/18 precept levels.

The Precept Form for 2017/18 for you to complete should have been sent to the Parish Clerk. This needs to be returned to Mid Suffolk by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017. These are also available to download from the Council's website.

The Great Bricett taxbase for 2017/18 is 200 compared with 195.43 for 2016/17 which is an increase of 2.3%.

As you will recall there are no further grants to be paid as these finished in 2016/17.

At the time of writing Mid Suffolk had not heard anything from the government regarding the proposed change in the rules for a referendum for Parish and Town councils. Details of these proposals were included in the consultation documents; links to which were sent out on 12th and 26th October 2016. If and when they do hear that anything has been finalised they will let you know.

Should you require any further clarification or wish to discuss the position for your council, please do not hesitate to contact Sue Palmer or Melissa Evans.

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### 3.0 Devolution

As a consequence of the number of Norfolk District and Boroughs that have rejected the Norfolk and Suffolk Combined Authority deal offered by Government and Norfolk County Council's decision to cancel their meeting at which it would have been debated and determined the Secretary of State has now withdrawn the deal.

At the Suffolk Public Sector Leaders held on Friday 18 Nov 16 it was unanimously agreed to continue with the Council meetings planned in Suffolk but present a different recommendation. In essence this was to confirm Suffolk's support to the devolution process and to authorise the Leader and Chief Executives to seek an urgent meeting with the Secretary of State to see where we go from here with a view to the submission of a new devolution bid for Suffolk and others.

A revised Recommendation "to reiterate the commitment, given at its June meeting, to Devolution as a means for delivering accelerated growth in the local and national economy and helping local people and places fulfil their potential" was passed by Mid Suffolk unanimously with support across party lines.

Accordingly, we await other Suffolk Authority decisions and the Secretary of State's approach to this matter. Early indications are that adjacent Authorities across both our north and south County borders may wish to participate in a new deal.

### 4.0 Waste and Recycling

#### 4.1 Recycling

A campaign has been launched by the Suffolk Waste Partnership to highlight the importance of people getting their recycling right.

A leaflet is being sent out to every household in Suffolk to highlight what can and can't go in your recycling bin, which aims to serve as a reminder – and a new video is also be available online to further highlight the issues.

Across Suffolk more than half of our household waste is recycled, but contamination levels have been rising as people increasingly put unsuitable items in their kerbside recycling bins. These items are potentially dangerous, can have a negative impact on the environment and ultimately cost the taxpayer extra money to clean up. All recyclable waste collected from Suffolk households is taken to the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Great Blakenham, where it is sorted and baled before being sent on for recycling. This facility is designed to only accept and process certain materials. If the wrong items are delivered they have to be removed, sometimes by hand. To ensure the correct items are put into their recycling bins, residents across the county are being asked to remember the following points to combat contamination:

- Textiles and clothes can no longer go in the recycling bin, either bagged or loose. Instead people are asked to donate their clothing to charity shops, or to take it to their nearest recycling banks.
- Anything smaller than 4cm, such as loose bottle tops or shredded paper, won't get recycled they fall through the sorting process. However, bottle tops can be recycled by simply washing and squashing plastic bottles and putting the tops back on.

- Aluminium foil needs to be rolled into a tennis ball size before being placed in the recycling bin.
  - Food waste, glass, electrical items, and batteries are just some of the common contaminants found. These items can't go in your recycling bin at home but they can be recycled elsewhere. Information on where they can be recycled are in the leaflet and online.
  - Some people are even putting used nappies in their recycling bins. These must always go in the rubbish bin.
- More information can be found on the Suffolk Recycling website at:  
<http://www.greensuffolk.org/recycling/>

#### 4.2 Christmas & New Year Waste and Recycling Collections

As usual, the festive calendar in late December and early January means that, due to bank holidays, it has been necessary to amend the usual waste collection days across Babergh and Mid Suffolk. You can find the full details of the changes to collection dates on our new website, for Mid Suffolk:

<http://beta.baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk/testing.onesuffolk.default.onesuffolk.uk0.bigv.io/assets/Waste-Services-Bins/Documents/MSDC-Colour-Front-Page.pdf>

Please do circulate these calendars to anyone you feel could make use of them. We also have greyscale versions available for any black and white newsletters, email [duncan.merren@babberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:duncan.merren@babberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk) for a copy.

This year will also see a return of the Christmas Tree Collection Points that were a hit across the district last year, allowing residents to recycle their trees once the festive period is over. Mid Suffolk are currently finalising the locations of the collection points: watch the websites for the full details as soon as they're agreed.

#### 4.3 Waste collection days for 2017

These can be found by following this link.

<http://beta.baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk/testing.onesuffolk.default.onesuffolk.uk0.bigv.io/assets/Waste-Services-Bins/Documents/MSDC-A4-Colour.pdf>

### 5.0 Better, simpler and effective website launched.

Providing a better service for residents that is simpler for staff to deliver and is cost effective for tax payers is the foundation of the changes being made to how the public access Mid Suffolk services. That is why in the last few weeks we have begun the roll out of our new website, and we are seeking views on the new site as it develops over the next three months.

With 87% of the UK's adult population having used the internet in the last three months we know people are using the internet more and therefore it is important we provide access to our services via our website in the most effective way possible.

National research has shown that the cost to local authorities of its residents accessing its services online compared to via the telephone can save as much as £2.68 per enquiry. While those residents needing face to face support will continue to receive it, the new website will mean more people can contact the Councils 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Senior members of the Councils met with the Town and Parish Council Liaison Groups in recent weeks to show how the new website looks and to answer questions that were raised.

For example in response to the concern that was raised on internet speeds across the county, we were able to explain that the new site takes into account challenging low broadband speeds. The site has a low bandwidth and will have a limited amount of images and functions that would normally require faster bandwidth.

Mid Suffolk's work on improving public access is all about providing a better service for residents that is simpler for staff to deliver and is cost effective for taxpayers. The new website is fundamental to that and this is why we want to hear from people using the site so we can ensure it is the best it can be. The new website can be viewed at:

<http://beta.baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk.testing.onesuffolk.default.onesuffolk.uk0.bigv.io/>

Or by visiting [www.midsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk) and following the link on the home page to the new site. Once on the new site users can send feedback using the feedback button at the top of the home page.

## 6.0 Appointment of a new Joint Chief Executive.

Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils have approved the recommendation of a cross party Joint Appointment Panel to name Arthur Charvonia as their preferred candidate for the post of Joint Chief Executive. He is currently employed as Strategic Director at Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils. The Council approved this recommendation unanimously at their meeting on Monday 31 October 2016. The cross party appointment group felt Arthur's experience of joint working across two district councils, and the wider Suffolk Public Sector family, made him the ideal candidate to lead our two councils through the many challenges and opportunities ahead.

## 7.0 Museum of East Anglian Life update

It's been a busy season; closing with over 4,600 visitors attending the bonfire night celebrations on 5 November!

Did you know the museum will be 50 next year? They will be celebrating this achievement by running a fundraising campaign focused on heritage breeds and bringing the Suffolk trinity back to the museum. They want to develop the story of farming and animal husbandry, which is important to our region, so that people can learn about its impact upon their lives. They are also planning lots of activities throughout the year to celebrate the museum and bring local communities together.

More people are using museums but traditional funding is falling fast. As an independent museum they have to charge entry but that only pays for a small percentage of what it costs to keep going and they need to raise the funds to pay for this project. It takes a lot of time, money and hard work to care for our animals and maintain our farming collection. They do it because they believe it matters – and because they think we might believe it matters too. They are looking for museum champions to help kick start this project and if you, or anyone you know, are interested in getting involved or want to find out more please do get in touch with the museum.

## 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.

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