

District Council Report 21.09.21

Planning

A recent planning application for a Gas Fired power station in Sudbury was rejected narrowly by committee. The application came before committee with the officer recommending approval for this 'low carbon' transition generator. The report suggested that the officer had taken the agents report as gospel and quoted their report numerous times to support her recommendation. Both the officer and the agent continually referred to Gas as a low carbon option that was required to keep the lights on when renewables weren't available. Both the ward councillors, Clive Arthey and Margaret Maybury and the Parish Council were opposed to the application and Councillor Robert Lindsay attended as an objector. I put forward a proposal to reject the application, while Peter Beer proposed that we approve. Both proposals were tied 5-5 with the Committee chairman rejecting the application with his casting vote.

Parking Strategy Consultation

Babergh and Mid Suffolk's have begun steps to develop a parking strategy. Until the 28th of September residents, businesses and visitors across the districts have an opportunity to help shape these plans. Whether in car parks, outside our homes, on the high street, or at local tourist hotspots. The councils are working with key stakeholders, including Suffolk County Council as the highway's authority, town and parish councils, business groups, as well as local organisations to find the best future solution for everyone. They are also keen to hear the views of individuals via an online questionnaire. Access to this questionnaire is available at the Council website.

Angel Court Hadleigh

The former Angel Court care home in Angel Street, Hadleigh has been converted into 21 new homes, all available as social housing, helping lower income house-hunters find a home of their own. The development, funded by Babergh District Council and Homes England, is a mix of one and two-bedroom flats – offering affordable rent (below market rate) and shared ownership options to residents – as well as adding a further nine homes to Babergh's council housing stock.

Waste vehicles switch to HVO Fuel

Babergh and Mid Suffolk are the first rural UK councils to switch their fleet to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) – slashing carbon emissions by up to 90% and supporting the councils' carbon neutral aims. Its 35 waste lorries are the first to transfer and will be followed by its smaller public realm and housing services vehicles. The fuel will also support a circular economy, as the certified sustainable HVO fuel is solely produced from waste cooking oil.

Afghan refugees

On Wednesday 18 August, the Government announced its new resettlement scheme for Afghan refugees. Whilst the full details are yet to be confirmed, it is crystal clear that the Government needs local authorities everywhere to step up and support this national effort.

All councils in Suffolk are committed to this cause. In the coming days and weeks, the district, borough, and county councils will continue working with the Government to do what we can to aid vulnerable refugees.

Local Energy Showcase will champion green businesses

The Local Energy Showcase, organised by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, will promote how different types of energy can be used by communities and businesses help reduce their impact on the environment, lower costs and contribute to the fight against climate change.

The event, which takes place on the 21st and 22nd October at Wherstead Park, is open to all businesses with an interest in finding out more about local energy solutions and as well as community groups and parishes who would like to understand and explore the benefits of using local energy solutions.

Babergh agrees funding to identify wildlife corridors

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have given the green light for £72k - £32,849 and £38,678 respectively - to go towards biodiversity mapping and a tree canopy survey across both districts. The work is based on outline costs agreed as part of the councils' Biodiversity Action Plan. The mapping will determine suitable locations for tree and hedge planting and identify wildlife habitats and local green spaces.