

## DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT FOR NEDGING AND NAUGHTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

### **Babergh Council Elections**

I am delighted to have won the Babergh council elections in the ward of South East Cosford and I look forward to working with the Nedging and Naughton parish council and village community for the next four years.

South East Cosford ward had the highest turn out of any ward in Babergh and the second highest turn out in Suffolk with 55% of people voting, which shows that there is still a healthy interest in local democracy here.

The results across Babergh could be transformational. The Conservatives now have 15 councillors and other political groups have 17, which means the Conservatives no longer have a majority.

The second largest group is the Independents with 8 councillors, the Greens including myself with four councillors, LibDems with 3 and Labour with 2.

Babergh council used to run with a committee system of governance which involved councillors from all parties by proportion to the size of their groups in decision making. When the Conservatives won their first majority in 2015, they moved to a cabinet system with the leader choosing his or her own cabinet. By law this cannot be changed for five years.

So however the administration is eventually made up – and negotiations are ongoing – we will have to have a cabinet system for at least the next three years.

The leader and his or her cabinet will be voted on by the whole council at its first annual meeting on May 22.

On a personal level I have lived in Bildeston for the last 15 years with my wife. We moved up, from our childhood home in South Essex, back in early 2004. I moved up to follow work and it was the best move we could have made. From the very moment we moved up here we fell in love with the whole area and still do to this day. It will now be an honour to represent the residents of the area to the best of my ability to maintain the communities we love.

### **Leigh Jamieson**

District Councillor – South East Cosford

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