

January Newsletter

Car Parking Charges

The Cabinet were due to make a decision on the implementation of Car Parking charges across the district on the 7th January. Following public outcry and the submission of a valid petition, this matter has now been deferred until the February Cabinet meeting. This allows members to debate the decision at both Overview and Scrutiny on the 18th January and at Full Council, the following day. Although members will not have a vote on the final decision, other than as part of the wider budget review, residents feelings can now be fully discussed prior to Cabinet.

The main charges causing concern are –

Sudbury Main car parks	
30mins	Free
1Hour	50p
2hours	£1
3hours	£2
Hadleigh Main Car Parks	
30mins	Free
3hours	£1

Vehicle Fleet

Cabinet have agreed to move to using HVO as a replacement for conventional diesel in the Council vehicle fleet. This is a cleaner, less polluting fuel and results in reducing the councils CO2 emissions by 900 tonnes a year. This represents 26% reduction of the Councils total emissions.

The Council will now procure a supplier for the provision of HVO fuel and the supply and installation of a fuel tank at Chilton Depot, Sudbury. The storage tank will cost the Council approx. £50K but will be the only expense. HVO is an alternative way to produce high-quality bio-type diesel fuels without altering the vehicles themselves. These fuels are colloquially referred to as “renewable diesel fuels” instead of “biodiesel”.

Precept Survey

Last year the government gave PCCs the ability to raise the policing element of the precept by up to £15 per annum for a Band D property for the next financial year.

Suffolk’s PCC, Tim Passmore, is proposing to use this maximum increase. If the plans go ahead, it is said that this extra funding will provide n the region of 70 additional police officers recruited to the force in the next financial year. A survey to gauge the public response to his proposal opened on the 5th January and closes on the 28th.

Fees and Charges 2021/22

The 2021/22 schedule for fees and charges was agreed at Cabinet on the 7th. Fees and charges are an important source of income to the Council, enabling important services to be sustained and provided. In 2021/22 Babergh’s fees and charges are budgeted at £4.0m, which is 12% of the Councils gross expenditure.

In addition to the proposed parking charges mentioned above other key changes/increases relate to licensing, the green environment (bins and dog bins) and household waste.