

## **News and information from Jane Gould, Babergh District Councillor, to the Parish Councils and residents in Orwell Ward**

**November 2021**

### **Ward News**

I'm pleased to be able to report that Wherstead Parish Council have just received some locality funding from my grant fund for a much needed drainage project, good luck with overseeing this work to all at Wherstead. Congratulations also to Chelmondiston Parish Council who are progressing well with their Neighbourhood Plan. It's a large piece of work but you'll find it well worth it as it gives weight to what communities would like in their parishes.

### **District Council News**

Cllr Liz Malvisi has left the Conservative group and joined the Independents. Cllr John Ward, leader of Babergh DC, has created two extra seats on his cabinet and the finance portfolio that John used to hold has gone to Cllr Simon Barrett. Cllr Malvisi's portfolio has been divided with Climate Change going to Cllr Sian Dawson and Cllr Malvisi keeping Bio Diversity and Environment. At the start of the process of reshuffling the cabinet Cllr Ward offered the Environment and Biodiversity portfolio to the Green group but it would appear that political infighting caused the embarrassing situation of the offer being rescinded.

### **Focus on youth**

Below are details of a virtual mini conference which young people and those who work with them, in your parishes might be interested in attending.

#### **17 November 2021: 2-5pm**

It is with great pleasure that on behalf of Cllr. Andrew Reid, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Public Protection and Communities, I invite you all to a virtual mini conference focussed around the challenges and issues of rural youth work. Given the rurality of Suffolk as a County, we know that our young people face some unique challenges; lack of places to go with friends, poor transportation links and social isolation to name but a few. The impact of the pandemic on young people has also had a great bearing on their mental health, adding to the

complexities of nurturing a thriving next generation. Through this event, we hope to give some time and space for conversations that may lead to tackling some of these challenges and developing opportunities for young people. Our event comes just ahead of #Iwill week, empowering young people to shape and lead change, and we hope the conversations here grow in to co-production with those young minds in our rural communities to find solutions. We are very pleased to welcome a speaker from the National Youth Agency who will reflect on their recent report 'Overlooked: Young people and rural youth services'. This event has been made possible through Suffolk 2020 funding and the delivery of the Youth Focus Suffolk programme. Please do share the invitation across your own parishes, as we are particularly keen to engage local groups and individuals who are interested in building capacity and being part of the solution for some of these challenges. To secure your free place, contact Community Action Suffolk. Booking closes 9am on 10 November.

Best regards,

**Deborah Sage**

Project Manager | Communities Team

Public Health and Communities | Suffolk County Council

**A Tree for Life scheme in Babergh and Mid Suffolk which offers a free tree for new parents, is open for 2021 applications.**

Time has flown by and it is time to promote the Tree For Life scheme for 2021. The scheme is open to all families in the districts who have or are welcoming a new arrival between 1 January and 31 December 2021. Parents who may have lost a child during the same period are also able to apply for a remembrance tree. The initiative offers parents with a new born or newly adopted child the chance to mark their arrival by planting a tree. It aims to benefit families, communities and the environment by boosting tree coverage across the district.

So far the councils have given out over a thousand trees through Tree for Life, with 2020 applicants collecting their trees last month following a necessary

delay to allow the council to prioritise essential services during the pandemic. Expert help is always on hand on collection to advise families on their tree choice and aftercare at home. Also open to those without a garden, a selection of the trees continue to be planted at key locations in the districts including Needham Lake, Shotley Golden Wood, Broom Hill in Hadleigh, Gallowsfield Wood in Haughley and Sproughton Millennium Green. Over 100 families have already applied to the 2021 scheme, but the councils are encouraging even more people to apply for their tree on the councils' website before the 10 January 2022 deadline.

### **Covid situation locally**

Suffolk is to receive extra resources to fight Covid-19, having been confirmed as an 'enhanced response area' (ERA) amid increasing pressure on our hospitals and high rates of infection. A request for additional support was submitted last week by Public Health Suffolk - on behalf of public sector partners and is intended to secure in additional support, funding and resources to help the NHS avoid unsustainable pressure.

Suffolk now becomes an ERA from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November for up to five weeks, and additional support will include:

- Support for the vaccination efforts by extending opening hours and creating pop up vaccination clinic within our communities
- Help to coordinate on the ground door knocking campaigns
- Help to reduce transmission in schools with increased testing and additional temporary powers
- Funding for Covid-19 awareness raising communications and advertising.

This does not, however, mean any additional restrictions on people's movements or actions. It is not a lockdown or like the tiering system that was trialled in England in 2020. Instead, it will boost the county's ability to raise awareness, tackle outbreaks and encourage people to get vaccinated.

## **COP 26**

The UN climate change conference, COP 26, gets under way in Glasgow this weekend. While world leaders meet to discuss how they plan to tackle the climate crisis, we will be taking the opportunity to help spread environmental messages on our own social media channels.

## **Show your support for White Ribbon Day**

White Ribbon Day takes place annually on 25 November, providing opportunity for people to stand up, speak out and say no to violence against women. This year's leading message is #AllMenCan following the tragic murder of Sarah Everard bringing male violence to the forefront of everyone's minds and starting conversations about men taking action and making a stand. As such, there is an ask for as many men as possible to make the White Ribbon Promise to never commit, excuse or remain silent about male violence against women. We will be working with partners to support the campaign but would appreciate your help with promoting this in your communities please.

## **Looking after our residents' wellbeing**

We're partnering with other Suffolk councils and voluntary organisations to hold free online Zoom sessions to support our residents' wellbeing. There's something for everyone in the sessions which will be held over the next two months as part of Keep Learning element of the Five Ways to Wellbeing. Events include mental health advice from Suffolk Mind, a OneLife Suffolk session on the effects of physical activity on mental wellbeing, Christmas crafting with Girlguiding Anglia and information about woodland walking and outdoor activities from the Green Light Trust. Please share information about the sessions with anyone you know who may find these beneficial.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any issues that you think I can help with and all the very best to you all.

Jane Gould

Babergh District Councillor, Orwell ward, [Jane.gould@babergh.gov.uk](mailto:Jane.gould@babergh.gov.uk)

01473 328147, 07548 153777

