

### MINUTES

#### TATTINGSTONE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 09 May 2022, 7.30pm held at Tattingstone Village Hall

**PRESENT:** Cllrs S Clark, D Hawes, G Mark, A Mendel, S Tweedy

**CHAIRPERSON:** Cllr D Wood

**IN ATTENDANCE:** S Keys (Clerk), and County Cllr Simon Harley, District Cllr Jane Gould and 8 members of the public

<p><b>01. WELCOME AND OPENING STATEMENT</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed Councillors and public to the meeting. The Chair read a statement that outlined procedures for filming or recording during the meeting.</p>
<p><b>02. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON 2022-23</b></p> <p>Cllr Mendel proposed Cllr Wood as Chairperson. This was seconded by Cllr Hawes and aif. Cllr Wood was therefore duly elected. Having been elected to the office of Chairperson, Cllr Wood signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairperson, this was witnessed by the Clerk.</p>
<p><b>03. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON 2022-23</b></p> <p>Cllr Wood proposed Cllr Mendel as Vice-Chairperson. This was seconded by Cllr Tweedy and aif. Cllr Mendel was therefore duly elected. Having been elected to the office of Vice-Chairperson, Cllr Mendel signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairperson, this was witnessed by the Clerk.</p>
<p><b>04. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b></p> <p>The Council noted the apologies received from Cllrs D Clarke, S Page, and PWillis. Cllr Mendel proposed that the apologies were approved, this was seconded by Cllr Clark and aif.</p> <p>The Council also noted the apologies received from Cllr Gould.</p>
<p><b>05. DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND LOCAL NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS</b></p> <p>a) To receive declaration of pecuniary and local non-pecuniary interest(s) in items on the agenda and their nature inc. gifts of hospitality exceeding £25 – Cllr Mendel noted a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 11 (5 Chedworth Place) and agreed to abstain from the discussion and any vote taken at this point.</p> <p>b) To receive requests for dispensations – none received.</p>
<p><b>06. PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES</b></p> <p>a) To consider and approve the minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting on 04 April 2022 – Cllr Clark proposed that the minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting, this was seconded by Cllr Mendel and aif. The Chair signed the paper copy of the minutes.</p>
<p><b>07. CLERK'S REPORT</b></p> <p>a) To receive an update on actions from the last meeting:</p> <p>09 (Mar 2022) - Arrange for football nets to be given to local resident for use at village playing field - <i>The Chair confirmed that he had spoken to the football club and hoped that these would be passed over to the local resident in the near future.</i></p> <p>06 - Review posts left from Noticeboard at Wheatsheaf - <i>The Chair to send pictures of the posts to the Clerk</i></p> <p>06 - Send s.106 information to playing fields committee and Jane Gould - <i>Completed</i></p> <p>09 - Send a response to local resident's concerns - <i>Completed</i></p> <p>09 - Send CIL information to the VH Committee re: roof - <i>completed</i></p> <p>13 - Review CEP created by Peter Clark and update where necessary – <i>to be completed</i></p> <p>14 - Email Highways England re: concerns about diversion along the A137 – <i>completed. Response included in correspondence.</i></p> <p>b) To receive a report on any other issues from the Clerk – the Clerk reported on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Paperwork for audit underway</li><li>• Issues continue due to the lack of access to the bank accounts</li></ul> <p>c) To consider/agree next steps as necessary – arrange a meeting at the bank with Cllr Wood and Mendel</p>
<p><b>08. PUBLIC SESSION</b></p>

A written report had been submitted from Cllr. Harley (available as Appendix C). Cllr Harley asked councillors for any questions:

- Cllr Mendel queried whether it had been made clear that any bids for the Bus Back Better scheme should be imaginative. Cllr Harley confirmed that feedback indicated that the SCC bid was simply not ambitious enough
- Cllr Clark thanked Cllr Harley for the dates of the overnight diversions along the A137
- Cllr Harley confirmed that he will be attending the site meeting at Folly Farm to discuss their planning application.

A written report had been submitted from Cllr. Gould (available as Appendix D).

Members of the public highlighted the following:

- Concerns about the proposed plans at Folly Farm which will be moving the space closer to residential areas
- Parking opposite the junction by the Church and School. **ACTION** – Clerk to send a letter to the school and SCC highlighting concerns about this.
- Query about whether double yellow lines should be considered for this area. Cllr Wood confirmed that village residents had already confirmed that they did not want double yellow lines in the village.

### 09. STATUTORY BUSINESS

- To re-confirm the appointment of the RFO – Cllr Wood proposed that SKeys be re-appointed as the RFO for 2022/23, this was seconded by Cllr Mendel and aif.
- To elect a Village Hall and Playing Field representative – Cllr Clark proposed that Cllr Tweedy be appointed as the VH and Playing Field representative, this was seconded by Cllr Marks and aif.
- To elect a SALC representative – the Council agreed that this role should be undertaken on an ad hoc basis.
- To review and adopt the TPC Standing Orders and Financial Regulations – Cllr Mendel proposed that these were adopted by the Parish Council, this was seconded by Cllr Clark and aif.
- To re-confirm the adoption of the Suffolk Code of Conduct (appendix A of the Standing Orders) – Cllr Clark proposed that the Suffolk Code of Conduct was adopted, this was seconded by Cllr Mendel and aif.
- To review and adopt the TPC Statutory Documents including the Asset Register, Risk Register and Internal Controls policy – Cllr Marks proposed that these documents were approved and adopted by the Council, this was seconded by Cllr Mendel and aif.

### 10. FINANCE REPORT

- To note and approve the balance of accounts as at 30 April 2022 -The Clerk reported the following balances as at 30 April 2021:
  - Current Account - £42,283.80
  - Savings Account - £3,183.64Cllr Wood proposed that the balance of accounts were approved, this was seconded by Cllr Mendel and aif.
- The Council noted Appendix A circulated by the Clerk which detailed the accounts awaiting payment, the accounts paid since the last meeting and the receipts allocated since the last meeting. Cllr Wood proposed that Appendix A was approved by the Council, this was seconded by Cllr Mendel and aif.
- To receive the Draft Statement of Accounts as at 31 March 2022 as circulated by the Clerk – Cllr Clark proposed that the Draft Statement of Accounts should be approved by the Council, this was seconded by Cllr Hawes and aif.
- To review the Council's expenditure of CIL for the Financial year 2021-22 and note the amount of unspent CIL – Cllr Mendel proposed that the CIL information circulated by the Clerk should be approved by the Council, this was seconded by Cllr Clark and aif.

### 11. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND DECISION NOTICES

- To review planning applications received and to agree response from TPC as appropriate:
  - SCC/0027/22B/SCREEN  
Folly Farm Quarry, Tattingstone, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP9 2NY  
EIA Screening and Scoping request for a proposed eastern extension to Folly Farm Quarry for the extraction, processing, sale and distribution of sand and gravel and subsequent restoration using inert materials  
*The Council noted that Cllrs Wood and Clark would attend the consultation meeting to be held on 10 May 2022 on behalf of the Council and provide feedback at the next meeting.*
  - APP/D3505/Y/21/3285665  
5 Chedworth Place, Tattingstone, Suffolk, IP9 2<sup>ND</sup>

Erection of a single-storey rear enclosed porch extension - *The Council noted that this is a listed building and an extension of this type would be out of keeping with the building.*

- DC/22/01377

Application for Listed Building Consent - Park Cottage, 23 Church Road, Tattingstone, IP9 2NA

Erection of side and rear extensions and rebuilding of no. 24 along with associated internal works. Erection of cartlodge building and associated works - *The Parish Council made no comment.*

- DC/22/01341

Park Cottage, 23 Church Road, Tattingstone, Suffolk IP9 2NA

Erection of side and rear extensions and rebuilding of no. 24 along with associated internal works. Erection of cartlodge building and associated works - *The Parish Council made no comment.*

- b) To note any planning decisions received

DC/22/00818

Land South Of The Rose House, The Heath, Tattingstone, IP9 2LX

Application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 - Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) of Reserved Matters Approval DC/21/03637 dated: 23/09/21 (Outline Planning Permission DC/19/02617 - Erection of 4no dwellings and vehicular access.) - To allow change of roof tiles.

### 12. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reviewed the correspondence that had been received in April 2022 (copies had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting). Councillors noted the following:

- Email from local resident re lorries on A137 – The Council discussed the issues currently being experienced by local residents. The Clerk highlighted the recent Lorry Route Map Review that had taken place in Suffolk and queried whether TPC had contributed to the consultation. **ACTION** - Following discussion the Clerk agreed to find out if the consultation was still open and re-send to Councillors.
- Email from Eastern Region National Highways re: diversion along A137 – the Council noted the email received and queried when the signs would be in place. **ACTION** – Clerk to find out when these signs will be put up.
- Email from Suffolk Highways re: diversion along A137 for information
- Email from Shotley Holdings re: site meeting for information
- Email of thanks from previous Clerk for information.
- Email from local resident re: tree planting for Queen’s Jubilee – The Council agreed that this should be reviewed again in September.

### 13. TRAFFIC ISSUES ON THE HEATH

- a) To review current traffic issues experienced along the Heath – Cllrs highlighted concerns about manhole covers and noise disruption. A resident informed the Council that concerns had been raised about the manhole covers but that SCC had confirmed that these were fit for traffic.
- b) To consider/agree next steps as necessary – **ACTION** – Clerk to write to Suffolk Highways highlighting concerns about the manhole covers along the A137 in Tattingstone.

### 14. VILLAGE HALL GOVERNANCE

- a) To highlight concerns about the governance processes for the VH Committee – Cllr Hawes highlighted concerns about the running of the Village Hall including:
- Deciding on priorities – how does this happen?
  - Upkeep of the hall including noticeboard, storage of tables which is now arduous for hall hirers, decision making about possibility of a shop at the Village Hall and car parking.
- Cllr Wood informed the Council that any points that the Parish Council would like to make should be raised through the Parish Council rep or at the Village Hall AGM which will be held on 17 May 2022.
- Cllr Wood reviewed the process for electing members of the Committee and the requirements for meeting structures through the year.
- b) To consider/agree Parish Council next steps as appropriate - **ACTION** – following discussion it was agreed that Cllr Tweedy would highlight the concerns raised at the next VH Committee meeting. **ACTION** – Clerk to add that dates of meetings open to the public should be added to the Parish Council website.

### 15. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON PROPOSED VILLAGE SHOP

- a) To receive an update on the proposed village shop - Cllr Hawes gave the following update:

- PCC have confirmed that they are still supportive of the shop/café project
- The results of the Neighbourhood Plan in relation to the Village Shop are as follows:  
“A community shop inside St. Mary’s would help the sustain the church and benefit the wider community”
  - Strongly agree 32.57%
  - Agree 33.33%
  - Disagree 10.34%
  - Strongly disagree 13.03%
  - No opinion 10.73%
- Following objections raised by some residents and the petition that was circulated some Committee members have concerns about the project
- The steering group is now split and there is nervousness about the project and it therefore seems likely that it will not progress further.
- Cllr Clark argued strongly that in her opinion the democratic opinion should not be overruled by a vocal minority and that the issue should be kept alive.

### **16. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE TATTLER**

a) To receive an update on The Tattler - Cllr Hawes gave the following update:

- The initial outcome of the Neighbourhood Plan suggests that residents value The Tattler.
- Print changeover went well
- It is still difficult to get new advertisers on board
- No formal responses to the request for sponsorship.

Councillor Wood informed the Council that he had received an offer of sponsorship

b) To agree any next steps as necessary - Cllr Wood and Hawes agreed to visit the potential sponsor over the next few weeks.

### **17. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

a) To receive an update on progress of the Tattlingstone Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Mendel gave the following update:

- The consultation is now closed. 282 responses were received.
- Statistical feedback has now been received and there will be a meeting to pull out the key points soon.
- Analysis of the results will then determine the next steps necessary

Cllr Mendel thanked Cllr Hawes for all her help to input the data from paper responses. Cllr Wood extended his thanks on behalf of the Parish Council to Cllr Mendel and Hawes for all of their hard work.

b) To consider/agree any next steps as necessary – to provide an update at the next meeting.

### **18. COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN**

a) To receive an update on any Community Emergency Plan – Cllr Wood requested that this item be carried over to the next meeting.

b) To consider/agree proposals to create/update the CEP as necessary – carried over to following meeting

### **19. ANY OTHER URGENT VILLAGE MATTERS**

a) To consider any other urgent village matters – Cllr Wood provided an overview of the planned Jubilee celebrations in June but noted that to date he had received no offers of support for the day and no indication of attendees for the events. Cllr Wood confirmed that he would review progress and attendance in the week before the event and make a decision about whether to go ahead at that point.

Cllr Hawes queried who was responsible for the compost bin the the Church Graveyard since this needs to be changed or removed. Cllr Wood highlighted the appropriate bin to use for this purpose.

### **20. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Monday 06 June 2022, 7.30pm at Tattlingstone Village Hall

**Meeting closed at 9.17pm**

SIGNED.....DATED.....

## ACTIONS

MINUTE NO.	ACTION	WHO
09 (Mar 2022)	Arrange for football nets to be given to local resident for use at village playing field	Chair
06 (April 2022)	Review posts left from Noticeboard at Wheatsheaf	Chair
13 (April 2022)	Review CEP created by Peter Clark and update where necessary	DW & SP
06	Send letter to SCC and Tattingstone School re: parking issues	Clerk
12	Send details of Lorry Route Map Review to Councillors	Clerk
12	Find out when speed signs will be erected in Tattingstone	Clerk
14	Highlight concerns about VH governance at the next VH Meeting	ST
14	Ask VH Committee to add details of VH meetings to the Parish Council website	Clerk

## Appendix A – Finance Report

<b>ACCOUNTS TO BE AGREED FOR PAYMENT</b>	<b>Chq no.</b>	<b>NET</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Powers Used</b>
S. Keys (April 2022 salary - £296.37 March 2022 expenses - £9.00)	101404	£305.37		£305.37	LGA 1972
Suffolk County Council (Charges associated with SID posts)	101405	£380.00		£380.00	Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, s.72(1)
A Mendel (reimbursement for previous Clerk's gift)	101406	£100.00		£100.00	General Power of Competence
D. Childs (Installation of dog litter bin – The Heath)	101407	£50.00		£50.00	Litter Act 1983, ss.5,6

<b>RECEIPTS RECEIVED SINCE THE LAST MEETING</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Bank Interest	£TBC
11.03.22 Groundwork UK	£2840.00
March 2022 – Allotment receipts	£33.68

## Appendix B - Glossary of Common Abbreviations used

<b>Aif</b>	<b>All in favour</b>
<b>AGAR</b>	<b>Annual Governance and Accountability Return</b>
<b>APM</b>	<b>Annual Parish Meeting</b>
<b>ASB</b>	<b>Anti-social Behaviour</b>
<b>BACS</b>	<b>Bankers Automated Clearing Services</b>
<b>BDC</b>	<b>Babergh District Council</b>
<b>BMSDC</b>	<b>Babergh &amp; Mid Suffolk District Council</b>
<b>CAS</b>	<b>Community Action Suffolk</b>
<b>Chq</b>	<b>Cheque</b>
<b>Cllr</b>	<b>Councillor</b>
<b>Cttee</b>	<b>Committee</b>
<b>DC</b>	<b>District Council</b>
<b>DCLG</b>	<b>Department of Communities and Local Government</b>
<b>FOI</b>	<b>Freedom of Information</b>
<b>FR</b>	<b>Financial Regulations</b>
<b>GPoC</b>	<b>General Power of Competence</b>
<b>HMRC</b>	<b>Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs</b>
<b>LAIS (from SALC)</b>	<b>Local Association's Information Services</b>
<b>LPA</b>	<b>Local Planning Authority</b>
<b>NHS</b>	<b>National Health Service</b>
<b>NDP</b>	<b>Neighbourhood Development Plan</b>
<b>NP</b>	<b>Neighbourhood Plan</b>
<b>PC</b>	<b>Parish Council</b>
<b>PCSO</b>	<b>Police Community Support Officer</b>
<b>Rec</b>	<b>Recreation</b>
<b>RFO</b>	<b>Responsible Finance Officer</b>
<b>SALC</b>	<b>Suffolk Association of Local Councils</b>
<b>SCC</b>	<b>Suffolk County Council</b>
<b>SID</b>	<b>Speed Indicator Device</b>
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Service Level Agreement</b>
<b>SNT</b>	<b>Safer Neighbourhood Team</b>
<b>SO</b>	<b>Standing Order</b>
<b>TPC</b>	<b>Tattinstone Parish Council</b>
<b>TPF</b>	<b>Tattinstone Playing Field</b>
<b>TVH</b>	<b>Tattinstone Village Hall</b>
<b>TPO</b>	<b>Tree Preservation Order</b>
<b>VAS</b>	<b>Vehicle Activated Sign</b>
<b>VCSE</b>	<b>Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Organisations</b>



## APPENDIX C



### Report for May 2022 to the Parish Councils of Peninsula

#### 1) No Government Funding for Bus Back Better

The Department for Transport have confirmed Suffolk County Council will not receive any funding for their Bus Back Better strategy. The strategy was aimed to improve and expand bus services in Suffolk, connecting rural areas to local and important towns, as well as reduce carbon emissions in line with the goal to become net zero by 2050.

Central government confirmed that any bids that failed did not show enough ambition. We as a group have criticised the Conservatives at Suffolk County Council since the strategy was announced for playing it safe. Suffolk has paid the price for this.

We will continue to hold the Conservatives to account on their policies, and push for a bus service that helps local, rural communities stay connected with Suffolk.

#### 2) Cabinet Meeting 26th April

The Cabinet met to discuss Suffolk County Council's Post-16 Travel Policy for 2022-23. The policy outlines all the support offered to those who struggle to afford the travel sending their child to education, training, or an apprenticeship. The Cabinet voted to freeze the increase in costs to parents/guardians, meaning the price remains at £930 per year for a Mainstream Seat, and £750 for a Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Seat.

Our Group welcomed the cap on travel costs, but asked the Council to lobby government to provide adequate funding for post-16 travel - especially when it was this government's decision to raise the mandatory age of education from 16 to 18.

The Cabinet discussed the positive report Suffolk County Council received from Ofsted's inspection into Care Leaver services. The report showed that Care Leavers were prioritised by the Council and successfully helped them transition to independence. The report highlighted emotional well-being as a point for improvement. Our Group will ensure the Council are held to account over their future action plan.

The Cabinet also discussed the 'Ipswich Garden Suburb' development. This is an Ipswich Borough Council project to develop more than 1,000 houses in North Ipswich, including a new primary and secondary school. As a consultee, Suffolk County Council voted to not endorse the plans. The project did not prioritise cycling/walking, did not mitigate sufficiently its effect on biodiversity, and failed to submit sufficient drainage that wouldn't increase flood risk or pollution.

#### 3) County Deal – Key Communications

Back in February, Suffolk was announced as one of nine county areas to be invited to negotiate a County Deal – a deal that would see Suffolk have more control over decisions in transport, education, skills, housing, and planning. The Conservatives announced Suffolk would be pursuing a deal without the recommendation of a Mayor. Our Group agrees with this position.

The Council has confirmed that discussions with ministers are expected soon, and they will be responding with their expectations of what Suffolk would achieve in terms of the government's Levelling-up strategy.

The Conservatives have confirmed they will work with all partners, including our Group, and so we will ensure that we help secure the best possible County Deal for Suffolk residents.

Date: 4/5/22

Email: [simon.harley@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:simon.harley@suffolk.gov.uk)

#### **4) Roadworks on A12 and diversions on A137- (I have had a lot of emails about this so am repeating from last month)**

I attended a presentation by National Highways (who are responsible for the major routes).

They are planning roadworks to replace barriers and resurface A12 between Colchester and Dedham and one of the diversions planned is the A137 from Colchester to Wherstead which will have a major impact on my Division. They assure me these will be night-time roadworks only and will avoid weekends and bank holidays.

Southbound roadworks are planned 4-8 April; 8-15 July; 21 July to 25 Aug

Northbound roadworks are planned 11-14 April; 26 June to 8 July; 15-21 July; 25 Aug – 2 September

Both north and southbound: 19/4/22-26/4/22

I have emphasised the existing problems of congestion on A137 and unsuitability as a route for heavy traffic and also conveyed the complaints I have had about the recent very poor signage about roadworks at Junction 56 of A14 (Wherstead) and they have promised to improve communications and signage. They also promise that the diversions will not take place at the same time as the junction slipway closures at J56 of A14 as that will clearly lead to even more problems for drivers.

Please let me know if there are any more concerns about these works, or you can contact National

Highways Customer Contact Centre:

National Highways Contact Details:

Email: [info@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:info@nationalhighways.co.uk)

Tel: 0300 123 5000

Website: <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-work/east/>

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**Instagram (New!)** - [https://www.instagram.com/suffolkgli\\_group/](https://www.instagram.com/suffolkgli_group/)

**Website** - [Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group – The GLI Group at Suffolk County Council \(suffolkgli.wordpress.com\)](#)

## APPENDIX D

### News and information from Jane Gould, Babergh District Councillor, to the Parish Councils and residents in Orwell Ward May 2022

#### Ward news

I'm sure you're all busy in your villages preparing for the annual meetings; I will get to as many as I possibly can, this report is for your annual meetings as well as your regular Parish Council meetings. I have a new allocation of locality funds so if you have any parish projects you think I can help you with from my budget please let me know; I'm delighted to say that I allocated all of last years'.

#### Babergh Cabinet

On a personal note, I was pleased to be offered a seat on Babergh District Council Cabinet and have agreed to be the portfolio holder for Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Travel. This is the first time a cabinet post has been held by a Green Party Councillor so I look forward to working with the officers and other cabinet members for the last year of this administration. I am, as ever, still available to residents in Orwell Ward for any local issues you may need help and support with. The east of the region is now represented on Cabinet by four of our Ward Councillors, myself, Mary McLaren, Dave Busby and Alastair McCraw. The new cabinet which was announced this week now looks like this-

- Cllr John Ward (Ind Con), leader and cabinet member for Economic Development
- Cllr Clive Arthey (Ind), deputy leader and cabinet member for Planning
- Cllr Dave Busby (Lib Dem), cabinet member for Finance, Assets and Investments
- Cllr Jane Gould (Green), cabinet member for Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Transport
- Cllr Liz Malvisi (Ind), cabinet member for Environment
- Cllr Alastair McCraw (Ind), cabinet member for Customers, Digital Transformation & Improvement
- Cllr Mary McLaren (Ind Con), cabinet member for Communities & Wellbeing
- Cllr Jan Osborne (Ind Con), cabinet member for Housing Subsequent changes will be required to the makeup of all committees and there will be an update following Full Council later this month.

#### Compost giveaways

The waste team are running some compost giveaway events. Residents can head along to an event to claim two bags of free compost per vehicle, so they can grow delicious veggies and plants at home, supporting our biodiversity, and climate change ambitions by helping to tackle food waste.

- Saturday 7 May - 9am -12pm - Eye Community Centre, Magdalen Street, Eye
- Sunday 8 May - 9am- 12pm - Morrisons Car Park, Hadleigh

#### Community buildings

This information was in my newsletter last month but I thought it worth repeating; towns and parishes are being encouraged to sign up to a new initiative by Community Action Suffolk, capturing community buildings and village halls across Suffolk. The new website will showcase available facilities as well as putting village hall committees in touch with each other to share ideas and support, this initiative might be useful to those of you who are working with community buildings in your parishes, it can feel quite lonely sometimes and the chance to network with others in the same position can be a good thing.

#### Women's Tour

This month saw the full route for this year's Women's Tour revealed, which will travel through Babergh and Mid Suffolk districts on Monday 6 June. Some of the locations the world-class riders will race through include: Cattawade, Brantham, Holbrook, Stutton, Wherstead, Tattingstone, Capel St Mary, Bentley, Hadleigh, Bildeston , Stowmarket, Needham Market, Monks Eleigh, Brent Eleigh, Lavenham, Cockfield (home of the Cockfield Normans).

Our communities team are encouraging community and cycling groups and schools along the route to show their support on the day. Please do also encourage your local residents to get involved and give the riders a cheer when they race through in June.

### **Rent increase notification letter error**

Council rents are annually reviewed in April in line with central Government rent policy, and we are required to give our tenants 28 days' notice in writing. This year a 4.1% increase was agreed at the February council meetings from 4 April 2022. Unfortunately, we were advised by the mailing company on 11th April that due to an error on their part, 1050 Babergh tenants and 1334 Mid Suffolk tenants did not receive their rent increase notices. There is a financial impact for the Councils due to this error as we will not have been able to increase the rent for the affected tenancies, resulting in a loss of 9 weeks of the 4.1% increased rent. A letter with the correct notice will be sent to all affected tenants week commencing 2nd May, with the rent increase for them coming into effect on Monday 6th June 2022.

### **New annual resident survey**

We recognise that we need to develop a more strategic approach to our engagement and communications. The need to improve our resident engagement was also identified by the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge that took place in March. One of their recommendations is to deliver an annual resident survey. A resident survey will also help us baseline some of the customer and community measures in our new Outcomes Framework that was agreed in January 2022. The Framework creates the golden thread between the corporate plan, the six strategic priorities and our service plans to ensure we are delivering the right activities for our residents and communities. We want to hear from residents about their personal and community resilience and about how our councils are performing and how we can improve our customer experience. Our new annual resident's survey will enable us to measure some of our short-term outcomes such as resident satisfaction, feeling informed, influence, communication preferences, personal wellbeing, community resilience, and feelings of safety across our districts. The survey, delivered by an external research agency, will be representative across Babergh and Mid Suffolk and at a district level and the results benchmarked where possible. We are using a mixed methods design combining online and telephone responses which is now standard for these types of survey. The agency we are commissioning will approach residents directly to take part in the survey. The sample will be weighted for key groups across both districts. We aim to start fieldwork in June 2022 for two months. Results will then be analysed and shared later in the year through our performance reports. We will also use these results in the end of term performance report in Autumn 2022 and we will share the results across the councils to maximise value from the procurement and to inform improvement.

The approach we are taking is shared across local government with examples of similar surveys from Norfolk, Surrey, Cornwall, and the London Boroughs. It will also be benchmarked to the national survey delivered by the LGA where possible.

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,  
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