

News and information from Jane Gould, Babergh District Councillor, to the Parish Councils and residents in Orwell Ward September 2021

Ward News

I'm pleased that some parishes in Orwell Ward have already asked for some of my locality fund for this year, I'm willing to consider all requests and to point you in the direction of other District Council grants if they are more appropriate for your parish projects. It was good to have a site visit in Belstead this month to see for myself some of the issues on the ground, thanks to David and Richard for giving their time to facilitate this.

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.

Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan approved without targets

In June the Suffolk public sector leaders group agreed to provide £1.5m from business rates to help fund the implementation of its climate emergency plan to get the county of Suffolk to zero emissions by 2030. The list of measures in the newly published plan includes:

- A minimum sustainability standard for workers carrying out public sector contracts
- Retrofit energy efficiency options in homes and public buildings
- Develop incentives for people to adopt heat pumps in their homes
- Upgrade walking and cycling infrastructure on key routes
- Prioritise low-emission freight
- Develop means to utilise waste heat

But other than 2030, there are no timescales or targets set for any of these important actions and the plan has so far been very lightly promoted. The full plan can be seen here www.greensuffolk.org/about/suffolk-climate-change-partnership

Devolution

Public sector leaders in Suffolk have written to the Secretary of State responsible for local government to say they welcome early discussions with Ministers about a possible devolution deal for Suffolk. In a joint letter sent to Rt

