Report to Hadleigh Town Council 21st March 2019

Mr Mayor,

I am pleased to report that although it has been a busy month I have been attentive to the needs of my constituents and have attended various District Council meetings on their behalf.

Corks Lane Planning Committee

The Babergh Planning Committee is coming to The Guild Room at Hadleigh Town Hall on Monday 25 March at 9.30am to discuss the former Babergh District Council offices site planning application for Corks Lane and Bridge Street and associated applications. I presume Town Council has already made arrangements if members wish to speak. It will be a good opportunity for the Hadleigh Community to be present at the meeting and see the planning process in action.

Hadleigh On Show

A working group (of which I am a member) has been set up to organise a big event, Hadleigh On Show, to showcase the many volunteer and social organisations in our town. The Town Hall has been booked for 5th October 2019 and more information will follow.

Babergh adopts budget for 2019/20

At a Council meeting on 19 February, Babergh adopted a budget for the coming year. This includes a Council Tax rise of 3.15% in the district council precept, while maintaining the Council Tax Reduction Scheme that will see the poorest residents pay just 5% of their bill. Council Tax bills are being sent out this month and come into effect on 1 April.

Councils’ Public Database wins prestigious award

A joint Babergh and Mid Suffolk database that is the first of its kind in the country has been awarded the iESE Bronze Award for Transforming Through Technology. The Exacom database, which gives web-users access to data on Developer Contributions, including CIL and S106 payments, for development in Babergh and Mid Suffolk going back to 1974, is the first of its kind in the country with Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils recently designated Pilot Authorities by the software’s developer.

Register to Vote for the Local Elections

On 7th March we held our last Cabinet Meeting and on Tuesday 19th March the last Council Meeting of the Term. After the drama and tensions of some past meetings in the middle of the term, the period closed with feelings of goodwill all round.
With the Local Elections due to be held on 2 May this year, the deadline to register to vote is 12 April. Anyone who has moved into a new house since their last registration must re-register, as well as any new voters in the area. Registration is quick and easy and can be completed online via the Gov.uk website.

**Serial Fly Tipper sentenced to 15 months**

A man found guilty of fly-tipping over 28 tons of commercial and industrial waste in two locations, including Acton, has been sentenced to 15 months imprisonment. Mr Nigel Roberts was caught after a long investigation by Babergh and Mid Suffolk, which included using evidence from GPS tracking data on the waste lorry used in the fly-tipping.

**Conservation Area Appraisals adopted as Planning Guidance**

Following public consultations on a series of Conservation Area Appraisals, Babergh has adopted all three of the documents as Supplementary Planning Guidance. The appraisals, covering the conservation areas in Brent Eleigh, Naughton and Great Waldingfield, recognise the historic importance of the areas they cover and give guidance to those submitting planning applications within the areas in order to protect the heritage of the parishes. The draft appraisals, that have now been adopted, can be found on the Babergh website.

**Changes to Planning Pre-Application Charging agreed**

Babergh’s Cabinet has agreed changes to the charging schedule for pre-application planning advice. Starting from 1 April 2019, the new charging schedule will come into force. A range of charges will apply to different types of development, ensuring homeowners looking to build an extension do not face the same charges as major developers proposing hundreds of new dwellings. Advice available from pre-application enquiries covers a wide range of planning issues, from Highways and Heritage to Ecology and Landscaping advice. The new charges come into force in April.

**Babergh Leader supports call for Government Rural Strategy**

Babergh’s Leader, Cllr John Ward, is supporting the Rural Service Network in their campaign for a new central government strategy to recognise the needs of rural communities and develop a rural strategy. 17% of the UK’s population are in rural communities, and their needs are often not considered in central government decision making when setting financial grants or introducing new policies.

**Searching for Silk Stories**

A new project, funded by Babergh District Council and the National Lottery Heritage Fund, aims to bring Sudbury’s silk heritage to life and show how silk shaped and continues to shape Sudbury. Sudbury Silk Stories is looking for the stories of current and former employees of the town’s silk industry, to record and share the experiences of silk mill staff and create a short film and an archive for the local community and visitors to learn from. Some of these people may now live in Hadleigh, so pass the word round.

Yours sincerely,

Kathryn Grandon
Babergh District Councillor for Hadleigh South