

HADLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

28th May, 2020

Report by District Cllr Dr Siân Dawson Hadleigh North Ward

Communities have now received more than £100,000 in vital funding from Babergh and MSDC helping them to respond to Covid-19.

I acknowledge the key role of community groups, along with town and parish councils, in easing the challenges faced by residents at this time. In recognition of this and financial hardships arising from the pandemic, a new Covid-19 Emerging Needs Grant was set up to provide funding new and existing groups. Grants of up to £2,500 can be applied for to cover increased costs. The grant has a straightforward applications process, allowing applicants to receive funding within weeks and resulting in almost 80 applications being submitted to date. The councils' Grants team has responded to 98% of applicants so far and grants totalling more than £101,250 have already been approved. Included within this figure is over £15,000 of funding for local foodbanks. Grants have also been offered to organisations providing meals on wheels, community information services and mental health outreach programmes.

The crucial work of community groups has been complemented by the Home, But Not Alone service, set up the county-wide Collaborative Communities Board - providing emergency assistance by linking TRIBE volunteers to vulnerable residents with care needs or loneliness. Since its launch at the end of March, the helpline has received over 8,500 calls.

This invaluable support continuing, as the virus and its aftermath remains, is a priority for both councils. Plans are being put in place to cement the community groups and good neighbour schemes created in response to Covid-19, with localities officers from the councils' Communities team aiding with this.

Parish Council Neighbourhood CIL Payment – April 2020

Babergh have made arrangements to transfer £2,677.75. to the Hadleigh Town Council for the neighbourhood portion of CIL receipts received between 1 October 2019 to 31 March 2020.

Angel Court

Pentaco have confirmed that they will be re-commencing works at the above site this week. They will be operating in accordance with government advice.

New Housing Assistance policy to help those in need

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils approved a new Housing Assistance Policy to help residents suffering with a long-term illness adapt their homes. The introduction of the Minor Adaptations Grant offers financial support to enable residents to carry out minor adaptations to their home up to the value of £7,500. Works covered within the new scheme include ramps, bathing/washing facilities, additional heating, stairlifts, key safes and wash/dry toilets.

Funding support for Citizens Advice approved

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils gave the go ahead to support Citizens Advice (CA) with more than £420k. In Babergh, funds of at least £160,500 for Sudbury and District Citizens Advice were approved the green light over a three-year period, equating to £53,500 per annum – on a rolling basis. With this support of longer-term funding, they can continue to deliver a much-needed service, helping the community to thrive and be more self-sufficient.

Councillors set to consider new parking plan

A new Joint Area Parking Management Plan (JAPMP) setting out the blueprint policies to support sustainable parking across Babergh and Mid Suffolk districts will be considered by councillors this month, however due to the latest virus issues this is likely to be delayed.

Aldham Quarry – I have discussed my concerns directly with Babergh Head of Planning who main concern is not the number of moves per week, but the maximum spike of activity in a single period/day that causes maximum disruption to local residents. Currently activity is financially unviable under the present conditions, which include a condition of 8 vehicle moves per day. The operator requested that this be increased to an average of 80 per day over any 4-week period; quarrying work is in phases and stockpiles of washed aggregates would be built up for these periods. This would equate to an additional HGV joining the A1071 at the junction with Aldham Mill Hill every 15 minutes. There are extra noise mitigation schemes being added also, although noise levels are lower than those of the conditions. This application will go through planning at SCC and only go to the Committee if there are several objections. **Please do lodge these as separate letters rather than a petition.**

Gallows Hill – Whilst there has been a lot of discontent with regards to this application, which I know is proving to be controversial. The existing planning expired, and the owner is submitting a further proposal for consideration. However, as the first application was passed

by the Planning Committee, unless there are substantial amendments, Planning advises it would be difficult to see why this proposal would be declined.

Cllr Dr Siân Dawson