

**Kathryn Grandon**

**District Councillor for Hadleigh South**

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### **Report to Hadleigh Town Council 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

Mr Mayor,

May I take this opportunity of congratulating you on your selection as Mayor. I wish you an enjoyable and successful term.

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 virtually attended various District Council meetings on their behalf.

### **Railway Walk Car Park**

The Railway Walk car park has been in a poor state for some time now, with flooding occurring during rain, potholes and the grassed area becoming a mud bath. I have been pressing for a very long time to have this car park looked at. Public Realm and Civil Engineering have now visited the site. A blocked drain was discovered, among other problems. Remedial action will be scheduled for 2021 (the wait due to budgets) to deal with the problems, including resurfacing, fencing and seeding. Parking restrictions will also take place to prevent over-crowding and long-term parking of people not using the Railway Walk.

### **Stickers/Notices at car parks**

In my previous report I said that the confusing stickers that appeared in our car parks were being looked in to. The meeting to deal with this is taking place this week. I hope that the outcome will be new, clearer notices, so that visitors can easily understand that parking for under three hours is free and payment after that can be made following the instructions on the notice. There is also the option of using the system for free parking. I reiterate, that the three hours free parking in Hadleigh car parks remains in place.

### **Extra Ordinary Council Meeting**

Although not yet confirmed, an Extra Ordinary Council Meeting has been called for 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020 to debate the Joint Local Plan. The timetable everybody is

working to is really tight, but this will allow for the statutory consultation before the Christmas break and submission of JLP Reg 19 sooner rather than later. This timing will enable the Councils to be in line with the Local Development Scheme timetable presented to Council in July. The next Babergh District Council Meeting will be as scheduled on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

### **Self-isolation support payments for low-income earners in Ipswich, Babergh and Mid Suffolk**

Residents on low-incomes and unable to work because they have been asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, can now claim a £500 payment to compensate for loss of earnings.

As part of a nationwide Government scheme, residents in Ipswich, Babergh and Mid Suffolk who are on low incomes and are unable to work because they have been told by NHS Test and Trace that they have to self-isolate can now apply for a lump sum payment from their local councils. Money will be paid into their accounts within days of their applications being verified, to relieve immediate financial hardship.

People who receive notification from NHS Test and Trace to self-isolate because they have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19, will be entitled to a £500 support payment if they meet all of the following requirements:

- They comply with the NHS Test and Trace notification to self-isolate
- are employed or self-employed
- are unable to work from home and will lose income as a result
- AND in receipt of one of the following benefits:
  - Universal Credit
  - Working Tax Credit
  - Income-based Employment and Support Allowance
  - Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
  - Income Support
  - Housing Benefit
  - Pension Credit

Discretionary payments may also be available in exceptional circumstances to individuals who meet the main qualifying criteria (i.e. low-income and unable to work because they are self-isolating) but are not in receipt of qualifying benefits and are facing severe financial hardship.

The scheme is being administered on behalf of all three local authorities by the Shared Revenue Partnership – with a fast and simple application form now available on the councils’ websites (see below for links), together with information about how to easily provide evidence required and further details about the scheme.

### **Chairman re-elected to serve a second term**

Babergh District Council has agreed that Councillor Kathryn Grandon will remain Chairman of the Council for 2020/21.

### **Babergh welcomes £100,000 government funding to tackle rough sleeping/homelessness**

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have been awarded £100,000, through the Next Steps Accommodation Programme. This is to help cover the costs of commercial hotels needed to provide accommodation and support during the colder weather.

### **Councillors reach consensus in concerns about changes to the planning system**

At the recent Babergh Council Meeting, Councillors approved a response to the Government’s planning consultation – that proposed changes would not support the council’s ambition to build thriving communities with bright and healthy futures.

### **New in-house public realm service set to pave way for biodiversity ambitions**

Babergh’s cabinet has approved plans which will see the management of public open spaces, playgrounds, and litter bins move in-house, in line with neighbouring Mid Suffolk.

Yours sincerely,

Kathryn Grandon

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