

Kathryn Grandon
District Councillor for Hadleigh South
01473 824489
kathryn.grandon@babergh.gov.uk

Report to the Hadleigh Town Council 16th November 2017

Madam 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.

BABERGH MOVE

The Corks Lane office is now closed and all meetings are now taking place at Endeavour House.

CORKS LANE SITE

A meeting took place on Monday 13th November to present the options for the former Babergh offices. Louise Rawsthorne, Babergh Assistant Director - Investment & Commercial Delivery, led the team which included Ian Winslett, who has been assisting Babergh with property matters for some time now, Purcell Architects & Heritage Consultants and Lawson Planning Partnership.

It was recognised that the Corks Lane site comprised buildings of a special quality, both in terms of the heritage buildings and the 1980s additions (which won architectural awards). Purcell architects explained the constraints of the site, in particular the listed buildings (Grade 2 and 2*) and flood risk. These constraints have led to viability issues. This, coupled with the fact that there was no appetite from developers or potential commercial partners, has meant that some ideas for the site have had to be set aside.

The resulting three options for the site are all residential. Option One retained all existing buildings, Option Two retained some of the 1980 buildings (for example the buildings around the courtyard) and Option Three demolished all the 1980s extensions. The numbers of dwellings (a mix of apartments and new build houses) varied for each option and such numbers are all approximate and subject to change, but would be around 48 for Option One up to around 67 for Option Three. These included building on

the Bridge House/car park site (most of which is a flood zone, so would only include building adjacent to the current Bridge House). Dwellings would be built on the current Babergh car park adjacent to the playground area, but currently the overflow car park owned by Town Council is not part of any plans (which clearly, they cannot be). No buildings will be higher than the current roofs (although they may have three storeys).

Further to Monday's briefing and our feedback, the team will refine their plans to one outline plan to present for consultation.

Next steps are that Babergh Councillors will be briefed 13th December, followed by Town Council being briefed in December. The community will be briefed in January, it will be debated by Full Council in February, to Cabinet in March, prior to a Planning Application. As always intended, the Corks Lane site will not be sitting idle for long.

BOUNDARY REVIEW

As stated at the last Town Council meeting, the Local Government Boundary Commission has proposed that Hadleigh should be a three-Councillor Ward (one of only two such Wards, the other being Great Cornard). The consultation response is to say "It would be preferable to see these areas [i.e Hadleigh and Great Cornard] represented by three single-member wards rather than one three-member ward."

91 BUS TO IPSWICH

I have made (or attempted) countless calls to Beestons regarding the reinstatement of the 9.30am bus. I know so many people are anxious to have this back in operation and I am extremely frustrated too. I have been made many near promises by Beestons directors and asked to phone the next day, but despite trying all day again today, I have been unsuccessful in getting a reply. I will report back as soon as possible with, hopefully, definite good news.

Yours sincerely,

Kathryn Grandon

Babergh District Councillor for Hadleigh South

