

REPORT TO HADLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

July 2018

Councillor Dr Sian Dawson (Hadleigh North)

Brick Works Development by McCarthy & Stone – After the long wait, the developers have commenced digging. The project is now well underway, and I really hope that after all the attention to detail that was put in early development stages, that Hadleigh residents will be rewarded with an outstanding housing scheme on this site. I await to see the avenue of blossom trees and the bridge, which already seems to have been changed, but I am determined that we shall have a quality build that will be an asset to our Town.

Following the planning consent granted last year, construction specialist Mick George has been contracted to complete the necessary demolition stages to enable the build. It will deliver 35 one and two-bedroom apartments, and 29 luxury living, bungalow and cottage style homes, respectively, as well as extensive public-open space and a new footbridge over the river.



Free Parking - You will not be surprised to learn that a joint parking policy (Babergh & MS) is again being discussed. The motion will be presented to the Babergh Cabinet in December 18. If the implementation of parking charges in Babergh is recommended by the Cabinet, I would expect it to be brought to a full Council Meeting before implementation.

Public Access - I am pleased to advise that it has now been agreed that we will have an access point (of some sort) in Hadleigh following the move to Ipswich. No details have yet been provided but a positive outcome to lobbying.

Private Sector Housing - The redraft of the new Local Plan is expected to go before the Cabinet this month with a further public consultation in the summer of 2018. We should not expect to see its implementation before 2020 – not ideal but delayed by the number of comments received on the first draft. The Leader of Babergh DC is pleased to see that more Parishes have decided to develop their own Neighbourhood Plan.

Good news: proposals are now in the pipeline to review the 5-year housing supply every 6 months rather than in the current annual review.

Merger of Babergh & MSDCs - Just a reminder that any consideration of a merger between Babergh & Mid Suffolk is on the back burner for the foreseeable future. The Leader of Babergh DC supports the unitary solution but this will not be offered before 2020. I am not aware of the new Suffolk CC Leader's (Matthew Hicks) position on this matter.

Disposal of Corks Lane Buildings - I hope that you were able to drop in to see one of the presentations that were delivered in Hadleigh to inform Babergh residents of the initial disposal plans for the Corks Lane site. The presentations were not particularly informative, but in a nutshell, it will be for 50+ houses/flats - all privately owned. The project will be considered by the full Babergh Council in June 18 (without a full business plan) and then go before the full Planning Committee in September 18. To sell or develop?

A Vision for Sudbury - The Cabinet approved circulation of a background paper called delivering a Vision for Prosperity in Sudbury, with an Action Plan, on 11th June 18. It's a useful document that brings out the issues and options and it should lead to a much needed "action" rather than more "talking". I mention it here because MS have done it for Stowmarket and I would like to see a similar exercise completed for Hadleigh.

Communication - Our failure to "get the message over" to the electorate (good or bad) has been a concern of mine for the last 3 years. I am pleased to note that the Leader of Babergh DC and his Deputy are now doing "meet the people" Q & A events to try to bridge this gap. The first was held in Sudbury a couple of weeks ago and the most recent was conducted in the Hadleigh Town Hall, on Saturday 9th June 18. Attendance was disappointing but that's probably a reflection of our need to let voters (not just in Hadleigh & Sudbury) know that these events are taking place.

Councillor Dr Sian Dawson