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Report to the Hadleigh Town Council 18th April 2018

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.

HADLEIGH ACCESS POINT

The matter concerning the Hadleigh Access Point went to the Cabinet Meeting last week for discussion. The decision was made to consider several venues and to look at data to help make a decision as to which option best fits the need. It is expected to be a self-help type point, whichever option is chosen.

Babergh is currently reviewing its customer services strategy and while the Hadleigh Access Point is being looked at as part of this paper, it has been specifically agreed that the Hadleigh Access Point will be brought to Cabinet again sooner, rather than later and I am assured that the decision will be made before that paper is published in July (i.e. the decision will be made before July).

REVISED HOUSING STRATEGY

A revised Housing Strategy is being produced. It is intended to be a 'fit for purpose' working document aimed at reviewing all operations in this area. To that end, a workshop was held on 17th April for key stakeholders to have input into the resulting paper. Over 80 delegates attended the workshop from numerous interested groups and voluntary bodies. The Housing Strategy will cover working with the vulnerable, elderly, disabled and other special needs groups and is due to come to Council before the end of the calendar year, hopefully around November.

CORKS LANE

There have been two public consultation exhibitions – yesterday and last week. I attended both for about two hours at each and residents appear to be mostly enthusiastic about the project. A small board concerning Angel Court was also on display. It is hoped that a business case will be drafted this summer to review the business approach to the development. It is anticipated that the application should come to Planning for determination around September this year, agreements made around February 2019 and work ready to commence around May 2019. It is currently envisaged that the concept would comprise 58 units, 48 of which would be apartments.

ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY

Finally, you may be interested in some of the statistics that have been published in the ***Babergh Annual Report Summary (2017/18) & Priorities for 2018/19:***

Community Capacity Building Engagement

- Gainsborough's Chambers gifted to Museum
- Arthur Ransome 80th Anniversary project – supported community led project
- Supported purchase of Shotley Pier
- Supported pre-school children in classical music experience
- 548 residents provided feedback to service areas

Business Growth & Increased Productivity

- 80 Foodservice requests dealt with between Oct – Dec 2017
- Creation of new economic and tourism strategy
- Enterprise zone created in Sproughton
- Authorised and maintained 900 licensed premises, 1,000 temporary events & 350 vehicles

Housing delivery

- Public consultation completed on Joint Local Plan
- 10 day reduction on voids
- 18 affordable homes in Lavenham

Enables & Efficient

- Answered calls up from 74% - 93% (time to answer reduced from 3 mins to 1 min 12 secs)
- Building Control – now fully on line service

- Pre-planning application advice – income £88,000
- Joint Local Plan – over 1,000 responses
- 844 information requests processed

Assets & Investments

- 77 Affordable homes delivered (2015/18)
- Cash invested resulted in £400,000 return for Babergh
- Community Housing Fund - BMSC awarded over £400,000 to invest in community led housing schemes.

Yours sincerely,

Kathryn Grandon

Babergh Member for Hadleigh South