**Report for Brettenham Parish Council 11.7.19**

Robert Lindsay, Babergh District and Suffolk County councillor.

**Babergh District**

At the first meeting of Babergh Conservative cllrs John Ward was elected leader. He has formed a cabinet of 8, comprised of 4 Conservatives, 3 independents and 1 Lib Dem. Sadly Greens were not offered a place on the cabinet, although we are the third largest group after Conservatives and Independents.

I have been appointed to the audit and standards committee while my Green colleague Leigh Jamieson is on the planning committee.

**Local plan**

The latest draft of the local plan has been approved for consultation by parish councils and the public and is available now online for the parish council and members of the public to comment on. <https://www.babergh.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/new-joint-local-plan/>

The consultation period starts later in July and should be open by the 22nd. This period will run for 10 weeks, and I encourage members of the Parish Council and village to take the time to view this document and send in any comments that they feel are pertinent. These will be taking into consideration before the next stage of the process.

The Local Plan is in three parts – first Strategic Policies, which set out the policies that address the councils priorities and focuses on things like Housing Needs, Affordable Housing, Climate Change. Second are Non-Strategic Delivery Policies or Local Policies. The third section includes the new maps for each town and village.

Brettenham has no allocation as per the former draft. The settlement boundary is basically drawn just around the Street but also now includes the houses on Church Road which it didn’t before. Other parts of the village are designated open countryside while the Street is classed as hamlet.

**CIL 123**

The next bidding round for CIL 123 funding will open on the 1st October. The last round ended on the 31st May and there were only four bids submitted.

Application forms and details of how and what to apply for are available on the Council website. The process involves a bit of work, but successful bids have been made by Cockfield and Preston St Mary among others. It may be worth considering any infrastructure projects that could be undertaken in the village sooner rather than later so that the appropriate evidence can be obtained.

**Buses to lose subsidy**

The county council announced last month that 23 routes would lose their subsidy (about a third of the subsidised bus routes in the county) in order to save £340,000. Routes include the 377 which runs from Rattlesden to Bury St Edmunds via Brettenham. It is operated by Galloways and I understand they are not prepared to run it without the subsidy which was £85,000 last year. There are an average of 27 single tickets sold daily on the route which I believe is five days a week.

Full details of affected routes are here <http://www.suffolkonboard.com/>

A final decision will be made in July. I voted against the decision to the rural bus subsidy in February because people using these routes largely have no other option. However it is hard to see how some routes will be saved without a subsidy.Hadleigh Communithy Transport which operates several routes including between between Hadleigh and Stowmarket that are under threat is writing to parish councils along the routes to ask for a contribution of around £500 each to keep them going until March, in the hope that new funding or extra passengers can be found by then. Some passengers with bus passes have voiced their willingness to pay at least some of the fare. It is possible for buses to ask for voluntary contributions from passengers, even when they have a bus pass and one that runs into Beccles follows this pattern. I too am prepared to contribute a similar sum from my locality budget to at least give the routes a stay of grace. I understand decisions about the subsidy are to some extent at the discretion of Mary Evans, the cabinet member for Highways and I have written to both her and MP James Cartlidge stressing the lack of alternatives for our most vulnerable residents. It is possible for

**Restrictions on recycling**

The amount of goods that can be recycled in Suffolk has reduced, with TetraPak cartons and metal items such as pots and pans no longer being accepted in recycling bins. This decision was made by the Suffolk Waste Partnership following a refurbishment of the Material Recycling Facility near Great Blakenham, because the new sorting equipment that is being installed will not be able to separate out cartons.

Cartons and metal items will need to be taken to household recycling centres. I have asked how this change will be publicised and am told that there will be a marketing push once the new machines are up and running.

**Ofsted rates Suffolk County Council Children’s Services “outstanding”**

After a week-long inspection in April, Ofsted have given Suffolk County Council Children’s Services an “outstanding” rating, an improvement from the previous rating of “good” in 2015. Suffolk County Council is one of only seven in the country to achieve this rating, and the positive report is testament to the hard-working frontline staff at the council.