

District Councillor Report (July 2024)

Dear Councillors,

By the time we next meet the General Election will have been & gone. It's been a busy time for the council, as part of their role in running the 'voting return' and the various Polling Stations throughout the district. I've also been quite involved with our Liberal Democrat team in supporting our Prospective Parliamentary Candidate, Tom Bartleet. June has remained fairly quiet on council activity, due again, to the level of time taken up by the general election preparation with staff being temporarily seconded to polling prep and GE activity.

Babergh Notes

Following the Annual Council meeting, I've had a couple of additional roles allocated to me. I undertook my first meeting, yesterday (26th June) as Vice Chair of Babergh Planning Committee. I've also been asked to join the board of CIFCO Properties Ltd as an additional company director. My hope and expectation, this will give me a much better insight into the operation of the authorities owned commercial property business and additional input to our community planning environment. I will endeavour to ensure these additional roles don't impact upon my primary job of representing the residents of Capel St. Mary (and my 'temping' work with other parish councils, for Councillor Busby, whilst he remains unwell) and, hopefully, they will enhance my ability to represent the community.

Babergh planning committee met on the 26th June to consider three items. All had been brought to committee as they involved, in one case, a small development being undertaken by a council employee to his own family home and the other two cases related to assets owned by BDC.

The joint BMSDC Overview and Scrutiny committee hasn't met during June. We did, however, have a joint council's workplan session to consider the areas of the joint council's activities that merited closer scrutiny. From these sessions we then pull together the work programme for the forthcoming year. Our next BDC meeting will be the 15th July with joint councils O&S on the 23rd July when we will be considering the Western Community Safety Partnership. As ever, I remain open to any members who would like to be briefed on specific anonymised examples of the council's work, in this area, please let me know. These meetings are also open to both parish councillors and members of the public wishing to attend either in person or online.

District Councillor Resident Surgeries

My regular meeting opportunity for residents in Capel library will be Tuesday 9th July at a slightly earlier time of 9.30 – 11.00am. My next surgery will be Tuesday 13th August 10.00 – 12.00. No appointment is necessary, but if residents need more of a confidential chat, please let them know beforehand so I can arrange some privacy. I'm also available 'on demand' at the Capel PC office in conjunction with Julie (Lawes) PC Clerk & RFO.

John (Whyman) Cllr - Babergh Council Member – Capel St. Mary

John.Whyman@babergh.gov.uk

Mobile: 07928 512597