

SUDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF SUDBURY TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE ASSEMBLY ROOM, TOWN HALL, SUDBURY, ON TUESDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2021 AT 7.00PM

Present: Mrs Ayres Mayor of Sudbury, in the CHAIR.

Mrs J Antill	Miss A Owen
Mr N Bennett	Mr J Owen
Mr T Cresswell	Mr T Regester
Mr S Hall	Mr J Sayers
Mr A Osborne	Mr R Spivey
Mrs J Osborne	

Ms J Carter – Joined via video, so was not officially present and was unable to vote.

Mr C Griffin	Town Clerk
Mrs J Budd	Deputy Town Clerk
Mr P Faircloth-Mutton	County Councillor
Mr M Batty	Freemen of Sudbury

A short prayer was said by the mayor before commencement of the meeting.

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ms L Fowler, Ms E Murphy, and Mr J Thomas.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mrs S Ayres, Mr T Cresswell, Mr A Osborne, Mrs J Osborne and Miss A Owen declared that they were Babergh District Councillors.

3 DECLARATIONS OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY

No declarations were received.

4 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

No requests for dispensation had been received.

5 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 12th October 2021 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

6 REPORTS

- a) County Councillor's report – A copy of Councillor Faircloth-Mutton's report is shown at minute page 703.

Councillor Mr Faircloth-Mutton summarised his report and briefed members on the following areas:

- East Street flooding – this was still an ongoing matter. Hopefully within the next week clarity will be given as to when the drains will be flushed out. Additional funding was available within SCC's capital budget for infrastructure such as new drainage systems.
- Healing Wood – Members raised concerns as to whether the area between Second Avenue/Essex Avenue would be the correct location as this is a flood plain. Mr Faircloth-Mutton explained that SCC were aware of this and suitable trees would be planted. He also advised that currently there was a lack of tree screening in this part of Springlands, so this scheme would benefit residents.

A copy of Councillor Carter's report is shown at minute page 704.

Councillor Ms Carter summarised her report and briefed members via video on the following areas:

- As discussed at the Planning and Highways committee, the process has started to install double yellow lines along a section of Clermont Avenue.
- The strategic lorry route had been discussed at a meeting the previous day. The community led review was due to end on 17th December.
- An application had been made to the Environment Agency to be able to clean Ballingdon Bridge.
- Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) – A SID had been installed on Cats Lane.
- Sewage – She had been disappointed with James Cartlidge MP's response.
- Phoenix Centre – A weekly drop in for young people had started.

Councillor Ms Carter also advised that she was working with Council Faircloth-Mutton to try to resolve the problem of lorries parking along Churchfield Road.

RESOLVED

That Councillors Ms Carter and Mr Faircloth-Mutton be thanked for their reports. Both Councillors would give an update on issues raised at next month's meeting.

- b) District Councillor's report – A copy of Councillor Miss Owen's report is shown at minute page 708.

Councillor Miss Owen summarised her report and briefed members on the following areas:

- 26 new iPads would be available to hire from various libraries, including Sudbury. These iPads could be hired for up to three weeks at a time.
- There had been a slight change in the members of the Cabinet.

Councillor Miss Owen was asked about car parking charges – Councillor Jan Osborne, as a Cabinet Member, gave the following information.

- It remained Babergh District Council's policy to introduce car parking charges in Sudbury. The implementation date for these charges had been delegated to the Assistant Director of Environment and Partnerships and the Cabinet Member responsible for this portfolio, which was Cllr Sian Dawson, before being approved by the Cabinet. The charges would not start in January 2022, but the date would be reviewed every 3 to 4 months.
- If charges were not introduced, Babergh District Council faced a budget shortfall of around £250k - £300k each year.

Councillor Mrs Ayres answered a question relating to the former offices in Hadleigh; an issue with the cricket club had been resolved and the redevelopment of this site was moving forward.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Miss Owen be thanked for her report.

That fellow District Councillors be thanked for their input.

- c) Policing report: The Town Clerk and a few councillors had held a meeting with the Police Locality Inspector. The general feeling from members was that the meeting had been disappointing. The Town Council previously received a monthly crime report, now members were expected to view the figures available to the public online. The Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr Passmore, and the Chief Constable of Suffolk had hosted an online event the previous evening, which the Town Clerk and Councillor Ms Murphy had attended. The Mayor had sent Mr Passmore a letter inviting him to attend a full Council meeting to advise members on the current situation with Suffolk Police and resources assigned to uniformed patrolling in Sudbury.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

- d) Public Forum

Mrs Rachel Taylor, the new manager of Sudbury Library, attended the meeting and advised members of the facilities available at the library. Many events had been planned for December.

Another member of the public requested that the hedges leading down Waldingfield Road be cut back as there was currently only space to walk single file or on the road.

RESOLVED

That the comments be noted and reported to the relevant bodies.

7 TO ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

Planning and Development on 11th October 2021. The Chairman advised that members had recommended refusal of applications for a development at The Lee's and the development for a residential home and dwellings on land adjacent to the Health Centre.

It was RESOLVED to ADOPT the REPORT

Planning, Development & Highways on 25th October 2021. At this meeting members recommended refusal of an application to fell various trees at Kentish Lodge in Stour Street, as well as discussing the disposal of the Delphi Centre, a proposed new zebra crossing in Melford Road and as previously advised by Councillor Carter, yellow lines in parts of Clermont Avenue.

It was RESOLVED to ADOPT the REPORT

Leisure and Environment on 26th October 2021. Due to the absence of the Chairman, no verbal report was given, but members had had the opportunity to read the minutes.

It was RESOLVED to ADOPT the REPORT

Human Resources minutes were discussed under Private & Confidential at the end of the meeting.

Finance on 2nd November 2021. The Chairman advised that members discussed the new draft financial regulations. Once the draft was complete, they would come to full council for adoption. They had agreed to open more high street bank accounts to spread out the Council's savings. Approval had been given to the proposed spending for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations as well as a new rate of pay for staff who worked at such events.

It was RESOLVED to ADOPT the REPORT.**8** SUDBURY FREEMEN'S SOCIETY

Over the past few years, it had become evident that the number of Sudbury Freemen had declined as older members died and few new members joined. This was a general concern to the Society members.

The admission of new Freemen via apprenticeship had been discussed by the Society and it was considered possible to establish a process for the admission of new Freemen via apprenticeship that was in line with current apprenticeship/training practices and still maintains the traditional concept that had historical roots in the Sudbury Freemen's Society.

Mr M Batty, a Sudbury Freemen, attended the meeting and explained to members the apprenticeship proposal. A copy of Mr Batty's report is shown at minute 715.

Members were requested to approve the general outline of the Sudbury Freemen's Society's proposal before they developed new draft regulations for admission.

RESOLVED

That Sudbury Freeman's Society draft new admission regulations that include the admission via apprenticeship. These new regulation would then need to come back to be formally adopted by full Council.

9 3 YEAR GAS SUPPLY CONTRACT

At the Finance Committee meeting members discussed the budget which included the probable increase in utility charges for the Town Hall and had made an allowance for a 50% increase in these costs. The Town Clerk had since established that the Town Council's electricity was tied in for another two and half years, however the gas contract was due to expire on the 31st March 2022.

Members were requested to approve a new three-year gas contract at an estimated increase in cost of approximately £6,000 over the three years. The price the previous week had been £6,922 per year, but prices fluctuated daily and the exact price would not be know until the day of the contract.

RESOLVED

That, under the Power of the Local Government Act 1972, s. 133, members approved a new three-year gas contract for the Town Hall at an estimated cost of £6,922 per year.

10 VISIT TO CCTV CONTROL CENTRE

Some Councillors had visited the control centre for the new CCTV cameras, which they had found to be very interesting. There were 18 new high-tech cameras throughout Sudbury. In addition there would soon be 2 mobile cameras covering Belle Vue Park.

The cameras are monitored by 2 operatives 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The data is stored and kept for 3 years.

This system would not just be for collecting criminal data, it would also be used to identify rough sleepers, fly tipping etc.

RESOLVED

That Councillors are thanked for their reports.

11 SOUTH SUFFOLK TASK GROUP - REPRESENTATIVE

Councillor Osborne gave a brief update from the group. Due to COVID 19 the committee haven't met for the last 18 months. Prior to COVID the group were focusing on two main sites. The Delphi Centre and the former Avent Factory in Glemsford. The latter had been sold and would remain as a commercial business.

Babergh District Council had had trouble contacting the owner of the Delphi site and were still waiting for a reply on their proposals.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Osborne be thanked for his report.

Members were requested, under Standing Order 5(j)(xi), to re-appoint a member to sit on the South Suffolk Task Force as the Town Council's representative.

RESOLVED

Councillor A Osborne was re-appointed as the Town Council's representative on the South Suffolk Task Force.

12 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor briefed members on the following:

- She again met with the Deputy Lieutenant, Geoffrey Probert, on planning for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.
- She had cut the ribbon at the re-opening of the Suffolk Building Society (formally Ipswich Building Society).
- She had planted crocus bulbs with the Rotary Club.
- She had attended the Town Twinning AGM.

Members were reminded that there would be a 2-minute silence outside the Town Hall on Thursday at 11am and a service with a parade on Remembrance Sunday.

All members congratulated AFC Sudbury on their match with Colchester. The spirit and support throughout the Town was fantastic.

RESOLVED

That the Mayor be thanked for her report.

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC (WHICH IN TERM INCLUDES THE PRESS)

That pursuant to the Local government Act 1972 s.100a(4), the public be excluded from the meeting for the business specified in item 13 on the grounds that, if the public were present during this item, it was likely that there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as specified in Schedule 12a, ss1-2, that is to say information relating to any individual or information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

9pm – The meeting was extended by 15 minutes.

13 TO ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

A Private and Confidential report can be seen at minute page 721.

Human Resources
21st October 2021

It was RESOLVED to ADOPT the REPORT

Human Resources
26th October 2021

It was RESOLVED to ADOPT the REPORT

The business of the meeting was concluded at 9.04 pm.

Chairman.....



Sudbury East & Waldingfield County Councillor's Report to Sudbury Town Council Tuesday 9 November 2021

Decarbonising Sudbury County Council Buildings

The Cabinet today agreed that as part of its £12.8 million capital strategy to make its buildings more efficient, Sudbury Uplands office and Sudbury Library will receive funding to reduce their energy consumption.

East Street Flooding

Blocked drains on East Street have been reported to the Flood and Water Project Management Team, and I am awaiting more specific detail as to when work will take place.

To alleviate the problem long term, the Sudbury & Great Cornard Surface Water Management Programme has resulted in the construction of the new basin in Aubrey Drive to help reduce a downstream flow of excess water.

Healing Wood Site Visit

In October, I met with officers and representatives from the County Council's Healing Woods Initiative at two potential sites that I have proposed for adoption, namely People Park and the area of land between Second and Essex Avenues.

An initial analysis will shortly be undertaken, which will be followed by a local survey and consultation of local residents and interested bodies.

Parking for Residents Saved

After a four month fight on behalf of residents on Acton Lane and Harp Close Road, I received confirmation that a project considered by officers which would have lost on road parking due to double yellow lines has been shelved.

Taking Action on Disrespectful Developers

Following my taking up of concerns raised by a local resident on Belle Vue Road on construction vehicles causing an obstruction on the south of Newton Road, the PLMD Group has subsequently been issued a penalty and warning.

Philip Faircloth-Mutton
November 2021

Date: 08/11/21

9th November 2021

Email: jessie.carter@suffolk.gov.uk

Phone: 07955 434411



4 Page Report for November 2021 to Sudbury Town Council - Babergh from Jessie Carter (SCC Councillor)

Highways:

I would like to remind Residents and Councillors that if particular problems arise that these can be reported through the online highways reporting tool:

<https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/> or contact me directly. Please see below some examples of the highways issues I have been working on this past month

- As discussed at the Planning & Highways meeting I have started the process of having TRO changes 'CR 338974' so that double yellow lines could be installed down the Head Way side of Clermont Avenue from just before the Parker Place turning and as far as the access road, and all down both sides of the access road itself.
- The lorry route review was discussed yesterday (08/11/21) at the planning & highways meeting, where suggestions for the lorry route were agreed upon, however the community led review doesn't end until the 17th of December, so I suggest any residents to speak to their local councillors about concerns, queries or suggestions.
- An application has been put into the Environmental Agency to be able to clean Ballingdon Bridge
- The dangerous wobbly paving slab on the entrance to Girling Street car park from North Street is due to be replaced within 10 working days as from the 4th
- Gully cleansing along Springfield Road was carried out late in October

Speed Indicator Devices:

As of 25/10/21 and the help of Sudbury Wardens there has been a SID installed on Cats Lane, this is a great first step in dealing with the consistent speeding that happens here.

Two forms have also been sent off to apply for SIDs, One along Gainsborough Street and one on Ballingdon Street.

Chilton Woods:

On Friday the 5th I attended a Tour of Chilton Woods development “MaidenFields” There will be less open green spaces and allotments than originally planned as well as more houses. I am questioning SCC as to how this is has been allowed, and to push to rectify it. The development team also admitted that during construction they will have to cross Public Rights Of Way, I am requesting for SCC to be transparent with Sudbury Town Council when it comes to this to cause as little distress to the public as possible.

Sewage:

On the 20th of October our MP James Cartlidge voted down an amendment to stop private water companies from dumping raw sewage into our rivers and coastlines. I contacted him many times (and encouraged residents to do the same) He did eventually respond saying *“These new measures will require water companies to monitor the water quality impacts of their sewage discharges and to publish this information, with the Secretary of State able to make regulations in response. This will ensure water companies reduce sewage discharges that cause the most harm to the environment and public health. I understand that water companies will also need to publish near real-time information on when their storm overflows operate”*

I would be happy to send anyone his full generic response if you wanted to read it. After this there was a country wide public outcry and the government were shamed into a u turn and was brought back on the 8th of November, but the amendment isn't good enough, we have no idea when the bill will be passed and there have been no timescales or targets set. This may be a government issue but affects us all locally.

Belle Vue:

After the public consultation about Belle Vue, I had a meeting with Will Burchnall and Lee Carvell from BDC regarding to new plans and equipment for the park. We can all agree that Belle Vue needs a new look and upgrading but the ideas they were showcasing where underwhelming to say the least. I shared my concerns with both Will and Lee and have sent over ideas for engaging and exciting equipment but also with costs and funding opportunities to be able fund them.

Gainsborough's House:

I had the pleasure of joining the board of trustees for Gainsborough's House as Suffolk County Councils representative in their meeting.

We had a tour of the building which is looking fantastic and will be such an asset to the town, with event space for local artists, schools and more.

I very much look forward to the spring of next year when it opens, and Sudbury can reap the benefit of the improvements they have made.

Trustee's voiced frustration that SCC had not be as generous with grants to Gainsborough's house as they had been with other galleries, I have since spoken to Cllr Reid about a tour for County

Councillors so they can see what opportunities this space will create for Sudbury, questioned them about funding and asked if there could be more.

Bus Back Better: Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) Approved

The Cabinet approved the new Bus Service Improvement Plan, as part of their new £50m Bus Back Better strategy – aimed at rejuvenating Suffolk’s bus service, in particular isolated areas of rural Suffolk. Our Group supports the essential commitment needed to help connect rural communities.

Bus Back Better aims at making bus services cheaper, more reliable, and carbon efficient. All proposals of the BSIP that were passed by Cabinet can be viewed here:

[https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=\(12-10-2021\),%20The%20Cabinet](https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=(12-10-2021),%20The%20Cabinet)

Queens Jubilee – Plant a tree scheme:

The Queen’s Jubilee plant a tree scheme has now started and I would encourage any groups or organisations (who I haven’t already spoken to) to sign up. If any town councillors can think of any land that may be appropriate, I would suggest applying as it would be a shame to miss out on the scheme.

Police Meeting:

Last week Sgt Gilbert came to meet with myself, Ciaran, Cllr Murphy and Cllr Spivey. He explained about the lack of resources to be able to offer the Town Council monthly updates / reports but suggested we sign up to Police Connect and follow Sudbury Police on social media, which I have now done and would suggest all other councillors to do the same.

I have requested another meeting in December with him and / or another member of the team regarding drugs / county lines as this seemed to be a concerning topic for Sudbury.

Phoenix Centre:

Phoenix Health & Children's Centre Service - Sudbury, Suffolk

have started a weekly drop-in for young people at the Phoenix Family Hub - Tudor Road, Sudbury, CO10 1NP

Starts Wednesday 3rd November, 1-4pm – parents / careers welcome too

Each week someone from South Suffolk Early Help Team, Youth Support Services will be there to advise on education, employment and training.

I have a meeting with them on the 15th of October to discuss their services in depth

CYP – Independent Working Group:

Over the past couple of months, I have managed to pass several individuals onto ‘Youth Suffolk Focus ‘project ran by SCC for the training of working with young people and mental health, I have spoken to schools about youth mentoring programmes as these are the first steps to tackling our lack of support for Young People in Sudbury. However to try and take things that step further I am starting an

Independent Working Group regarding young people ages 0 – 25, The first meeting will be held on the 16th of November if anyone (Cllrs or Residents) would be interested in attending please get in touch.

Full Council 21/10/21 – Motion and Decisions:

The Suffolk County Council met for a Full Council meeting on the 21st October. Our Group proposed a motion to support the Local Electricity Bill, to help proportion local energy supplier's costs, making local electricity cheaper and more reliable. The motion was passed unanimously. Details of the motion can be found here: <https://powerforpeople.org.uk/local-electricity-bill-briefing-for-councillors>

The Conservatives forwarded a motion to condemn Insulate Britain, which was passed with the following vote: 41 For, 9 Against, 7 Abstained.

Cabinet Meeting 12/10/21 :

On the 12th October, the Cabinet and Councillors met to discuss the following two matters: Recommendations highlighted in the Suffolk Local Access Forum Annual Report 2020/21, and to vote on submitting the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), in relation to the Council's Bus Back Better Strategy. Summary of the main decisions are below:

1. The Cabinet accepted the Suffolk Local Access Forum Annual Report 2020/21 and noted the report's recommendations and the action that the Council was taking to address the recommendations.
2. The Cabinet acknowledged and agreed to the headline asks and order of costs contained in the proposed Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), as set out in the report.
3. The Cabinet delegated final development, including costings, and the submission of the BSIP, to the Executive Director for Growth, Highways and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Transport Strategy and Waste.
4. The Cabinet noted that a further Cabinet paper on the Enhanced Partnership Arrangements would be provided prior to its submission in March 2022.
5. Full Cabinet Reports can be viewed here:
[https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=\(12-10-2021\),%20The%20Cabinet](https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=(12-10-2021),%20The%20Cabinet)

BABERGH DISTRICT REPORT 9TH NOVEMBER

Suffolk Libraries and Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are joining forces to help residents get online with a new iPad lending scheme – supporting those who need a little extra help to access services in an increasingly digital world.

26 new iPads, all with **4G internet** connectivity and a range of pre-installed applications and web links, will be available for free to anyone in the two districts to borrow. They will be based at Stowmarket, Hadleigh, Sudbury and Needham Market libraries.

The pilot, which will last for a year, has been made possible thanks to funding from the NHS Ipswich and East Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group, with additional support from the councils. It aims to help reduce the level of digital isolation in the districts and enable residents to access and navigate the internet when they need.

Devices will be available from participating libraries from 19 October.

Anyone wishing to borrow one simply needs to have a Suffolk Libraries account and sign up to the user agreement. The iPads can be borrowed for up to three weeks, and as they already have inbuilt mobile internet, residents can get online even if they don't have an internet connection at home.

A change in the cabinet from Friday 8th October

- Cllr Simon Barrett is joining the Cabinet and has been allocated the Finance portfolio.
- Cllr Sian Dawson is joining the Cabinet and has been allocated the Environment portfolio
- Cllr Liz Malvisi remains a Cabinet Member with a new portfolio of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Transport

BELLE VUE PARK

Residents, visitors and business owners in Sudbury were invited to view outline plans for improvements to Belle Vue Park.

The public display featured plans for a new-look entrance, new café with outdoor and indoor seating overlooking a relocated children's play area and new toilet facilities. There are also plans to introduce a Changing Places facility which will provide accessible, spacious toilets for visitors with disabilities.

The plans were displayed at the central green area of the park on:

- Friday 15 October between 10am - 3pm
- Saturday 16 October between 10am - 2pm

Belle Vue Park is an important asset for Sudbury and by carrying out a range of improvements, Babergh District Council are hoping to make the park more welcoming and accessible for all.

Visitors to the public display will be able to have their say on the proposals by completing a feedback form which will also be available online, along with the design concepts.

Following the public event in the park, the outline plans went on display in the window of Unit 12, the former Fanboo salon, in the Borehamgate Arcade until 1 November 2021.

STREET LIGHTS

Two Suffolk councils have committed to reducing streetlight intensity across their districts – protecting plant and wildlife, and reducing energy costs, in line with biodiversity and climate change ambitions.

Following cross-party support for motions at recent Full Council meetings, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have both committed to reducing artificial lighting across their public realm and housing assets. Including additional lighting control guidance within their Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), currently in development, was also approved.

This means any new or replacement artificial lighting in the district - whether in the form of street lighting, commercial and residential lighting, or advertising signage – will be expected to meet the lowest possible level of intensity and visual intrusion. Streetlighting currently in use will also be looked at.

The move provides an opportunity for the councils to reduce their energy use, as well as the negative impacts on human health and wellbeing, and wildlife, caused by intense blue, white light. A particular focus has been placed on protecting and enhancing dark skies for bats, owls and other nocturnal insect populations which are declining.

As Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are only responsible for a number of streetlights within their districts, they will be working with partners such as Suffolk County Council, suppliers, as well as community safety and wildlife groups, to help reduce wider light pollution.

A Tree for Life scheme in Babergh and Mid Suffolk which offers a free tree for new parents, is open for 2021 applications.

The scheme is open to all families in the districts who have or are welcoming a new arrival between 1 January and 31 December 2021. Parents who may have lost a child during the same period are also able to apply for a remembrance tree.

The initiative offers parents with a new born or newly adopted child the chance to mark their arrival by planting a tree. It aims to benefit families, communities and the environment by boosting tree coverage across the district.

So far the councils have given out over a thousand trees through Tree for Life, with 2020 applicants collecting their trees last month following a necessary delay to allow the council to prioritise essential services during the pandemic. Expert help is always on hand on collection to advise families on their tree choice and aftercare at home.

Also open to those without a garden, a selection of the trees continue to be planted at key locations in the districts including Needham Lake, Shotley Golden Wood, Broom Hill in Hadleigh, Gallowsfield Wood in Haughley and Sroughton Millennium Green.

Over 100 families have already applied to the 2021 scheme, but the councils are encouraging even more people to [apply for their tree on the councils' website](#) before the 10 January 2022 deadline.

INFORMATION ONLY ABOUT LIGHTING

Agenda item

TO CONSIDER THE MOTION ON NOTICE RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLOR MALVISI

- [Meeting of Babergh Council, Tuesday, 21st September, 2021 5.30 pm \(Item 48.\)](#)

Motion on streetlighting in Babergh:

Babergh recognises that street-lighting is a significant aspect of our climate change and biodiversity action plans, and that lighting can be adapted and controlled to reduce energy use as well as the impacts on human health and wildlife – especially bats, owls and other nocturnal insect populations which are declining^[1]^[2]. The Council also notes that many communities and campaign groups are calling on local councils to protect dark skies.

Motion:

Babergh District Council recognises that light pollution is increasing and that it causes harm to wildlife and insects as well as being problematical for many people particularly when the light is high in intensity. Therefore the Council seeks to reduce the intensity and extent of outdoor lighting within its public realm and housing assets as well as in other lighting schemes where it has influence, to the extent practical. The Council will also include firm guidance in its Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document to protect and enhance dark skies for the benefit of wildlife as well as human health and wellbeing.

Proposer – Cllr Elisabeth Malvisi

Seconder – Cllr Leigh Jamieson

To achieve these objectives the Council will include lighting control within the Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which it has committed to preparing and will work with the planning team and also partner organisations such as Suffolk County Council, and its suppliers in order to reduce current levels of light pollution to the extent practical. The Council recognises the dichotomous role that artificial lighting plays in making people feel safe but also its negative impact on health, wellbeing and visual resources. The council will ensure that new or replacement artificial lighting whether in the form of street lighting, commercial and residential lighting or advertising signage is installed to meet the lowest possible level of intensity and visual intrusion in line with current evidence on lighting characteristics.

Notes:

- Streetlighting that uses LED lamps emits a brighter, whiter light with higher levels in the blue region of visible light (400-480 nm) than their traditional counterparts. This shift in the emitted spectral composition towards blue white light has well-known impacts on the biological rhythms and functions in both humans and animals, particularly in nocturnal insect species and bats and owls.
- Some estimates predict that 1 million species, or 40% of all insects will become extinct over the next few decades, and the negative contribution made by artificial lighting in this regard and especially in the blue white must be recognised and not dismissed.
- Illumination, especially in the short wavelength -ultraviolet and blue light- causes damage not only to human sight but also to our nocturnal friends. It causes disorientation in insects, affects their patterns of movement, their way of foraging and very importantly affects their ability to reproduce with catastrophic implications for their populations.
- By contrast long wavelength light - amber and red – has a lower impact on our nocturnal friends.
- LEDs can be engineered to emit light of any desired spectral range, their brightness can be controlled, and their usage can be limited to appropriate timeframes. Lighting can be triggered to come on for shorter periods using motion sensor technology, also they can be progressively dimmed. Lighting can be fixed at full cut-off to reduce skyglow and shielding (e.g. back baffles) can be installed to reduce light intrusion through windows. A problem of which many humans complain, and which causes disturbed sleep patterns resulting in mental health issues thus affecting our own wellbeing.
- Colour filters can be used to reduce or even remove the harmful wavelengths – true amber LED has a narrower bandwidth but is low efficacy (low lumen output per watt usage).
- Alternatives to current bright white LEDs include true-amber LED which has a narrower bandwidth but low efficacy (low lumen output per watt usage). Phosphor-converted amber (PCA) has a higher efficacy. However, such alternatives may be challenging to source in the UK but the use of warmer coloured LEDs must be sourced for our current wellbeing and our nocturnal friends survival upon whom we all depend.

[1] BBC News: Light pollution from streetlamps linked to insect loss https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-58333233?at_medium=RSS&at_campaign=KARANGA

[2] CPRE Dark Skies: <https://www.cpre.org.uk/what-we-care-about/nature-and-landscapes/dark-skies/>

Minutes:

Councillor Malvisi **MOVED** her Motion and informed Council that it was recognised that streetlighting could play an important part in the Council's climate change and bio-diversity plans. Not only can it be controlled to reduce costs and reduce our carbon footprint but by installing the right type of light the Council can protect its nocturnal wildlife.

Currently LED lighting was being fitted and whilst these have reduced costs which was good on the one hand it had a very negative impact on another. As a society, we have moved towards a blue white light. This blue white light has a terrible effect on the behaviour of nocturnal wildlife leaving it confused and affecting reproduction. So much so that it is estimated that 40% of all insects will become extinct within the next decades. Councillor Malvisi asked that the Council approve her Motion so that a new bio- diversity supplementary planning guidance can be produced to help protect our nocturnal wildlife on whom our futures are so dependent.

Councillor Jamieson **SECONDED** the Motion and informed Council that a similar Motion was being put to Mid Suffolk so that both Councils could work jointly to reduce light pollution that would benefit everybody.

Councillor Hinton supported the Motion and stated that he was in favour of streetlighting being turned off as he felt it was nice to have a dark sky. He also stated that he hoped that Suffolk County Council would take account of any provisions that were made in the NPPF.

Councillor Cresswell thought it was a good idea but felt that a balance should be struck where there were areas of anti-social behaviour.

Councillor Plumb stated that his parish council had been pressurised by Suffolk County Council to install LED lighting and asked how it was intended to bring the County Council on board with this?

Councillor Busby asked if the biodiversity planning document would come back to Council?

Councillor Arthey confirmed that it would.

Councillor Lindsay addressed the concerns relating to Suffolk County Council and confirmed that the County Council were looking closely at this matter. It didn't mean that the lights would all need to be replaced but would mean using some lower intensity lighting.

Councillor Malvisi confirmed that lighting filters could be installed if needed.

Councillor Fraser confirmed that Suffolk County was working to replace its street lighting with lower intensity lighting.

It was RESOLVED: -

That Babergh District Council recognises that light pollution is increasing and that it causes harm to wildlife and insects as well as being problematical for many people particularly when the light is high in intensity. Therefore, the Council seeks to reduce the intensity and extent of outdoor lighting within its public realm and housing assets as well as in other lighting schemes where it has influence, to the extent practical. The Council will also include firm guidance in its Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document to protect and enhance dark skies for the benefit of wildlife as well as human health and wellbeing.

ADMISSION OF SUDBURY FREEMEN THROUGH APPRENTICESHIP

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Historical Background
- 3 Recent Research
- 4 Present Situation
- 5 Proposal
- 6 Possible trades and partner businesses
- 7 Number of apprentices to be accepted

1 INTRODUCTION

The decline in the number of Sudbury Freemen has been evident in recent years and of general concern to the Society members. For over two years we have explored the background to the methods of admission and ways of ensuring a stable if not growing number of Freemen for the future. Excellent background work in the form of papers published by Alan Shelly and earlier works by the Freemen of England and Wales and the views of Charles Sparrow QC have been used to construct a workable proposal.

At recent committee meetings of the Sudbury Freemen's Society the admission of new Freemen via apprenticeship has been discussed and it is considered possible to establish a process regarding the admission of new Freemen via apprenticeship that is in line with current apprenticeship / training practices and still maintains the traditional concept that has historical roots in the Sudbury Freemen's Society.

Until the end of the Victorian era towns like Sudbury had numerous tradesmen practicing their skills mainly in small workshops. This could involve a skilled worker and one or two trainees or apprentices. Every trade could have numerous small businesses practicing the same craft or trade in the same town; unlike today when a national company could have one outlet per town and control the monopoly of that sort of business.

The author and local farmer, Ashley Cooper, states interesting and relevant facts in his book "Our Mother Earth". The census returns from 1801 until 1921 show a marked decline in the population of the villages of South Suffolk and North Essex. This probably accounted for some reduction in apprenticeships. Quote: "*The decline fuelled a vicious circle. The fewer the inhabitants, the less cobblers, bakers and shopkeepers were required to supply them.*" (p.155).

Historically, for a young employee to progress to admission as freeman, the firm's apprentices would be employed by a freeman who was the owner of the business and master of his trade. That master would have acquired his own freedom by heredity, apprenticeship or even by

purchase. The length of time for such apprenticeships was usually seven years. An Indenture drawn up at the beginning of the process was an agreement between the master and the young apprentice or their parent. The nature of the training would enable the apprentice to acquire sufficient knowledge from the master. In a small town firm it is unlikely that there would be any outside criteria to ensure this ability. As long as the apprentice satisfied the master at the end of the allotted time he would attain “freedom from his apprenticeship”. Only in large towns and cities would the apprentice have to submit a piece of work to a guild, such as the Cutlers in Sheffield, before being classed as a master.

In modern times we have national training schemes and qualifications for most trades and callings. For this reason it should be easier to judge the true ability of a modern apprentice.

2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Four methods of becoming a Freedom of Sudbury remained unchanged for over five hundred years. These were by honourable gift, purchase, hereditary entitlement, or servitude.

Traditional routes to attain Freedom status remained fairly stable until the corrupt protocols of “rotten boroughs” that came to light in the 1830s and the 1835 Act took steps to control bribery and corruption.

Subsequent Acts of Parliament have affected all aspects of eligibility by national laws that must be adhered to by all Societies. Here are the primary Acts that have affected admission to our Society.

1835 – Municipal Corporation Act

1882 – Municipal Corporation Act

1885 – A Private members bill by Kingston-upon-Hull

1933 – Local Government Act

1972 – Local Government Act

2009 – Local Democracy Economic Development & Construction Act

2010 – Equality Act

3 RECENT RESEARCH

Apart from the Honourary Gift of Freedom which cannot be passed on via hereditary means and does not give the recipient any voting rites, the removal of admission by purchase has left us with two routes to Freedom of the Society, namely Hereditary and Servitude.

Over recent years the eligibility of applicants via a female line and through grandparents has allowed us to admit new Freemen who show enthusiasm for their inclusion rather than pure acceptance.

The admission via Servitude or Apprenticeship has not been used for many years. This was once a significant method of admission.

I am indebted to Alan Shelley for his documentation of numerous papers, mostly gleaned from the Freemen of England and Wales, and the excellent work of Charles Sparrow QC.

I have consulted their papers published via the Freemen of England and Wales on some very important issues.

What is an apprentice?

An apprentice is someone who is undertaking formal training for a trade, craft, business, profession or calling. The result of the apprenticeship must have some commercial purpose.

Who were historically party to an apprenticeship agreement?

Historically a master of his trade would draw up an agreement with a trainee in the form of an indenture. The apprentice usually agreed to work for and be trained by his master for seven years, although trades vary on this length of time. Signatories to the indenture are usually the master and the apprentice, his parent or a local officer in the case of orphans. This practice was quite common in order to support paupers. The apprentice was usually provided with bed and board. Upon successful completion of the agreed term and meeting an acceptable standard, the apprentice obtained their freedom. In some cases an apprentice piece or an example of their work would be submitted. This was usually the case when the master was part of a guild. This guaranteed that the new freeman was up to a recognised standard.

With regard to Borough Freemen the apprentice who had just satisfied the master of his skills must then satisfy the Borough officials that he was suitable to also become a Borough Freeman

Why would apprentices wish to become freemen?

In the past the freemen of a town were entitled to privileges that were almost essential for the pursuit of their trade. Borough Freemen had **voting rites** that decided the future of their town and the progress of trade within it.

For our modern apprentices the incentive would be pride in being part of a historic organisation that values commitment and dedication to their trade and the town of Sudbury. It could also aid their promotion and future employment.

The employer would attain recognition within their peer group as a company that values their employees and is held in high regard by the town in which they trade

What problems exist when considering the Servitude route today?

There are very few Master Tradesmen who are also Freemen in any town. This complicates an otherwise simple process of admission.

4 PRESENT SITUATION

The old form of apprenticeship has given way to national training standards where trainees attend college on a day release basis over a given number of years depending on the nature of the trade. Any agreement between employer or college and trainee is equivalent to the old agreement between master and apprentice. Successful completion of a modern course or attainment of a qualification via a national system equates to the training route undertaken by the apprentices of old.

5 PROPOSAL

Before putting forward a possible working practice for modern day apprentices or trainees to become freemen I must acknowledge the observations of Charles Sparrow QC. Any new method of admission through servitude must be a genuine process based on past practices and traditions. It must not be a method of increasing number “through the back door”. I would like to point out that any Freeman’s Society is a coming together of mutually minded people for the betterment of the members, the trades and the town. The existence of the group is there for its members – not to ensure the perpetuation of the Society itself.

We must first accept that the trades, professions and callings of present day business are far removed from the historical businesses. There are very few candle makers, saddlers, cordwainers, corvisors and the like. We now have mechanical engineers, IT specialists, estate agents and hairdressers. Any trade that require training should be considered.

If an existing freeman of Sudbury Freeman’s Society is a business owner who trains new staff, then the servitude route can be administered with ease. However, it is clear from research that the majority of businesses connected with the town do not have a freeman as the owner or a

senior member of staff. I will address this problem shortly but first let us look at the matter of eligibility. Who could apply to journey along the servitude route?

The following criteria would be sufficient and is in line with suggestions set out by Charles Sparrow QC.

The prospective apprentice:

He or she should work in Sudbury or live in Sudbury and work nearby.

The nature of the work:

Any profession, craft, trade or calling that has a commercial purpose.

The firm employing the apprentice:

The firm should have a prominent and permanent presence in Sudbury. It may be part of a larger national company but the management must have an autonomous local accountability regarding its staff.

The nature of the training:

Very few modern training scenarios are executed solely in-house at the place of employment. With today's qualifications needing to be accepted nation-wide if not internationally we find that most training takes place at colleges, training centres or even universities.

Initial arrangement for admission by servitude:

An identified apprentice would come before the committee of the Sudbury Freeman's Society together with his or her employer to put forward the reason for wishing to undertake the process. Formal documents would be signed by all parties to establish the nature of the training and the length of the training. This would equate to the old Indenture. Modern training requirements would dictate the length of time. A hairdresser may be as little as two or three years while a veterinary surgeon would expect to train for up to five or six years.

The people and agreements involved in the process of admission by servitude:

There needs to be two separate but linked documents relating to this exercise. An Apprenticeship Agreement is between an employer and employee. This makes it a Contract of Employment and needs to be in the intellectual ownership of the employer.

An Indenture does not necessarily relate to employment and is purely an agreement between two parties.

To meet the requirements of the Sudbury Freeman's Society and to clear the way for a progressive interpretation of the ancient processes we need to understand that any apprentice would still have that training or apprenticeship agreement with their employer. The length of training and other terms would be dictated by the employer who would be committing time, money and other resources.

The Indenture is an agreement that needs to be between the apprentice and the Sudbury Freeman's Society and explain the wishes of the Society and the apprentice to work towards the admission as a Freeman. The Society would be the body to dictate the terms of this document.

Formal links between the Society and the employing company would ensure that monitoring during the life of the apprenticeship is robust and within our mutual requirements.

Accepting that a Freeman Owner (master) is not present, an allocated Freeman of the Sudbury Freeman's Society would liaise with a designated senior member of the firm employing the apprentice. Together they would ensure that the apprentice is adhering to the training required. This Freeman would report back to the SFS committee at regular intervals.

Conclusion of the training:

Upon completion of the training or apprenticeship to the satisfaction of the employer, college, etc the apprentice would be considered for admission to the Sudbury Freeman's Society based on his or her ability; but also on being of good character and acceptable to the Society. These conditions being satisfied the apprentice would come before the committee and be invited to attend a celebration of their admission as a Freeman at a suitable gathering before the Mayor of Sudbury.

6 POSSIBLE TRADES AND PARTNER BUSINESSES

Numerous diverse trades and the businesses exist in Sudbury. The local Chamber of Commerce would appear to be the best starting point to publicise these proposals as well as the Sudbury Society.

7 NUMBER OF APPRENTICES TO BE ACCEPTED

The committee have some concerns over the unknown uptake that these proposals could generate and it is proposed that the number of apprentices should be limited to three per year. This figure is a starting point and may be amended depending on the workload required.

Malcolm Batty, Freeman of Sudbury

21 October 2021

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL REPORT