



Report for Annual Town Meeting – 20th March 2019

2018 has been a very busy year for the Town Council which has seen relationships with our partner agencies strengthen and develop leading to more cost effective delivery of local services. A Business Plan has been developed and adopted outlining the role of the Town Council and aspirations for the future. This is a working document which will be reviewed on a regular basis as ambitions come to fruition and new challenges develop. Public comments regarding the Business Plan are encouraged via the Town Council website www.sudburytowncouncil.co.uk. Hard copies of the Business Plan are also available at the Advice Centre at the Town Hall.

The Sudbury Advice Centre which was relocated to form a new Reception area in the Town Hall continues to provide information on all three levels of local government. Staff in the Advice Centre provide friendly and knowledgeable face to face support to the most vulnerable in our society.

Information provided includes the following:

Town Council:	Town Councillors Community Wardens Newton Road Cemetery Sudbury allotments Sudbury Market Town Council Events
Babergh District:	Council tax Housing benefit Universal credit Gateway to Homechoice including homelessness Planning enquiries Licensing enquiries
County Council:	Highways concerns – including pot holes, street lamps, road works Blue badge applications Bus pass applications

Members of the public have free access to computers in the Advice Centre with personal support to enable them to apply for benefits, access benefit accounts, pay council bills and view planning applications.

The District Council offers weekly surgeries by appointment at the Town Hall in Sudbury for housing and licensing issues. Appointments can also be made for meetings at the Town Hall with officers from any other Babergh District department.

If Advice Centre staff are unable to answer queries personally they will be able to re-direct enquiries to the relevant department for help and support.

Reorganisation of the office space has enabled the Heritage Centre to move into additional areas of the Town Hall with new and exciting displays. The Museum is now open most Saturday mornings as well as weekdays thanks to the generous support of volunteers.

Community Wardens

The Town Council is proud of its initiative of employing community wardens who are able to react quickly in dealing with issues such as littering, fly tipping, over grown hedges, dog fouling and many other problems which are reported by members of the public. Our community warden team works with schools and young people educating them on the negative effect of anti-social behaviour such as littering. The team organise regular community litter picks and encourage the public to take pride in their local environment. The Town Council will be working in partnership with the County Council to address highways issues which are now low priority for the County Council due to budget cuts. The Town Council is committed to improving the appearance of our town and will be working alongside other agencies to give that extra care and attention which has been lacking for some time. Work planned includes painting of lamp posts in the Town Centre, additional weeding and maintenance of neglected areas.

Town Centre Manager/Events Co-ordinator

The Town Council has organised and supported many events during the last year including the following:

June 2018 – Suffolk Day – hosted BBC Suffolk event for Mayors and dignitaries from all over Suffolk

July 2018 - Party in the Park – free family event in Belle Vue Park attracting thousands of visitors

September 2018 – Heritage Open Day- many of Sudbury’s hidden gems open to view

November 2018 - Remembrance Day Parade including display of over 23,000 hand knitted and crocheted poppies cascading from St Peter’s tower – fantastic community support which was reported nationwide.

November 2018 – WW1 commemorative Beacon Lighting

November 2018 – Delphi fireworks- ever popular free event

November 2018 - Christmas light switch on and fair- great evening showcasing the town

November 2018 – commencement of monthly bingo sessions in Town Hall started as a result of weekly community gatherings in Assembly room to attach poppies to cargo net. All proceeds from bingo sessions will go towards cost of providing free Christmas party for local elderly residents in December 2019

December 2018 – Christmas party for elderly- free Christmas lunch and party

March 2019 – Sudbury on Show - bi-annual exhibition showcasing numerous local clubs and societies

Supported or hosted following events:

March 2018 – Cricket Club reception- to mark great achievement of club

March 2018 – Annual Fun Run – very popular annual event for all abilities

June 2018 – Taste of Sudbury – celebration of local food and drink

July 2018 – Annual Anglia in Bloom judging – culmination of excellent work done by the Sudbury in Bloom committee and members

August 2018 – Annual Town Regatta – riverside activities for the whole family

August 2018 – Sudbury Carnival – re-introduced after many years – now a successful annual event

October – Pride of Sudbury awards – recognising work done by residents who take pride in the town

Exciting events are planned for 2019 including a silk festival. To become involved or discuss sponsorship opportunities contact the Town Centre Manager/Events Co-ordinator –

ami.birrell@sudburytowncouncil.co.uk

The Town Centre Manager is also working in partnership with both the County and District Councils on exciting plans for the development and regeneration of the Town Centre. The historic Goldsmiths Mansion in Friars Street which suffered a devastating fire in 2015 has been sympathetically restored kick-starting ambitious projects for Sudbury which will ensure its vibrancy and sustainability for future generations

The Town Council supports many local organisations both small and large through its Grant Aid policy – further details can be obtained from the Responsible Finance Officer – rfo@sudburytowncouncil.co.uk

The Council is proud to support local projects such as the Gainsborough's House regeneration, development of St Peter's, the Quay Theatre, Citizens Advice Bureau together with smaller but equally important organisations such as Ephemera Archive, Kernos Centre, Christopher Centre and many others.

The Tourist Information Centre situated in the Library offers information on many of the events organised by local groups as well as giving both residents and visitors informative details about all aspects of our town and the local area. Local crafts and unusual gifts are also on sale alongside guide books, National Express tickets, train tickets and much, much more. The knowledgeable staff are on hand to give you that personal touch making your visit to Sudbury even more memorable.

Many residents are unaware of the varied roles undertaken by the Town Council. With elections coming up in May we look forward to welcoming a new Council which will carry the many exciting projects onto fruition. All members of the public are welcome to attend the Town Council meetings and details can be found on our website – www.sudburytowncouncil.co.uk

I have been proud to represent the Town as Mayor for the second time in 2018 – the first female ever to have achieved this.

I have had the privilege of attending many events both in Sudbury and further afield and fly the flag for our wonderful town.

I wish the next Mayor every success in this demanding but exciting role.

Cllr. Sue Ayres
Town Mayor of Sudbury 2018 -2019