**Report for Chelmondiston Parish Council from Jane Gould,**

**Babergh District Councillor**

Meeting date: 3 March 2020

**Countryside and Public Realm**

I have had my ward tour with Peter Garret who is the Corporate Manager of the Countryside and Public Realm team and it was very interesting. The largest area they keep maintained in Orwell Ward is at Pin Mill which Babergh recognises as one of the main tourist attractions that they have responsibility for. My understanding is that the Parish Council have been approached to see if they would like to have an interest in the picnic area just before the carpark at Pin Mill and have decided that they don’t. The toilet block and the car park at Pin Mill are also owned and maintained by Babergh as are the green areas by the bungalows in Meadow Close. We had a good discussion about the foreshore at Pin Mill and I was assured that all the stakeholders are working together for the common good.

**Meeting with East Babergh District Councillors**

I had a meeting with the other District Councillors for the east of the Babergh region last week which was a useful networking session and I think will become a regular session with some action points coming out of it.

**Community Governance Reviews**

You will have had a letter about Community Governance reviews but here are the salient points from the letter as I understand it.

Over the last 12 months Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have received several requests for Community Governance Reviews. These requests have related to potentially changing Parish or Town Council boundaries and/or changing the number of Parish Councillors representing the Parish Council. One such request has previously been approved by Mid Suffolk District Council; although the implementation of that review has been delayed as a result of the District Council’s Ward Boundary Review (implemented at the May 2019 election) and multiple national elections during 2019.Community Governance Reviews provide the opportunity for the District Council to review and make changes to community governance arrangements in their areas to reflect local circumstances, for example, in relation to changes in population or in reaction to specific or local issues. As a result of the requests that we have received it is my intention to bring a report to each District Council in April 2020 recommending that a full Community Governance Review of all the Parishes and Towns in the Babergh and Mid Suffolk district areas is conducted during 2020.  The report will detail the proposed terms of reference and time scales for the review, including consultation periods. The relevant legislation for Community Governance Reviews is the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and more details about them can be found here:

<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/how-reviews-work/other-types-of-review/about-community-governance-reviews>If you have any further questions regarding this please do not hesitate to email elections@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk.

**Toys R Us Site**

You may have read that Babergh council is currently in the early stages of negotiation about potential future non-retail uses for this key site. It has been empty since the toy giant ceased trading in April 2018, and is now covered in graffiti. There are hopes it could in the future become a health facility to serve hundreds of new homes being built on the outskirts of Ipswich. Nearby Mothercare is set to close so there will now be three empty stores at Copdock, including the former Multiyork store.

David Busby, Babergh council's spokesman for assets and investment and councillor for Copdock and Washbrook, said the council would not buy the site itself, but was in negotiation with both the owners and potential new users

**Babergh Council Meeting**

The February full Council meeting is specifically to agree the budget.

**Planning**

[Householder application - Erection of two storey rear and second floor extension. Erection of outbuilding and studio/summerhouse.](https://planning.baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=Q50JM0SHI0D00&activeTab=summary) 

Mentone Villa Pin Mill Road Chelmondiston Ipswich Suffolk IP9 1JS

**Application. No:** DC/20/00441 | Received: Sat 01 Feb 2020 | Validated: Mon 03 Feb 2020 | Status: Awaiting decision

I don’t know of any other new planning applications in the parish.