



## Mid Suffolk District Council

### Report for The Stonhams Ward – July 2017

#### **Have your say on new council ward boundaries**

The independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England is asking local people for their help to draw up a new pattern of council wards for Mid Suffolk District Council and Babergh District Council.

The consultation is the first stage of an electoral review which will re-draw ward boundaries across both districts.

The Commission has also announced that it is minded to recommend that each council should have fewer councillors in future. For Mid Suffolk, that means 34 councillors should be elected to the council in future: a reduction of six. And for Babergh, 31 councillors should be elected to represent the area in future: a reduction of twelve from the current arrangements.

The Commission now needs information from local people and groups to help it to produce a new pattern of wards to accommodate councillors across both districts.

In drawing up new boundaries, the Commission aims to deliver electoral equality for voters in district council elections so that each councillor represents roughly the same number of voters. The review also aims to ensure that the new council wards reflect, as far as possible, the interests and identities of communities across the districts.

Professor Colin Mellors, Chair of the Commission, said: “We are asking local people and organisations to help us draw up new wards for Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils. As we develop the recommendations for each council, we will take into account local community identities as well as ensuring electoral equality for voters.

“If you have a view about which communities or neighbourhoods should be part of the same council ward, then we want to hear from you. And if you think a road, river or railway makes for a strong boundary between communities in your part of your district, then this consultation is for you. Alternatively, if you’re simply interested in the way your council is run, just log on to our website to explore our interactive maps and have your say.

“Your views will make a difference.

“We will carefully consider all evidence that is provided during this phase of the review whoever it is from and whether it applies to the whole of your district or just a small part of it.



“Residents will then have a further chance to have their say after we publish our draft recommendations for both councils in October 2017.”

Local people have until 14 August 2017 to submit their views. Further information on the review and interactive maps of the existing wards can be found on the [Local Government Boundary Commissions website](#).

### **OVO Energy Tour of Britain Returns to Suffolk!**

The OVO Energy Tour of Britain is coming back to Suffolk this September, travelling through Mid Suffolk on 8 September: find the route, and all the details on the [Tour of Britain website](#).

### **New Pre Application Service For Planning**

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are committed to delivering a high quality pre-application service which provides a thorough professional response to customers and have reviewed the service we offer.

The result is a new service starting 1st July 2017, providing a more in-depth response, with target response times to provide greater certainty. This will enable the delivery of responses in a timely fashion, providing greater detail and advice, subject to the type of advice requested and the complexity of the proposal. In addition, it includes a combined service, offering Highways, Floods, Heritage, Landscape and Ecology, if requested and relevant to the site or enquiry.

Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 2003 we now charge a fee for this service. The intention is to recover the cost of providing the service and not to deter applicants and their agents from engaging in pre-application discussions. The purpose of this service is to encourage pre-application discussions and offer helpful professional advice, within a target timescale. We shall provide you with clear advice about whether it is likely that your proposal will be granted permission or consent. If we consider it unlikely the proposal would be supported we will give you reasons for our opinion and work with you to resolve. Have a look at our new pre application web pages for more details.

<http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/development-management/pre-application-advice/>