

Parish Council Meeting Report

The Parish Council met on Thursday 28th July

The Chairman, Barbara Ruffell, outlined preliminary plans for the celebration of H M The Queen's Diamond Jubilee on 3rd and 4th June 2012. These plans have been published in the August edition of Green Links, and further updates will be provided as we move nearer the date

Communications with Suffolk County Council regarding the recently withdrawn bus services have not resulted in any change to the existing situation. The Parish Council will now contact the operators of the Suffolk Links alternative service to explore ways in which the provision of their service to Cockfield residents could be improved. Any users of this service are welcome to contact the Clerk to the Council to raise any new problems with the service

It was reported that the First Responder (in case of medical emergencies) service for Cockfield will be covered from Lavenham, although some of the people involved do, in fact, live in Cockfield. The Parish Council agreed to organise a meeting in the Village Hall to enable any interested residents to understand the role of the First Responders - again, details will be published in a future edition of Green Links

Our PCSO was unable to attend the meeting on behalf of Suffolk Police, but it was reported that there have been three burglaries in the village since the last report on 6th May. There have also been reports of thefts from outbuildings and a car in both Cockfield and surrounding villages. The common factor in the majority of these cases is that the premises (or vehicle) were unsecured. The Parish Council would like to remind all residents that, in view of the nature of these crimes, **EVERYONE SHOULD ENSURE THAT THEIR HOMES, OUTBUILDINGS AND CARS ARE KEPT SECURE AT ALL TIMES, ESPECIALLY AT NIGHT - THIS IS ESSENTIAL IF WE ARE TO PUT A STOP TO THIS KIND OF OPPORTUNISTIC CRIME**

The Police will be holding one of their regular Babergh public consultation meetings in Cockfield Village Hall on Wednesday 18th August between 7 and 8 pm

Our County Councillor, Jeremy Pembroke, attended the meeting and brought us up to date on two issues - the County is spending £4 million on road repairs throughout Suffolk, noting that Suffolk has a high proportion of rural B & C roads which are their responsibility - and, the recently approved incinerator at Gt Blakenham, which commences operations in 2014, will save the County (and its council tax payers) £350 million in landfill tax over a 25 year period - it will also generate energy

Our Babergh District Councillor, Clive Arthey, added that Suffolk now recycles 53% of household waste which makes us among the leaders in the country. He then told us that, following the vote of Babergh residents against the proposed merger with Mid Suffolk, that councils will continue as separate bodies. There will, however, be a further integration of services where these provide opportunities for cost savings (as is already the case with waste collection recycling and legal services, not to mention a new shared Chief Executive)

Rodney Williams reported on the progress being made in Earl's Meadow and expressed thanks to everyone who has taken part in the working parties

The Council's accounts for the year ending 31st March 2011 have been approved and are now with the auditor

Should anyone wish to contact the Parish Council on any matter, please call our Parish Clerk, Alan Morgan, on 01284 828072