



## Woolverstone News

July 31st 2017

*Dear All*

*The family of swifts that have screamed through the sky around our cottages since May have departed. The skies seem quieter and there is a sense of loss as this, for me, marks the start of the end of summer. There were seven, I think, in the family that arrived in May. Eleven are leaving so this has been a successful summer. It is quite incredible to think these little birds, that fly at nearly 70 mph and are our fastest birds in level flight, will fly to Africa – maybe even as far as South Africa before they return. The Woolverstone young will stay in flight, sleeping, eating and mating, for three years until they are ready to nest for the first time. We are privileged to be part of their story and look forward to seeing the return safely next year.*

### **Babergh District Council - Implications of loss of 5-year housing supply**

We had a reasonable turn out on 13<sup>th</sup> July to hear from Derek Davis, Peter Patrick and Bill Newman about the implications of the loss of BDC's 5-year housing supply. The session lasted for an hour and a half with some interesting and relevant questions.

In short:

- ✚ Babergh District Council are not meeting their house building targets, therefore the amount of houses needing to be built is increasing as the shortfall is added on to the next target. There is immense pressure from central government to achieve the targets which get harder to reach the more Babergh fall behind.
- ✚ The shortfall is not because of lack of planning permissions being given but from the lack of delivery of units being built. The rural areas of Babergh are delivering well but there is poor delivery adjacent to urban areas.
- ✚ The rural areas are now being asked to take more housing because of this failure to deliver the target amount of houses. Building in rural areas can be delivered more easily, if the land is offered by landowners, because there are less obstacles, green fields, access etc.
- ✚ The Local Plan shows Woolverstone has two fairly large areas offered by landowners. These appear in the new draft Local Plan despite having been rejected in the previous year's SHLAA assessment as "Site is inadequately related to services, facilities & is disproportionate in size for location." Our village scores very poorly on services; we do not have any shops, pubs, schools, street lighting etc. The only positive is access to a road, which is going to have an increase in traffic volume in the order of 30% now that HMS Ganges site will be developed. The sites offered are "greenfield" sites of Grade 2 agricultural land. The land is adjacent to an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and partly within our Conservation Area.

- ✚ It must be said that these blocks of land, though put forward by their owners for development, still have to go through the planning process and be accepted. BDC has not expressed a preference - as yet. But they are under pressure. The consultation will focus, in part, on how those decisions will be made.
- ✚ The map regarding Woolverstone is on page 280 of the draft Local Plan document which can be found on BDC's website. The Council > Democratic Services > Committee meeting Information > Council and Committee meetings > Current Committee (scroll down) > Babergh Council > 18<sup>th</sup> July (scroll down) Item 10 Consultation on the Babergh and \mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan > select Appendix –Joint Local Plan

I fear for the rural character of our Peninsula. There are nearly 600 houses planned for the Peninsula over the next few years and that is what we know of currently. This number is likely to increase. "Infill" has a presumption in favour so we can expect more houses in gardens and gaps/spaces within villages. Babergh says it needs to build 7,820 houses by 2036, (355 per year). Some are already deemed commitments, so 4,210 beyond those committed need to be built. How many should our village be asked to contribute? How many should our Peninsula be asked to contribute? Woolverstone has grown by about 15% in the last five years. There are a further 12 houses planned for brownfield sites; Home Farm, Whitehouse Farm and, possibly Dairy House. These would increase the size of our village by a further 10 % (roughly).

Please let me have your views on this consultation proposal.

### **Some Dates for your Diary:**

**St Michael's Churchyard. Maintenance team. Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August 10.00 -12.00**

Restoration and maintenance volunteers: keeping our churchyard and open spaces beautiful.

If you would like to join in with this venture, please come to the Churchyard prepared with tools, if you can: shears, edging tools, secateurs, rake, strimmer, wheel barrow. Hedge cutter? Anything that you might feel is useful in creating a true wildlife garden in "God's corner".

All welcome.

**Monthly Morning Market at St Michael's Church. Saturday August 12<sup>th</sup>. 9.00 – noon**

The market this month has a canine theme, a four-footed friend special. All welcome. There will be an opportunity for dogs to demonstrate their party tricks; everyone will be a winner with a prize of a doggie treat - if they are allowed one!

Don't miss the bacon butties! Or, the Woolverstone sausage! Delicious!! All made with meat from Stuart and Cheryl at East End Butchers, East Bergholt. You can pre-order meat for collection. There will be local fruit and veg from Tattingstone and specialist artisan breads from Anchor Bakery. Plus:

- ✓ Coffee, tea, bacon butties, Woolverstone sausages
- ✓ Crafts: jewellery, glass, wood, cards, furniture, knitting, crochet
- ✓ Food: cakes, sausage rolls, bread, fruit, veg, eggs, jams, chutneys, pastries, cheeses
- ✓ Anchor Bakery breads

- ✓ Natural products
- ✓ Plants, shrubs, trees and bird food
- ✓ Antiques and Art work
- ✓ Cards, quilting

Take a chance to catch up with friends and neighbours and buy some local produce in the most beautiful and peaceful surroundings

St Michael's will continue the pets theme with a "bring your pets" Pet service on Sunday 13th at 11 a.m. Jane says, "For them to "woof " an alleluia or two!"

## **Helping our Community**

### **Berners Hall Booking Secretary**

Berners Hall Management Committee urgently require a willing volunteer to take over the position of Booking & Hiring Secretary.

Duties to include:

1. Taking telephone and email enquiries from new and existing Hall users
2. Arranging all bookings and viewings and advising hire charges
3. Completion of hire agreements
4. Showing the available facilities to new hirers
5. Collection of payments, issuing receipts, passing payments to treasurer
6. Unlocking & locking before and after an event
7. Liaising with other BHMC members on a regular basis
8. Maintaining current Booking diary

Some of these duties, i.e. unlocking & locking, collecting payments & issuing receipts may be shared with a member of BHMC

You will need to be prepared to use your own home phone and mobile to take telephone enquiries and also an email address to receive and send electronic data.

Your telephone numbers and email address will be advertised, together with your name only (no address) as being the contact for all enquiries relating to Berners Hall.

Although this is an unpaid voluntary position, any reasonable incurred expense will be reimbursed subject to prior agreement

For more info please contact current Booking Secretary –

Jenny Double on 01473 780535 or alternatively

Sarah Hutton on 077540 75684 or email: sarahhutton7@btinternet.com  
Regstd Charity no - 304842

## **Parish Councillor**

We have a vacancy for one Parish Councillor. If you think you would be interested in being part of the PC and would like to know more, please get in touch (780009)

**\*\*\*Clerk to the Parish Council\*\*\***

We are delighted to say we now have a Clerk to the Parish Council. We would like to say thank you Kathryn Deaton for taking on this role.

**Community Speedwatch**

Thank you to the two people who volunteered to be part of the Community Speedwatch team; Lee Foster and Chris Harris. We hope to be up and running again in the second half of August.

If you would like to be part of the team to help keep the traffic flow through the village to safe limits, please make contact with me. We've got the kit but need to get this project moving and regular. (780009)

*If you know your neighbour is not on the internet, or does not get this newsletter, please print of a copy and drop it through their letter box. If you know someone who would like to be on the mailing list please ask them to send me an email to the address below and I will add them to the group email list. Many thanks.*

Best wishes

Simon Pearce. Chairman, Woolverstone Parish Council (780009. [simonrpearce@gmx.co.uk](mailto:simonrpearce@gmx.co.uk))