

**Minutes of Newton Annual Parish Assembly
held on Wednesday 27th April 2011 at the Village Hall**

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Those Present

Colin Poole	-	Parish Council Chairman
James Finch	-	Suffolk County Councillor
PS Liz Ireland	-	Suffolk Police
Dave Crimmin	-	Parish Clerk

21 residents, registered as local government electors in Newton.

Apologies

Peter Holbrook (Babergh District Councillor), Sue Presland, Ron & Molly Fletcher, Dawn Bridge, Fiona Garman, Anne Gardner, Chris Cornell and PC Chris Garrod.

2011/01 Minutes of Meeting held on 21st April 2010

The meeting agreed the minutes of last year's meeting and the Chairman signed them as a true copy.

2011/02 Chairman's Report

Colin Poole welcomed everybody to the 118th Newton Annual Parish Assembly and thanked the residents and guests for their presence. He then gave the following annual report for Newton Parish Council. "As Chairman I am pleased to give you the parish council report for the period April 2010 to March 2011.

- Newton Parish Council met 10 times in the last year. Amongst the many matters upon which our Parish Council is a consultee, we considered 14 planning applications and of those determined by Babergh District Council we have disagreed on 2. We objected to the application for 3 houses at Whisper Wood as well as insisting that Babergh engage with us over its gypsy and traveller policy in the district.
- Unlike SCC and BDC, parish councils get no compensatory government funding for keeping our council tax precept unchanged. The councillors were very aware of the current financial climate when they agreed a Precept of £8,000 for 2011 / 2012. While this will mean an average increase of 6p a week for each household paying council tax in Newton the Councillors felt that with all the uncertainty at this time surrounding services from both Suffolk County Council and Babergh District Council, that the upkeep of the village infrastructure from NPC's perspective should not be compromised.
- National Grid are reviewing their policy on undergrounding the electric cables in areas of outstanding natural beauty so we still await their recommended route for the proposed cabling between Bramford and Twinstead. Representatives of Newton Council have attended public meetings and exhibitions and we have remained fully engaged with the consultation process.
- Newton benefited from £2,000 of Section 106 funding from Babergh that was generated when the additional property at Hills Barn was agreed a couple of years ago. This funding went towards the cost of the new embankment slide in the playing field. Thanks to Roy Gardner and Dave Crimmin for their work on this and Roy and Peter Schwenk for their work on the fence.
- We appreciate the support of our Suffolk County Councillor, James Finch, in helping us fund the fencing around the play equipment in the playing field. Also, thank you to James for his help in getting the junction improvements at Valley Road.
- The Community Speed Watch Scheme has now been running for over a year and all concerned have been happy with the results to date. There were 260 motorists reported in the 5 parishes involved with the scheme of which 20 were caught in Newton. I'd like to thank Sue Presland, Jackie and Ivan Horlock, Ann Vince, Rachel Mason, and Charlie and Sally Weston for joining me on the roadside to encourage drivers to slow down through our village. Unfortunately Charlie and Sally are having to take a break from Speedwatch for a while, so we are looking for more volunteers to take up the reins. Are you interested?
- I would like to thank the Newton Newsletter and Box River News for continuing to publish the minutes from our meetings and the Parish Council events calendar.

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- There are a number of people who I would like to thank:
 - Shirley Taylor and Liza Devlin for the work they do in preparing Christmas parcels
 - Harry Buckledee for maintaining the War Memorial.
 - Bob Rowland for the job he has done in keeping the playground area so neat and tidy.
 - Gordon and Owen Mortlock for the excellent refurbishment of the village sign
 - Sid Scammell for helping us maintain the wooden assets of the village.
 - Sue Presland for her work as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and for organising the Autumn Show.
 - Dawn Bridge and her helpers in running Newton's Good Neighbours scheme.
 - The Village Hall Committee for keeping the refurbishment programme on track.
 - Those residents who make sure that the village is cleared of litter, not just those who turned out for the Spring Clean a couple of weeks back, but also those who are picking up litter all year round.
 - Dave Crimmin, our enthusiastic and hard working clerk, whose professionalism in his work continues to ensure Newton has a respected reputation as a Quality Parish Council.
 - All of the people, many of whom are speaking tonight or sitting here listening, who all contribute so much in so many different ways to make this place a Village, such as the Fete Committee, the Village Newsletter, not just Dawn Bridge but also those people who staple, fold and distribute it, Janet and Alan Weavers for events like Burns Night which really bring the whole village together and all the people who give willingly and freely of their time to make Newton a lovely place to live.

Finally my thanks to the parish Councillors for their support over the past 4 years, particularly Rebecca Wade, Gary Flowers and Peter Haylock who are not standing for election at the poll next week."

2011/03 Suffolk County Councillors Report

James Finch delivered his report. "May I sincerely thank you for the confidence you have bestowed in me being your County Councillor this last year. I have got to know you all that much better and I feel we are developing a productive dialogue between the Parish and the County Council. I want to briefly share with you some of the achievements over the last 12 months and some of the challenges ahead for your County Council:

- **Keeping Council Tax down** - this year we have delivered a zero Council Tax increase recognising the difficult financial climate we all face. This follows two years of the lowest ever Council tax increases.
- **Investment in priority services** – This last year our good housekeeping has enabled us to invest more in priority front line areas, such as:
 - Caring for older people - + £6 million
 - Safeguarding vulnerable children with the most complex needs - + £1m
- **Strong financial management** - through good housekeeping, cutting bureaucracy and working more efficiently, we have saved a further £10 million this last year. This Conservative administration has saved £80million over the last five years. In February 2011, the County Council set possibly the most challenging budget in its history. We have had to make savings of £43.5M as a result of the reduction in central Government grants and yet still deliver the key vital services. By 2015, we will be asked to make a cumulative saving of £125m. It is the alternative approach of the New Strategic Directions we will need to make if we as a community are to keep supplying our frontline services to the needy.
- **New Strategic Direction / Big Society** – Suffolk County Council continue to pioneer a cross-sector partnership approach to delivering services, breaking down barriers and cutting duplication between organisations across the public and voluntary sector. I believe "village life" is a microcosm of just that. To build on this we are now allocating an officer of the council (but not

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extra people) to work and have a *geographic* focus with each local councillor, to seek out with us innovative ways of meeting our future local needs rather than only working by function.

- **Improving Education and Skills** - A vital part of our strategy is our determination to drive up educational standards across Suffolk alongside our School Organisational review. Locally progress has also been made to allow for the expansion of your local school to meet these plans. My thanks go to all the Governors, the District Council and others in working through to a solution to obtain the extra land to accommodate the extra class rooms on the existing site.

This has to be combined with the Government's plans to encourage Academies and Free Schools. Our policy is to support our parents and their local wishes. I have had active contact with the new Free School group for Stoke by Nayland and the Compass Group to ensure that the Council are aware of their concerns so that we can try and reflect them in the future policy.

- **Keeping Suffolk moving** - during the cold spell, County Council carried on gritting Front-line workers made unscheduled visits to vulnerable people at their own behest to check they were ok. Suffolk have recently had confirmed that we will receive £4m additional funds this month to address the effects of this last winter on our roads not least to fill the potholes.
- **Local achievements** – Working with your Parish Council, we have been working on speed of traffic in the village and I welcome your local speed watch initiative. Your local concerns at the Junction to the A1071 are noted and at last the Valley Road junction has been re-aligned. We also now do have a draft plan for creating a pedestrian crossing on the A134 in the centre of the village. The next challenge is to line up some funding to pay for it.

In summary – As before I am here to be your local voice in influencing our County Council policy and to reflect your views in those issues that are really important to you - eg the Schools Organisational review, the potential introduction of a Free School at Stoke, the ongoing National Grid's consultation on the Power lines across South Suffolk, highway matters and those others that are still to appear !! Lastly but by no means least thank you and the Parish Council for all the friendship and support you have given to me as your Councillor."

Cllr Finch then answered residents' questions on the Valley Road junction, and the Free School funding.

2011/04 Babergh District Councillors Report

Babergh District Councillor Peter Holbrook submitted his apologies. No report was submitted to the meeting but Appendix B contains the report sent on the 18th May 2011.

2011/05 Police Report

PS Liz Ireland gave the following police report on crime in the village over the past 12 months. "This report covers the period from 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011. During this time there has been 13 crimes recorded that are relevant to the parish of Newton of which 2 have been detected, this compares to 7 crimes for the same period last year, where again 2 were detected.

Breakdown of Crime:

Burglary Dwelling	–	1 Report 0 Reports	2010/2011 2009/2010	(increase from previous year)
Burglary Other Building	–	1 Report 3 Reports	2010/2011 2009/2010	(decrease from previous year)
Vehicle Crime	–	3 Reports 0 Reports	2010/2011 2009/2010	(increase from previous year)
Assault/Public Order	–	0 Reports 1 Report	2010/2011 2009/2010	(decrease from previous year)

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Theft	–	6 Reports 3 Reports	2010/2011 2009/2010	(increase from previous year)
Criminal Damage	–	0 Reports 0 Reports	2010/2011 2009/2010	(equal to previous year)
Other	–	2 Reports 0 Reports	2010/2011 2009/2010	(increase from previous year)

It is disappointing to see almost a 200% increase in crimes reported that effect the parish of Newton over the last year. However, getting this in perspective, this counts for just over 1 crime per month and less than 0.5% of the total 3134 crimes reported in the Sudbury and surrounding area during the last year. Whilst compiling this report I noticed the main increase was in relation to theft related offences. Many of these offences could have been prevented if the victims had been more security aware. One of the ongoing campaigns within the Suffolk Constabulary is to raise people’s security awareness through our spotter campaign. We physically check parked cars and write to the owners of vehicles, stating what security weaknesses we have seen, i,e; valuables on display, open windows etc. The aim is to try and prevent them from becoming victims in the future and thus reducing crime.

The Suffolk Constabulary has also noticed a steady increase in the amount of reported theft of domestic heating oil and metals in recent months and related offences. This is due to the increase price of metal and oil. The penalties for theft are also lower than for burglary and therefore, this may be a contributing factor. We are tackling this in various ways, including through close liaison with our local scrap metal dealers and improved crime prevention advice and training to victims of crime. If you, or anyone you know wishes to have some tailored crime prevention advice, please do not hesitate to contact me or another member of the team.” PS Ireland them answered residents questions on cars for sale being parked in the layby.

2011/06 Newton Green Trust

Roy Gardner presented the NGT report. “Those of you who take advantage of walking our beautiful Green will have noticed that much work has been carried out on improving the safety for walkers and drivers alike by giving better sight lines. This included the scrub between the 15th and 16th fairways and the footpath bordering the old allotments along the 12 fairway. The tangled scrub and bushes next to Mill House and Plough cottage has been opened up.

The golf clubs request to renegotiate their contract was concluded. This was necessary due to the loss of many members and a fairer contract is now in place allowing for fluctuating membership. The tracks across the green are kept under constant surveillance and repair and we are forever seeking ways to prevent potholes forming. The material for repairing the pot holes on Little Green has been delivered and is in the village hall car park ready to be deployed.

Earlier this year we took expert advice on renovating the much overgrown Saracens Head pond. It was decided to review this project when the better weather arrives. We were consulted by various property owners whose land bordered the green. These included Greenways and Saracens cottages with regard to their parking. One property owner enquired if he could purchase a tiny bit of Green but this was refused.

Finally we have recently been involved with members of our community with regard to the proposed development at Whisper Wood. To date we have had no response from the developers but can I, once again, emphasize that we will not act in any way which is not in the best interests of the village.”

2011/07 Parish Assembly’s Newton Green Trust Representative

Liza Devlin was unanimously elected as the Parish Assembly’s Newton Green Trust representative.

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2011/08 Newton Charities (Plampin and Alston)

Alan Vince reported on the finances for the Newton Charities who have £4,500 under deposit. Both Molly Watson's family and residents were very pleased with the seat dedicated to her memory. The trustees are considering the long term operation of the Charity and are reviewing a possible link into the Christmas Parcel scheme operated by the Newton Green Trust and the Parish Council.

2011/09 Village Hall Report

Alan Vince reported that it had been a busy year for the Management Committee and reflected on the progress over the past 10 years in terms of the improvements to the Village Hall. He thanked Janet Weavers for all her hard work on the committee and in the garden. Funds have increased by £2,000 over the past 12 months to a total of £8,500. A drop in the number of residents attending the events run by the VHMC will possibly lead to less events being run over the next 12 months. Alan requested that residents should let the VHMC know what events they wanted in order that the programme meets their requirements.

2011/10 Parochial Church Council

The Chairman read the reported submitted by Fiona Garman. "Regular services have continued throughout the year with visiting clergy taking some of the services and we are extremely pleased to welcome Revd Judith Sweetman to our Parish. The licensing and installation of Revd Judith Sweetman as priest-in-charge of the Box River Benefice took place at St Mary's Church in Boxford on 20th October 2010. Revd Judith Sweetman has already made a great impact during her time here and has introduced a monthly Family Service at All Saints Church. This has been well received and it is encouraging to see many more families in attendance.

This year Mrs Diana Stock has retired from the PCC leaving the position of Church Warden after many years of hard work and commitment. Mrs Christine Cornell has taken over as new Church Warden. Keeping our Church open continues to be a challenge with the increased running costs and we are grateful for the various donations of help we receive. We have volunteers who donate their time and help with cleaning, flower arranging and general upkeep. The churchyard notice board has recently been beautifully restored. We continue with our fundraising and are thankful for the support received at these various events. Saturday, 7 May 2011 is our annual gift day and we look forward to the continued generosity we experience from Newton residents. "

2011/11 The Nave All Saints Church

Wendy Turner read the report. "Your church as most is divided into the chancel and the nave. The chancel belongs to the village and is run by the PCC. The nave belongs to the churches conservation trust I am their representative and key holder. This last year we have been fortunate in having the nave roof retiled and other maintenance work carried out at no expense to the village . This caused a great upheaval and resulted in a very dirty interior.

In July on two days a band of volunteers attacked this problem with gusto. The result is an amazing change and the nave has not been so clean for many years giving us a historical building the village can be proud of.

Many thanks to those who helped physically and financially you can be proud of what we have achieved. Pipistrelle bats were found in the bell tower and this was sealed off during the re roofing so as not to disturb them. I can assure you they cannot get into the nave so come down and see for yourselves."

2011/12 The Fireside Club

Wendy Turner read the report. "We now have 17 members, one down on last year, but we still maintain a good attendance at our fortnightly meetings, and a good community spirit as shown by our efforts at the Newton Fete last year. Our teepee, camp-fire with pot and two squaws winning the fancy dress completion.

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Thanks to the money we received from the Fete and the Newton Green Trust we have enjoyed outings to Bury St Edmund's Cathedral, to Woodbridge and Sutton Hoo, to Poplar Nurseries and Felixstowe. This year we have had lunch at Greenstead Green Farm shop and just recently on a beautiful day visited Christchurch Park and Mansion at Ipswich, where we had lunch and a tour of the park in an electric buggy. Other retired people in the village are welcome to join us if we have spare seats in the minibus. We are very lucky to have use of a school minibus at a reasonable cost and a very capable driver.

We enjoy our food especially when John and Shirley Taylor invite us to lunch in their lovely old farmhouse. We have fish and chips in the Village hall twice a year and tea at Corncraft in the Autumn. Members bring cake to our meetings and this year so far we have 4 birthdays actually on a meeting day. In December 23 members and visitors had a very good Christmas Lunch at the Golf Club who look after us very well and are considerate in their charges.

I would like to thank those who help us run smoothly, Alan Vince for laying the fire ready for us to light. Roy Gardner for taxi service for our two long standing Assington Members and Ivan for putting out and clearing away the chairs and tables.

We have a small committee of four members with Ruby Briggs as our treasurer who keeps an eye on our expenditure which apart from the costs of our outings is minimal. So many thanks for another happy year with so many doing their bit."

2011/13 Keep Fit Club

Wendy Turner read the report. "This group meets every Friday morning in the village hall at 9.15am to exercise with the guidance of Frances a qualified instructor. It is very enjoyable hour and we have up to 12 members exercising but not always a full house. Our thanks go to Ivan who ensures we have a clean floor to roll around on. We welcome new members."

2011/14 Mobile Library

Wendy Turner read the report. "The Suffolk Mobile Library visits Newton every other Saturday at 4.45pm standing by Plampin Close for 15 minutes. This is a poorly supported village asset with only 3 ladies and a few children. A good range of books are available with your library card and the Librarian is very helpful. Please come and use it or we will lose it!"

2011/15 The Village Fete

Paul Presland gave the update on the Fete. "Once again we had a very successful village Fete; we were blessed with fine, dry weather and there was a good turnout despite the temperatures being somewhat cooler than the previous year. As always, the organising committee worked incredibly hard prior to the Fete and without their commitment this occasion would not happen. On the day they were helped by villagers who volunteered to run stalls, sell refreshments, prepare the site and generally help out.

In the evening our Barn Dance at Oliver's farm produced lots of laughter and merriment as villagers and friends struggled with the intricacies of dances such the bizarrely named 'stripping the willow'. The Hog roast or vegetarian alternative was really appreciated and it seemed to be washed down with a little tippie or two. The profits from the Fete once again went to our church, the Fireside club, our Newsletter and the Village Hall. By way of a conclusion I would like to personally thank everybody who joined together to make this very important village event such a success."

2011/16 Neighbourhood Watch

Paul Presland read the report in the absence of Sue Presland. "It has been a quiet year on the Neighbourhood Watch front with little crime being brought to my attention. There have been two occasions when I contacted the police on behalf of villagers and, disappointingly, I received little

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feedback. I am sure that this is due, in part, to the fact that Tony Simpson is no longer the NHW coordinator and this role is no longer being managed at a local level.

I continue to forward what I hope is useful and relevant information that I receive from Suffolk Police to the 50 or so email addresses I have. If anybody would like to be added to my mailing list please email me at sue_presland@hotmail.com. I always appreciate being contacted regarding concerns or with feedback from the emails I send – it's good to know that people are interested. I have been the NHW coordinator for a number of years now and would be more than willing to pass the mantle on if somebody else would like to 'have a go'.

2011/17 Village Newsletter

The Chairman read the report submitted by Dawn Bridge. "The Newsletter, with the generosity of the village, goes from strength to strength, continuing to provide not only a valuable information service, but also a central meeting point for Newton's residents. I often hear people refer to our Newsletter as 'Dawn's magazine', but it isn't mine - it's never been mine - it belongs to the village, and I'm just its keeper, because quite simply it would be impossible for me to continue to produce it without the tremendous support and encouragement I receive.

My sincere thanks to all our readers, to our loyal delivery team who go out in all weathers on their rounds, to Chilton Office Supplies for the help they've given us in resolving our printer problems, and my very special thanks to Carole and Tony Langley who not only distribute our Newsletter to the delivery team, but help me in any way they can whenever help is needed. My thanks to all."

2011/18 Good Neighbours

The Chairman read the report submitted by Dawn Bridge. "Since its inception two years ago, the Newton Good Neighbours scheme has evolved. It was initially suggested and funded by the Parish Council when Britain was threatened by the emergence of Swine Flu as an emergency help line, but since then it has become simply a help line.

We don't get many calls, which I think reflects very positively the wonderful community spirit we have here in Newton, and those we do receive these days are, more often than not, requests for non-medical assistance. Among them we've had a request for an urgent lift into Sudbury, and a plea for the loan of a piece of equipment urgently needed by a disabled lady. The lift into Sudbury was easily managed, and I'm very pleased to say that after having made a few telephone calls, we were able to provide the disabled lady with the equipment she required within half an hour of receiving the initial request - and that's what I call service!

We have around a dozen volunteer helpers, and the Good Neighbours telephone number is published regularly in the Village Newsletter, so it's always available. I would like to take this opportunity to thank not only our helpers, but also the Parish Council for having the foresight to initiate this worthwhile scheme. With such a service available to Newton's residents 24 hours a day throughout the year, no one in the village need ever feel alone because help is always just a phone call away."

2011/19 Questions to the Chair

The following concerns and issues were raised for the attention of the Parish Council:

- Tony Langley concerns on the amount of dog mess left on the Green and playing field
- Shirley Taylor's proposal of an event to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012
- Wendy Taylor's suggestion of extra space required for people to stand / sit at the bus stop opposite the Saracens' Head.

The following points were raised:

- Janet Taylor helped with the Christmas Parcels in addition to Shirley Taylor and Liza Devlin
- Thanks to Carol Langley and Joan Linney for all the support at the coffee mornings and events in the village

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- The village hall photos were now mounted in displays at the village hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.22pm.

Appendix A Report of the Young Annual Parish Assembly 2011

On Wednesday 27th April 2011 at 6.30pm, Newton village hall hosted the third Young Annual Parish Assembly, the opportunity for the young people of the village to their say in the way the village is run – 2 Parents and 10 young people attended.

The Park – what the young people like:

- The open space
- The Park
- New slide
- The fence stopping dogs getting in – but people mustn't let their dogs in.

What young people didn't like about the park:

- Selfish golfers playing over or too close to where children are playing and on the football pitch – They wanted to know why the golfers can't use the practice green and golf range instead.
- Squeaky chains on the swings and the dirt on them
- A metal bar on the climbing frame spinning in its frame

What the council proposed and young people thought sounded a good idea:

- Picnic bench in the play area
- Games equipment like bats and balls and markings on the ground
- The BMX track we promised

What else the young people & parents would like to see added to the park:

- Roof on the cradle swings to prevent birds from fouling the seats
- A bin near the football pitch so people don't drop litter there.
- Shade for dogs sat outside the fence
- A shared tennis/basketball pitch
- Repairs to the tunnel entrance and some padding
- A zip wire
- A trampoline
- Paint the fence pink or rainbow coloured
- A swimming pool

What young people said they liked about the village: The Autumn Show

What young people said they didn't like about the village: No shop in the village

What the young people said they would like to see happen in the village:

- Wheldon's Farm Shop selling ordinary ice creams, sweets and canned drinks.
- An ice-cream stall in the village.

Thanks again to everyone who attended. These will be discussed by Newton Parish Council to see how far we can meet the requests.

Colin Poole, Chairman, Newton Parish Council

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Appendix B Report from Peter Holbrook

Finances

There will be no council tax increase for the 2011/12 year. We still have the 2nd lowest council tax in Suffolk (£139.01 for a Band D property) and remain in the lowest 20% of district councils nationally. Despite the recession we have still collected nearly 99% of council tax, business rates and housing rents (which helps to keep our costs and your taxes down). In 2010/11 we achieved the £1.6 million in savings, efficiencies and additional income we set out to do. We have identified a further £1.7 million for this year. We have established a Shared Revenues Partnership with Mid-Suffolk and Ipswich councils starting this month. This means that the three Revenues and Benefits departments have been amalgamated in one location in order to generate savings of over £4million over the next 10 years for the 3 councils while at the same time providing a better, more resilient service.

Housing

Some 220 new properties were built in Babergh during the last year, of which approximately 80-90 were affordable homes. Our target was 100 for the year and should be reached by the end of the month. This is a particularly good result given the continuing problems with the housing market and the bad winter weather. Increasing numbers of people are experiencing debt problems as a result of the recession, so this year the Homelessness Team has concentrated on prevention by improving relationships with landlords, lenders, CABs and Benefit Agencies. This has enabled a number of families to remain in their homes that would otherwise have been made homeless. Although we achieved the "Decent Homes Standard" for all our council houses the previous year, there is still need to renew kitchens and bathrooms which have reached the end of their useful life. Last year some 90 bathrooms and 190 kitchens were renewed in Babergh council houses.

Safety & Health Issues

Our community safety partnership continues to support and deliver significant projects that contribute to the reduction of crime and disorder in Babergh. These include support for town centre pastors to help tackle night time disorder in Sudbury and Hadleigh and a local action group aimed at anti-social behaviour in Great Cornard.

Other Work

- Home adaptations to meet the needs of elderly and disabled people.
- Street cleanliness improvements, domestic & garden waste recycling.
- Initiatives to reduce the amount of non-domestic waste sent to landfill.
- Noise Action Week (the Environmental Protection Team visited 9 local schools and gave presentations to 730 pupils to raise awareness of noise nuisance and its effect on peoples' health).
- A survey all 12,000 trees managed by Babergh.
- The free swimming programme had to be curtailed when the government funding ceased.
- Improved CCTV monitoring.
- Hadleigh Swimming Pool refurbishment project.
- Closure of public toilets. In order to save money Babergh decided that it could no longer afford to maintain the public loos in some of our tourist hotspots. These are mainly used by tourists who spend large amounts of money in these areas to the great benefit of the businesses there. We have therefore asked these parishes and their businesses to contribute to the running and upkeep of the toilets. The toilets in Sudbury and Hadleigh are not affected.
- Planning. I have been working closely with your Parish Council on a number of proposed developments in Newton, particularly regarding Whisper Wood, Lilly Fields and Marks Meadow.

The Future

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils decided to integrate their workforces under a single management team and save a huge amount of money. To this end a new chief executive has been

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appointed and the existing two are being made redundant. The redundancy costs of the whole integration project have been factored into the overall costs/savings analysis and been independently validated. Despite what you may have read in the press, the whole project has been thoroughly examined and remains a very cost-effective exercise. Savings are calculated as being £1 million p.a. Integration of the two sets of staff will go ahead during the year, with the first area tackled being the appointment of a single management team under the new chief executive.

We, the councillors of both districts, want to go a step further and merge the two into one brand-new authority. This would bring in a further £800,000 of savings per year. In order to achieve this we must have the agreement of you, the electors. Shortly after the district council elections on 5th May, you will all receive a voting paper in the post from the Electoral Reform Society asking whether you are in favour of this merger or not. A large majority of the councillors of all parties in the two districts voted for this. I sincerely believe that it's the right thing to do and I hope that you all vote for the merger.

End of Appendices

Signed..... Dated.....