



Councillor Glen Horn

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To:
All Parish Clerks
and Parish Councillors,
Wetheringsett Ward.

Ward: Wetheringsett

September/October 2015

Glen Horn Report to Parish Councils October 2015.

Devolution Proposals

The Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill makes provision for local authorities and other parts of the public sector to 'bid' to run functions currently delivered centrally in return for certain agreed outcomes.

Suffolk's district and borough councils and the County Council believe that locally-made decisions are likely to be better and more directly accountable to the communities we serve.

The Suffolk Public Sector Leaders' (SPSL) group, set up a Devolution Working Group to investigate the level of interest about devolution among public sector organisations. The Working Group liaised with representatives from the health and police sectors as well as the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (NALEP). A final devolution 'bid' was produced and considered by the SPSL group on 4th September. A copy of this bid can be seen online: <http://www.babergh.gov.uk/council-business/news-and-media/devolution/suffolk-devolution-bid-document/>

This devolution document was sent to Government as an expression of interest to ensure that our intention to bid for powers was submitted within its deadline. Separate bids were also submitted by a range of councils, including those bordering the Suffolk county area.

Initial feedback from civil servants suggested that the Government would look more favourably on Suffolk's bid if the conversations were widened to include some of these councils and other partners.

During the week of 7th September, meetings were held with representatives of both Norfolk County Council and the New Anglia LEP. From these, it became clear that there was a desire from the political leaders across both counties to work towards constructing a joint devolution bid centred around the linked issues of economic growth and public sector reform (i.e. closer working between councils, health bodies, the police and business leaders).

The SPSL group met on 18th September and clarified a number of key points both about the emerging joint 'bid' and the next steps in working with both Norfolk County councils, the Norfolk districts and boroughs and NALEP.

The SPSL was clear that:

- Growth and wider public sector reform will be the two elements for the 'bid'
- The mechanisms by which the elements will be devolved from Government are likely to be different, but linked
- Growth could be devolved to a Combined Authority across Suffolk and Norfolk comprising representatives from participating councils. **This does NOT mean the scrapping or merging of the two county, or any other, councils.** Combined authorities are separate organisations, created where they are considered likely to improve transport, economic development and regeneration at a strategic level. There are currently five combined authorities in England
- Wider public sector reform would focus on education, health, care and safety and be devolved on an individual county basis

The SPSL agreed to take these proposals into a meeting held with colleagues from Norfolk and NALEP on 22nd September. At this meeting all partners agreed the framework for the development of a joint devolution bid between NALEP, Suffolk and Norfolk's councils and other public sector partners.

Community Achievement Awards.

Nominations are now open for the 2015/16 Babergh and Mid Suffolk Community Achievement Awards. This year, for the first time, the awards have been aligned so there will be one awards ceremony in April 2016 to cover both Districts.

Town and Parish Councils are invited to nominate individuals, groups or businesses in their communities that have gone above and beyond. There are four categories available:

Category 1: **Rising Star**

This nomination would recognise a young person or group of young people (under 18 years) who have made an outstanding contribution to their local school or community.

For example:

- Undertaking voluntary work/involvement with local voluntary organisations
- Supporting/mentoring others
- Care and dedication shown to another individual
- Fundraising for local projects

Category 2: **Community Hero**

This nomination would recognise a person who has provided selfless service to a voluntary body or made a significant contribution to their community, making a real difference to the people and place that they have supported.

For example:

- Dedication to helping/supporting members of the local community
- Working for the benefit of the local community by contributing to the improvement of its local facilities
- Fundraising for local projects

- Voluntary work/involvement with local voluntary organisations
- Work in relation to improving the environment

Category 3: **Action in the Community**

This nomination would recognise the work of groups of people in the district whose actions affect the wider community either by improving the environment or by providing help to those in need.

For example:

- Working together on a project to support and benefit the local community
- Fundraising activities
- Work in relation to improving the environment

Category 4: **Outstanding Local Business**

This nomination would recognise a business located within Babergh or Mid Suffolk (with exception of our sponsors) which has made a significant contribution to either the social or environmental wellbeing of the district and its residents.

For example:

- Any business that benefits the community/district by contributing to the improvement of facilities and services and works towards reducing the barriers between the business sector, the voluntary sector and the local community.

Nomination forms can be downloaded from our website:

Mid Suffolk: <http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/your-community/community-achievement-awards/>

You can also request forms by contacting 01449 724654. Nominations must be in by Thursday 31 December 2015. Winners will be alerted in the New Year and invited to attend an awards ceremony along with the nominator on 21 April 2016 at Wherstead Park.

Community Emergency Planning Workshop

On the 5th October there will be two workshops running for established CEP groups across West Suffolk, Babergh & Mid Suffolk as well as for anyone who would like to know more about CEP or groups that are just embarking or already working on a plan. These are identical workshops so you can choose which location and or time suits you better. The first takes place from 10:00 -13:00 in Bury St Edmunds and the second from 18:30-21:30 in Needham Market.

Launch of Councillors Locality Award.

This is an opportunity for not-for profit groups or organisations within our **Mid Suffolk Communities** to receive direct support from their District Councillor.

It is a 'One Off' Awards Programme and Mid Suffolk District Councillors will have a total allocation of £5000 each.

Awards made can range from £250 upwards and each Councillor should make no more than 10 Awards in total.

The application period will run from 1st October 2015 with an application deadline of 8th January 2016. The application form & guidelines are attached.

This is a great opportunity for those of you who would like some equipment etc. to boost your existing resources, or for those of you just starting on a plan and needing some additional support.

All applicants will need to complete the Application Form demonstrating how their activities meet the strategic priorities. Application Forms will be returned to the Communities Team purely for co-ordination and forwarded on to the respective Councillor as they are received.

Any questions or queries you may have on the Awards can be supported by the Communities Team:

Emma Bendall: Tel: 01449 724650 Email: emma.bendall@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Gillian Hilder: Tel: 01449 724631 Email: gillian.hilder@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Josephine Beever: Tel: 01449 724654 Email: josephine.beever@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

As a new councillor I am still finding my way somewhat, although have now taken up roles on the Joint Audit Committee, Development Control and the Enabling Programme steering Board, and am always available to help local residents with any problem, or at least point them in the right direction to find answers.

My telephone numbers are: 01449 258131 or 07906 510334.

Email is : glen.horn@midsuffolk.gov.uk

I am also happy to receive visitors at home, but please call to arrange an appointment if at all possible, at The Old School, Westhorpe.

Kindest Regards.
Cllr Glen Horn.
Wetheringsett Ward.