#### **GREAT BLAKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES**

Minutes of Gt Blakenham Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 11th April 2024 in the Parish Room, Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham at 7.30pm. Present: Clir Steve Plume (Chairman), Cllr Nick Leonard (Vice Chair) Cllr Will Durrant, Karen Grimwood (Parish Clerk), SCC Cllr Chris Chambers, 4 Members of the public.

- 1. To receive and approve any apologies for absence. Cllr Debbie Kemp. MSDC Cllr Marriott
- 2. Declaration of any pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests
  - a. Councilors' declaration of interest appropriate to any item on the agenda. None
  - b. To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interest (if any) None
    c. To grant any requests for dispensations as appropriate. None

  - d. Co-option of parish councilors(s) / to sign declaration of acceptance. None
- 3. Public Forum
  - a. To receive the report from the County Councillor See attached report.

SCC have agreed that the drain that caused the flooding on Stowmarket Road is their responsibility and will instigate the repairs.

The drainage works on Gipping Road is underway and will last 3 - 4 weeks.

The road in Chapel Lane has been agreed to be resurfaced. It is hoped that the drainage issues will be sorted at the same time.

- b. To receive the report from the District Councillor See attached report.
- c. To receive questions from members of the public -

Has there been any updates on how the Water Meadows project is proceeding? Clerk to contact MSDC for update.

Have PC been in contact with River Gipping Trust about replacing Lock plank? Confirmed that it had been agreed in previous meeting that we would cover the cost of the materials when the work was ready to be completed. Clerk to contact the trust to confirm again.

d. To receive Barham picnic site presentation/report. - see attached report.

The Barham picnic site showcased the plans for a Pre-school, cafe, inclusive play areas. community garden, wildlife study, and exercise trial. They asked for £5,000 in support to cover costs not funded by official sources like legal fees. The project will be implemented in phases, with the preschool being part of phase two. PC will confirm support in the next meeting on 9th May 2024 when local project allocations will be agreed.

- 4. To approve the Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 14th March 2024 Approved
- 5. To note the Clerk's update from previous Meetings.
  - a. Tree guards on hackneys Corner installed Noted
  - b. Hedgehog tunnels have been ordered. Noted
- 6. Planning
  - a. To consider the following planning applications.

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b. To note an	y planning determinations.	
SCC/0091/23MS	Land south east of Masons Landfill, Bramford Road, Great Blakenham, IP6 0JX.	Construction and operation of a pyrolysis facility and associated infrastructure.
		Consent granted

DC/23/04693	Port One Logistics Park , Blackacre Hill, Bramford Road , Great Blakenham	Application for Consent to Display an Advertisement(s)
		Consent Granted
DC/23/00589	The Chequers Inn, 19 Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham, IP6 0LP	Retention of change of use of public house (Sui Generis) to Indian restaurant (Use Class E(b)) and ancillary residential accommodation for employee use at first floor. Consent Granted
Appeal Ref: APP/W3520/W/ 23/3319410	Land R/O 253 Stowmarket Road (off Old Bell Lane), Great Blakenham,	The development proposed is the erection of 3 detached bungalows with associated parking facilities served by extension of Old Bell Lane. <b>Appeal denied</b>

#### 7. Growth, Highways, and Infrastructure

a. Inventory for street lighting & costs

Noted a preliminary cost approx £2,1000 but awaiting official invoice for payment

#### 8. Governance

- a. To note SALC annual subscription has increased and aligned with all other councils. Noted
- b. To note Suffolk Police & Crime Commissioner Election on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 Noted
- c. To note internal audit booked with SALC for week 10th June 2024 Noted
- d. To note PKF Littlejohn advises external audit deadline is received no later 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024 Agreement to use PKF Littlejohn for audit.
- e. To note Clerk pension scheme with Nest has been set up. Noted and agreed to set up bank mandate for payments and for SALC to arrange contributions under payroll service.

#### 9. Allotments.

- a. The lease for Plot 25 has been finalised. Noted
- b. Remaining plots Clerk to contact to see if new tenants happy to take over plots and clear themselves as having issues locating a contractor to complete.
- c. Update on advice from SALC on license. SALC have agreement with Birketts solicitors and provide 20 minutes consultation free and to advise of costs. Clerk to contact SALC to arrange a call.

#### 10. Village Maintenance

- a. Update on painting of White Bridge on Gipping Road
- b. Update on Speed Indication Devices Still awaiting posts to be installed and relevant permissions.
- c. Update on Flooding on Stowmarket Road See 3a
- d. Note that contractors have renewed Public Liability Insurance. Noted
- 11. Churchyard and Cemetery.

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- Ongoing review of documents Clerk to send cemetery booklet to Chair to review and to provide fee costings
- Training and Development for Councilor's and Clerk Clerk to send full training list to councilor's

#### 13. Finance

a. To consider approving and making the following payments:

Shades		Hackneys Corner as per tender -2447	£135.00	LGA 1972 s111
Shades	В	Grounds maintenance as per tender – 2448	£507.50	LGA 1972 s111
Shades	В	Street Cleaning as per tender - 2449	£1316.67	LGA 1972 s111
HMRC	В	P30 ending 5th April 2024	£90.36	LGA 1972 s111
Payroll		Ending 31.03.24	£976.30	LGA 1972 s111
Rialtas	В	mere contraine to flett compater 61201	£30.00	LGA 1972 s111
SALC	В	Membership subscription 2024/25 - 28594	£791.61	LGA 1972 s111
SALC	В	Payroll services period ending 31.03.24	£54.00	LGA 1972 s111
Three	D	Mobile ending 31.03.24	£11.00	LGA 1972 s111
EE	В	Reimbursement for Mobile/wifi hub	£26.00	LGA 1972 s111

a. Payments outside of meeting

ICO	Renewal fee data protection certificate -	£40.00	LGA 1972 s111
	Paid 02/04/24 -		

#### b. Payments Received

MSDC	В	Precept 2024/2025 Part 1	£26,250.00   LGA 1972 s111
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- **14.** Reports -To receive reports from Councilor's assigned to the following: a. Village Hall Cllr Plume
- 15. Correspondence None Received
- 16. Future meetings
  - a. To note invitation for items to be considered in the next meeting.
  - b. To note the date of the next scheduled Meeting on 9th May 2024 and any items for the agenda.

#### Karen Grimwood

Clerk to Great Blakenham Parish Council Email: pc@greatblakenham.suffolk.gov.uk Phone: 07508830777

Parish Council website: www.greatblakenham.suffolk.cloud

Date: 6th April 2024



### 98% of pupils receive a place at one of their preferred Secondary Schools on National Offer Day

This year parents and carers of 98% of children were offered a place on National Offer Day at one of their three preferred schools and 93% were offered a place at their first preference school.

Suffolk County Council received 7,867 applications from parents and carers indicating which secondary school they would prefer their child to transfer to in September 2024.

Families who applied online can log in to the online service from today to see the school their child has been offered. They will also receive an email to confirm this offer, unless they have indicated that they do not wish to. Letters will be sent to parents who made a paper application by second class post today (1 March 2024).

Once school places have been confirmed, parents and carers need to consider how their child will get to and from school. If their child is eligible for Suffolk County Council funded school travel, they will receive an email by the end of March 2024 with details of how to opt-in.

Further information on secondary school admissions can be found at www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions.

### Parents can now opt-in for Suffolk County Council funded school travel for 2024/2025

If parents have a child who is already receiving SCC funded school travel, they must opt-in by 31 May 2024 to continue to receive it.

Families of children starting secondary school in September 2024 will receive an e-mail by the end of March if they are eligible for SCC funded school travel.

If parents have a child starting primary school in September 2024, they should not opt-in until they receive the offer of a school place. If they are eligible for SCC funded school travel they will be contacted by 10 May 2024.

If a child is not eligible for SCC funded school travel but their parents wish to purchase a spare seat, they may do so from 1 July 2024.

To opt-in or for more information on the SCC school travel policy please visit: www.suffolkonboard.com/opt-in

Chris Chambers - County Councillor for the Gipping Valley Division Mob: 07595310290 E-mail: chris.chambers@suffolk.gov.uk



#### Council objects to pylons between Bramford and Twinstead

Suffolk County Council has formally objected to National Grid's plans for 29 km of electricity pylons and cabling between Bramford and Twinstead.

The Planning Inspectorate has just concluded its Examination period for the proposal (12 March), where the county council concluded that National Grid has failed to adequately safeguard Suffolk's environment and communities affected by the scheme.

The council says that proposals do not go far enough to mitigate the impact of the scheme, and that supervision of construction would be inadequate.

The project would see 18 km of overhead lines and around 11 km of underground cable through the Dedham Vale National Landscape and in the Stour Valley.

Inspectors will now prepare a report for the Secretary of State at the Department of Energy and Net Zero, with a decision expected later in six months' time.

### Empowering Suffolk's Future: Have your say on proposed devolution deal for Suffolk

People across Suffolk are being asked for their views on a proposed, in principle, devolution deal that would hand Suffolk greater decision-making powers and control of more than half a billion pounds of public funding.

In December 2022, Suffolk County Council and the Government signed an in-principle deal to transfer certain powers and funding from London to Suffolk.

Residents and businesses can now share their views about important aspects of the deal, including:

- Control of a new investment fund worth £480m over the next thirty years
- Local control of the Adult Education Budget each year (worth £9.4m in 2025/26)
- £5.8m one-off funding to prepare brownfield sites for development
- Multi-year transport funding plus an additional £500,000 over two years to finalise Suffolk's Local Transport Plan.

If agreed, the proposed deal would also mean that, for the first time, the leader of Suffolk County Council would be directly elected by the people of Suffolk — rather than by county councillors. Once every four years, residents would vote to elect both their local county councillor (as they do now) and the leader of the county council.

Chris Chambers - County Councillor for the Gipping Valley Division Mob: 07595310290 E-mail: chris.chambers@suffolk.gov.uk



Supporting information and details on how to respond are available at <a href="https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/devolution">www.suffolk.gov.uk/devolution</a>. The consultation opens at 2pm today.

Once the consultation has closed, Suffolk county councillors and Government ministers will consider a report on findings as part of the decision-making process on whether or not to proceed with Suffolk's devolution deal. A decision is expected in July 2024.

#### Suffolk to benefit from huge £7.3 million EV investment

Suffolk County Council has secured millions of pounds of funding to help develop electric vehicle (EV) charging across the county.

The county council has been allocated the money after successful bids to the Government's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund, which supports local authorities to plan and deliver charging infrastructure for residents without off-street parking.

Suffolk residents without off-street parking will benefit from £5.9 million to support EV charging, and a further £1.4 million will be used to develop the county's existing EV charging network in community locations.

Homes without a driveway face challenges when it comes to charging an EV - in some cases it is just not possible, and it is unsafe and hazardous to run cables across pavements. Along with inconvenient access to public charging, these are common reasons that people give for not choosing an EV.

However, the funding will start to provide solutions to some of these issues, with opportunities to develop:

- kerbside charging points
- community charging hubs
- car park charging points
- fast and rapid charging point infrastructure improvements

Suffolk residents are invited to 'nominate' their street for consideration for on-street charging points, using <u>this online form</u>. Although not every road may be suitable, suggestions from residents will help indicate where there is demand for charging points.

This investment continues the council's contribution to the <a href="https://www.greensuffolk.org/about/sccp/climate\_emergency\_plan">https://www.greensuffolk.org/about/sccp/climate\_emergency\_plan</a>, which identifies that the decarbonisation of vehicles in Suffolk is a key aspect of meeting the net zero by 2030 target for the county.

Complementing the new funding, is Suffolk County Council's recently published <u>Suffolk Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy</u>. It has been written with the input of all borough and district councils, aiming to improve the EV charging experience for drivers in Suffolk.

#### Even more potholes filled as Roadmender trial hits Suffolk

The Roadmender has arrived in Suffolk, as the county sees a 34% increase in pothole repairs through extra investment, more resource, and new ways of working.

The county council has been working to repair the increasing number of potholes which have been breaking out following very wet and cold weather recently. One way in which the council is increasing its repair rate is by trialling new methods of fixing potholes.

Suffolk Highways welcomed 'Highway Workforce' with their Roadmender Elastomac solution - a repair method which results in sealed, longer-lasting pothole repairs; which are quicker to carry out.

The trial which began on 11 March, is eco-friendly and lowers the carbon footprint of repairs by 80% is effectively supporting Suffolk Highways in its fight against the rising number of potholes on the county's roads.

The 'Roadmender' works on both asphalt and concrete roads and is designed for repairs to all types of road defects and is capable of overlaying areas with multiple defects in a single visit. The process is more efficient, reducing material and waste by 90% and avoiding unnecessary disruption on roads.

#### Council appoints new Executive Director for Children and Young People

Sarah-Jane Smedmor, currently Director of Children's Services at Central Bedfordshire Council, will be joining the council in July. This newly created senior position holds significant responsibility including children in care, education and SEND, safeguarding, youth justice and fostering and adoption.

Sarah-Jane started her career as a social worker and worked her way to Head of Safeguarding and Standards at Cambridgeshire County Council and then Corporate Director Care and Protection for Children's Services at Dorset Council before moving to Central Bedfordshire.

One of Sarah-Jane's priorities when she starts will be to oversee the continued improvement of SEND services. This includes the delivery of the Priority Action Plan as agreed by Ofsted following an inspection in November 2023, and the implementation of a new SEND strategy. Sarah-Jane has managed significant improvement within SEND services in Central Bedfordshire under its Accelerated Progress Plan since her appointment.

She must also address a challenging budgetary situation within children and young people's services, driven in part by significant demand.

Chris Chambers - County Councillor for the Gipping Valley Division Mob: 07595310290 E-mail: chris.chambers@suffolk.gov.uk



#### Council welcomes £11 million new investment into SEND services

Suffolk County Council is set to receive an additional £ 10.9 million to create new specialist places for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

The money, announced by the Department for Education, will be used to create new places in mainstream and special schools, as well as other specialist settings, and to improve the suitability and accessibility of existing buildings.

This new funding is in addition to the £55million already invested by Suffolk County Council into creating more than 1,000 new places for students with SEND. Nearly 750 of these places are now open and in use.

The Department for Education also announced it was funding a new SEND school in Suffolk. The Unity Schools Partnership has been selected to sponsor the new Unity SLD School which will provide 126 vital new places in Suffolk for pupils aged between three and 16 with severe learning difficulties. Earlier this month, the Chancellor also announced a new Alternative Provision (AP) free school, the SENDAT New AP Suffolk Free School, in West Suffolk.

#### Suffolk Business Board appoints interim chair

Mark Pendlington, local business leader and former High Sheriff of Suffolk, has been appointed interim chair of the new Suffolk Business Board.

The appointment is on a one-year interim basis to help mobilise the new Board, which has been created following the integration of Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) functions into Suffolk County Council.

The Business Board has been established to represent the local business community, to help steer Suffolk's economic strategy and to help create a stronger and higher-skilled economy for Suffolk.

Mr Pendlington has worked across the public and private sectors in industry, national and regional voluntary organisations, further and higher education, economic development bodies and academia, and also served as the High Sheriff of Suffolk from 2023-24.

Recruitment is underway for the rest of the Board, which will include representatives from business, education, and Suffolk's other local authorities.

The Business Board will be supported by Suffolk County Council's Economic Development team, which includes officers who have transferred into the council from the LEP.

#### DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT APRIL

## £3.8m pledged for energy efficient council homes

#### 21/03/24

Work to make council homes warmer and bring down energy bills for tenants across Babergh and Mid Suffolk received a £1.6m boost in government funding this week as part of the latest round of awards from the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund.

The funding is to be added to the £2.25m already committed by the councils to install energy saving measures in social housing, taking the total investment pledged for retrofitting and decarbonising to £3.85m across both districts.

The funding is to help lower income households by delivering warm and energy efficient homes and lifting tenants out of fuel poverty by saving money on their energy bills. Mid Suffolk intend to use the money for retrofitting and decarbonising their social housing.

Work is now underway to target council properties with the lowest EPC (energy performance certificate) ratings, with improvements to be carried out over the next two years.

# New online hub launches for National Infrastructure Projects

On 26<sup>th</sup> March, the Planning Inspectorate announced the launch of 'Find a National Infrastructure Project', the new online service for national infrastructure planning.

https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/

### **Bramford to Twinstead and Norwich to Tilbury**

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have formally objected to National Grid's plans for more electricity pylons between Bramford and Twinstead – saying the impact on the countryside is too great.

The Grid wants to reinforce the network to create additional capacity but the councils say there are significant shortcomings with its proposals.

The comments were made in their submission to the national Planning Inspectorate, which has just completed the examination stage of the proposal, ahead of preparing a report for the Secretary of State, who will make a final decision.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk said National Grid had not fully considered the impact on tourism – describing this as a "serious omission."

The councils also remain concerned about the cumulative impacts with other development within the area, including the proposals for an additional powerline from Norwich to Tilbury, which would also connect to the Bramford substation. Cllr Andrew Stringer for MSDC said that National Grid needed a joined-up plan "which doesn't sacrifice what makes our landscape so special" and which delivers sustainable benefits to the communities affected.

The councils also call for additional measures around the Bramford substation to mitigate the impacts of this and other developments connected to it and enabled by the Bramford to Twinstead project.

### CIL Expenditure Levy – Sixth Review

Mid Suffolk District Council approved amendments to the March 2024 CIL Expenditure Framework at the Council Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March. They also agreed the need for a further (seventh) CIL Expenditure Review to be informed by the Joint Member Panel while Bid round 14 is taking place (October 2024). This will ensure that any amended scheme is in place before Bid round 15 opens in May 2025. Clarity around projects eligible for funding included the disqualification of community pubs given the risks around these operations and the fact that they are not classed as infrastructure.

Projects which can continue to be supported by CIL include Sports Clubs, Tennis and Cricket clubs, community-lead projects involving community shops and cafes, churches, library extensions and improvements and provision for walking/cycling and footpaths.

Where any problems with funding are identified (such as the project's community benefits not yet being realised) the Joint Member Panel recommend that Infrastructure Officers work with the CIL Bidder, the Ward Member and the Parish Council in a positive and constructive way.

# MSDC Joint Homelessness Reducation and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024

The Council adopted the draft Strategy and the associated Delivery Plan at their meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

The Plan includes five priorities which were supported by the results of an online consultation:

- Early upstream prevention and intervention
- Making rough sleeping brief and non-recurring
- Ensuring the health and wellbeing needs of households are met whilst in temporary accommodation
- Expanding and future proofing the role and remit of Central Suffolk Lettings to continue to improve access to the private rented sector.
- Mitigating against the impacts of cost-of-living.

There will be a fast track referral system to Central Suffolk Lettings to ensure cases subject to the Rent Guarantee Scheme are prioritised and dealt with effectively.

## Online immigration status (eVisa) update – event and resources

Throughout 2024, the government is replacing physical immigration documents with digital proof of immigration status for people already living in the UK and new visa customers too.

An eVisa is a digital record of a person's immigration status and the latest information on them is available at <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/online-immigration-status-evisa">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/online-immigration-status-evisa</a>

This process is already underway, and individuals in the UK who applied for their visa through the EU Settlement Scheme or used the ID check app already have a digital proof of their immigration status.

The Home Office is hosting events over the next few months where you can learn more about the changes and how they might affect people. The first event will take place on 8 April.

Councils are encouraged to join the event, and there will also be other sessions held over the next few months.

### Flu and COVID-19 surveillance report updated

On 21st March, the UK Health Security Agency published the latest national influenza and COVID-19 activity, seasonal flu and other seasonal respiratory illnesses.

(<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/flu-and-covid-19-surveillance-report-published">https://www.gov.uk/government/news/flu-and-covid-19-surveillance-report-published</a>).

Between 18<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024 influenza activity decreased, and COVID-19 activity remained broadly stable. Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) activity fluctuated at low levels across most indicators.

# COVID-19 vaccination: spring 2024 campaign resources – reminder

People aged 75 years and over, those in care homes, and those aged 6 months and over with a weakened immune system are being offered a spring dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

Bookings for the spring booster vaccination will be offered between April and June, with those at highest risk being called in first. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is keen to encourage everyone who is eligible to come forward.

DHSC has produced a leaflet in a number of languages designed to increase awareness of the COVID-19 spring booster offer.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-spring-booster-resources

Councils are encouraged to share information about the COVID-19 spring booster vaccination programme via their communication channels.

### Funding for councils to introduce weekly food waste collections

On 25 March, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced that councils in England will be supported with up to £295 million in government funding to introduce weekly food waste collections by 31 March 2026.

The funding will cover new food waste containers for homes and specialist collection vehicles, targeted at councils that have yet to fully put food waste service in place

### Fly-tipping: council responsibilities- Guidance

Last week (28 March) the government outlined how councils must deal with fly-tipping and the penalties they can charge. The guidance sets out councils' responsibilities.

https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/fly-tipping-advice-individuals-landowners-businesses

Councils are encouraged to share as appropriate.

## Biodiversity net gain now applies to small developments.

Today, (2 April), the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) announced biodiversity net gain is mandatory for small developments of fewer than 9 houses on less than one hectare of land.

https://defraenvironment.blog.gov.uk/2024/04/02/biodiversity-net-gain-now-applies-to-small-developments/

Biodiversity net gain has applied to major developments since February.

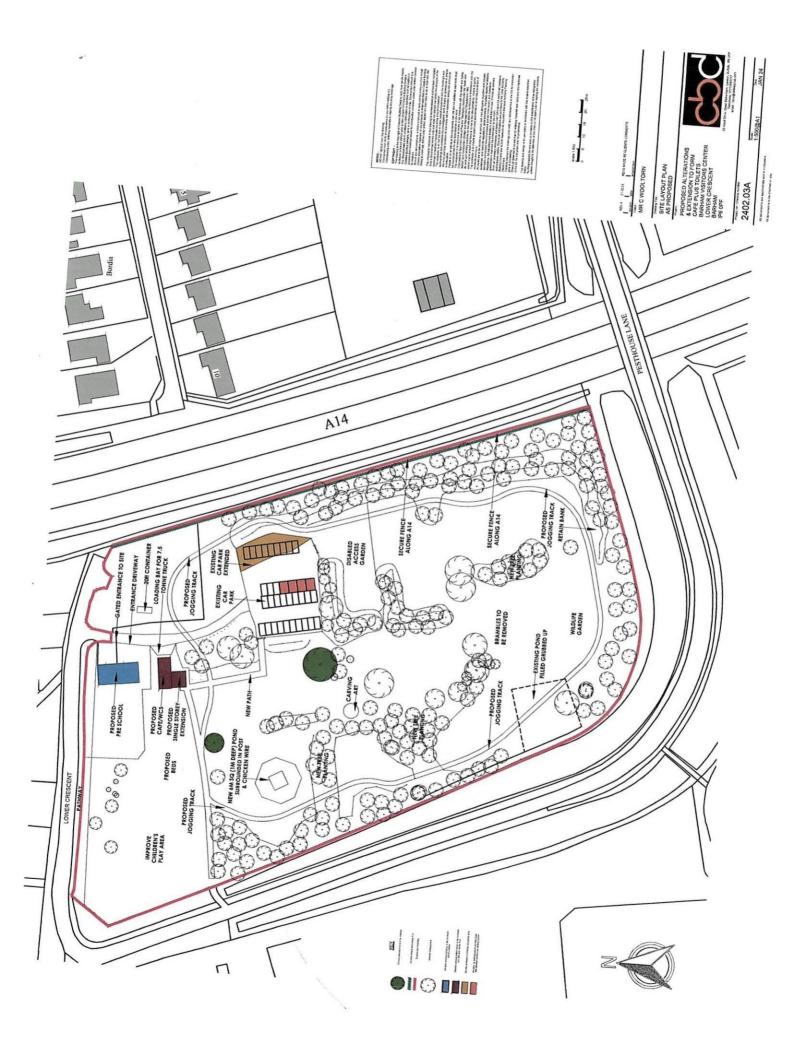
# Consultation on changes to various permitted development rights – reminder

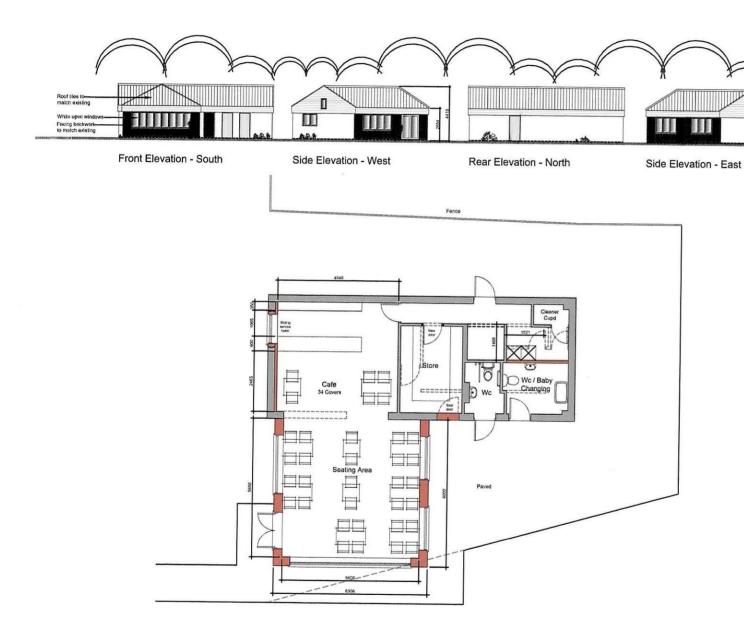
On 13 February, the Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities launched a consultation seeking views on changes to existing development rights that allow for householder development, i.e.

- building upwards to create new homes,
- the demolition of certain buildings and rebuilding as homes,
- electric vehicle charge points
- air source heat pumps.

https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-tovarious-permitted-development-rights-consultation

The consultation closes on 9 April.

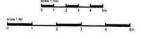




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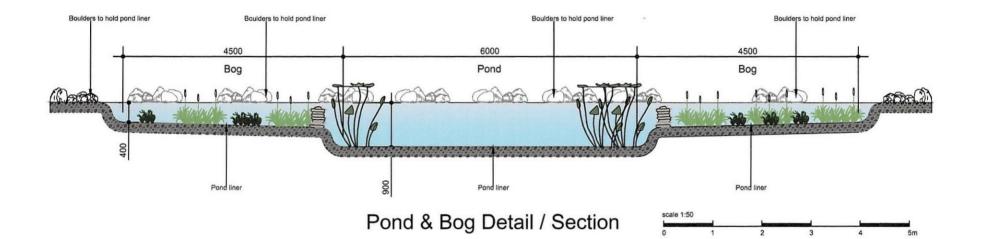
PLANS & ELEVATIONS AS PROPOSED

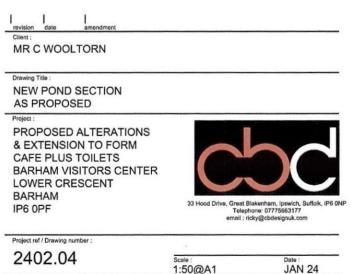
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All dimensions are approximate and in millimeters.

All dimensions to be checked on site.