

Babraham

WINTER 2021-22

**A SURVEY
TO GATHER
RESIDENTS'
VIEWS**



Your input needed for Neighbourhood Planning

Granted by the Localism Act 2011, a Neighbourhood Plan gives communities direct power to shape the development and growth of their local area, by setting out the desired land use for a Parish and the planning policies for development.

An adopted Neighbourhood Plan becomes part of the statutory development planning of the relevant local authority and has full weight in the determination of planning applications.

The Babraham Neighbourhood Plan is under development, and

can include detailed policies on:

- where new homes, offices and facilities should and should not be built;
- what new developments should look like;
- protecting the environment;
- sustainable development.

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group is now formally established and has received a local government grant to support local outreach, communications and plan development.

To make sure the Neighbourhood Plan truly reflects the collective vision of the community, the

Working Group has developed a residents' survey to gather your views on future housing development, community amenities, green spaces, business development and transport infrastructure, including the proposed Park-and-Ride travel hub and bus route in Babraham.

Please visit the new website www.babrahamneighbourhoodplan.com to access the survey online or point your phone's camera app at this QR code to submit your views from your mobile.

The survey is open to multiple members of each household. If you don't have electronic access to the survey, please call or text Hannah on 07880 773855 to receive a paper copy.

What's the Babraham Neighbourhood Plan?

It's our chance to influence how Babraham grows and develops!



The residents' survey will close on 24th January 2022, so please give us your feedback before then. Thank you!

Chairman's report

Babraham, the future

What does the parish council do? A question asked by many.

So why do we need a group of people to represent and guide the future development of our once sleepy village. Cambridge and the surrounding area are changing rapidly, expanding in all directions. In Babraham the research campus now employs around 1500 people and will undoubtedly expand further to provide additional research facilities. Such expansion will proceed at Granta Park and the Hospital site and, if we are to reduce our carbon footprint, people will need to live closer to these sites. We have recently learnt that Cheveley Park Farms, the major land owner in our parish, have commissioned a 'vision document' which describes their aspiration to build 3000 houses, schools and recreation areas on all their land to the west of the



A1307. Their land east of the A1307 would be preserved for farming and parkland. This development may not happen for years to come but I fear an inevitable change to the village. It is essential that Babraham is represented vigorously to alleviate the effects on our way of life and obtain the best deal for you, the parishioners.

Is the Parish Council useful and does it have any power?

Yes, we have the power to discuss, contradict and negotiate with the District & County Council and to spend your money, as we see fit, to maintain the village. Recent examples include:

Redesign of the once dangerous High Street/ A1307 junction to exclude right turn from the village.

Highways eventual agreement to install traffic calming measures in the high street, which will reduce speed and volume of traffic. (To commence later this year)

We argued our right to a contribution from s106 monies relating to the H1/B development on the Sawston boundary resulting in a £90K payment towards a village hall.

We negotiated a further £145K towards a hall from the s106 development opposite H1/B, known as H1/C. (Development not yet started)

We support and liaise on the production of the neighbourhood plan, which should provide some protection regarding type and extent of development in Babraham.

We utilise the £16K per annum precept from the village to provide new benches, book swap cabinet, repair and upgrade of the wooden bus shelter, replacement of the leaking parish notice board, (where you can find information on council business), supervise the contract to mow the grass in the churchyard and verges and to empty the dog poo bins, and purchased and installed a defibrillator.

We successfully applied for a grant to create a forest garden beside the church road, and employ an overseer of the project.

Work parties clear litter, remove leaves and clear gutters, when County facilities are either unavailable or inadequate.

Sadly, Rob Attwood resigned from the council this week, for personal reasons. Rob, vice chair, has been an absolute stalwart and was the driving



force behind the recovery of the pocket park, the creation (with his wife) of the garden area next to Jonas Webb, and various other projects. I am very pleased to say that he will continue to maintain the pocket park. We will miss him in council.

IMPORTANT

We need an immediate replacement for Rob to return the council to a working number of members.

ALSO: The election of councillors will take place, covid permitting, in May 2022, this year. After 7 years as a councillor, 6 as chair, I have decided not to stand for re-election. We need new blood with determination and zeal to try to get the very best deal for the village. It's up to you. It's your village and hopefully you feel it's your time to step up. If so contact Anne Charteris (Clerk) etc
Happy New Year
Stuart Laurie Chair,
Babraham Parish Council



Babraham Forest Garden

Babraham Parish Council will soon begin developing a community Forest Garden for Babraham.

A forest garden is a garden that is planted to resemble an open, natural woodland, containing trees, shrubs and perennials that are edible or have ecological benefits, such as attracting pollinators or improving the soil's richness.

A mature forest garden will provide a beautiful, low-maintenance place for people to enjoy, eventually providing fruits, nuts, seeds and salad crops. Planting the forest garden will increase biodiversity and help tackle climate change by locking up atmospheric carbon in the plants and soil.

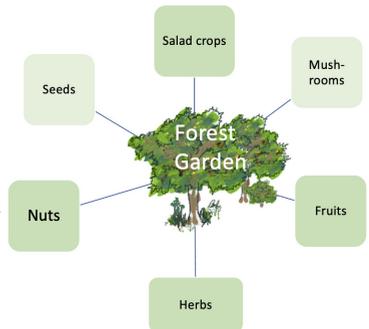
The Babraham Forest Garden project has been possible thanks to a grant from South Cambridgeshire District Council's Zero Carbon Communities Fund and matching support from the Babraham Parish Council. Babraham Research Campus have provided their land between Church Lane and the Granta River for the benefit of villagers and Research Campus staff.

The Babraham Forest Garden design includes

an unusual variety of edible plants, such as Medlar, Chinese Quince, Chokeberry, Autumn Olive, Szechuan Pepper, Asian Pear, Edible Hibiscus, Chilean Guava and Bronze Fennel. The garden will also contain several local heritage varieties of eating apple, crab apple and gage trees, like the 'Cambridge Gage'.

We are now looking for old bicycle inner tubes (to recycle as young tree supports) and willing volunteers to help prepare the site and plant the trees in January and February. If you'd like to help, please email:

hannah@hannahthomas.co.uk
If you are interested in helping with planting, get in touch with the Project Manager, Hannah Thomas hannahthomas483@gmail.com or visit the Parish Council website to find out more.



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Santa Cruise

I don't know you wait all year and then they all arrive at the same time

Babraham based fitness company, Anybody Fitness, organised the inaugural Santa Cruise event which saw their members and some plucky local residents congregating outside the George on the 5th December ready to tackle 5 different running/walking trails around the village.

With trail distances ranging from 1km up to 5 kms, each time the participants completed one of the routes they were required to don an item of clothing that resulted in the spectacle of 24 Santa's running around collecting Christmas treats before heading back to the pub.

Some had more trouble than others with their trousers (see pic of Alison)

Angela Hoyland, Personal Trainer from Anybody Fitness said "We're delighted to be bringing events to the village that enable people to get out and do some exercise as well as have a bit

of fun. Just like our bootcamps, we aim to cater for people of all fitness levels. Which is why we came up with the idea of making distances vary and also people could run, walk or jog. We're really pleased with the turn out and hope to make this an annual event that can be opened up to more people"

Festivities soon moved indoors as the runners and walkers found their way into the pub after the event for a well earned pint or three.



Useful Contacts

Parish Council

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South Cambs County Councillors

Brian Milnes

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Maria King

Maria.King@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

District Councillor

Peter McDonald

Our MP

Anthony Browne

The Parish Council meets on the second Thursday every month at the school 7.30. Members of the public are more than welcome to attend.

www.babrahamschool.org.uk

www.babraham-village.net

 @babrahamvillage

ANYbody

FITNESS

We offer personal training from our private facility in Babraham and our bootcamp classes are run from Sawston

All abilities are welcome

For more information, please visit our website

www.anybodyfitness.co.uk

or

e-mail Angela

anybodyfitnessco@gmail.com

