

Thurston Parish Council

From: Social distance in location COVID-19
<socialdistancing@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk>
Sent: 25 August 2021 12:49
Cc: Kate Parnum; Tabitha Runacres; Toyin Ajayi
Subject: Welcome Back Funding

Dear Parish Clerk

Following my previous communications and correspondence with multiple parishes, we have decided to extend the deadline for you to make your choices regarding the Welcome Back Funding. The deadline for completing the form is now 30/09/2021. After this date there will be no more extensions.

Please feel free to contact our joint inbox – socialdistancing@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk if you have further questions.

My apologies and thanks if you have already completed the form.

Kind regards,

Alice Hendy

Welcome Back Fund

As a District Council we have been allocated a share of £56m of ERDF funding to support the return to high street safely and help build back better from the pandemic. Babergh was allocated £146,635 and Mid Suffolk was allocated £91,893.

The purpose of this funding is to put in place additional measures to create and promote safe environments for local trade and tourism. The majority of the funding as has been allocated to our larger towns and primary tourism areas, however, to ensure that this funding can benefit our smaller towns and villages and meets the funding criteria, we have developed several strands of work.

These different strands of work include funding for events and activities suitable for local visitors and tourists, additional support to ensure our towns and villages can reopen safely and resources to improve local environments. More information about the different strands can be found below:

Strand 1 - Towns and tourist locations to host events and activities that safe and secure for visitors and residents

- Additional events to encourage residents and visitors back into the high streets and tourism areas.
- Resource to ensure events are safe and secure.
- Expand our pilot digital trails throughout the district.
- Additional work in our green spaces and high street to be welcoming.

Strand 2 - COVID secure high streets and public spaces

- Business advice and sign posting to available grants.
- Increasing street cleansing and litter collections.
- Additional resource for the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and coastal trails.
- Seasonal rangers within our public green spaces.

Strand 3 - Communication and marketing to support safe return to the high streets

- Advertise the district to encourage tourism to return to the area.
- Promote the government guidance.

We are aware of the impact the pandemic has on all the district and therefore, would like to use some of the funding to help with some of the additional burdens your village may incur as the final lockdown restrictions are lifted.

The funding criteria and guidance is limited but can be used to support and promote a safe public environment. We are aware that there has been increase of littering in the district due to more people walking and visiting local attractions. This has led to more rubbish accumulating in bins as to people stay close to home.

To help combat this issue, we would like to use the funding of offer a range of solutions. Your parish can choose from the options form attached to this email.

In addition, we can offer free litter picking equipment available for all parishes, please indicate on the form if you would like a set for your parish.

You can select either a small set (7 litter pickers) or a large set (15 litter pickers). We also have a limited number of child size litter pickers which will be issued on a first come first serve basis. Again, please either indicate whether you would like these on the form.

Please complete and return the form (linked below) with your choice so that we can order the items and get them installed from September onwards. We will then contact you directly about location and installation.

Link to form: [https://babergh-self.achieveservice.com/service/Welcome Back Fund](https://babergh-self.achieveservice.com/service/Welcome_Back_Fund)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, we will be happy to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely,

Alice Hendy

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