

# Babergh District Councillor's Report

## January 2026

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### NG Update

Babergh and Mid Suffolk officers are trialling the offer of a regular drop-in surgery to support our communities with the Norwich to Tilbury NSIP.

Starting on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November, officers will be available to answer questions about the project, process and how to participate. Questions can be emailed in advance to [planningpink@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:planningpink@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk) but this is not essential.

If the surgery sessions are helpful, we will look to continue to offer them throughout the examination and beyond. Please note: The regularity of sessions may change depending on officer availability. Interested parties can join the surgery session using the details in this invite.

### **Council leaders back 'Suffolk to the Power of Three' option as part of local government reorganisation consultation**

Suffolk residents, businesses and local organisations are being urged to take part in a once in a generation opportunity to shape how council services are delivered for their local communities.

The Government's statutory consultation on LGR is now open, but people only have until 11<sup>th</sup> January to respond, so we would be grateful for your help in ensuring that your communities are aware.

The consultation seeks views on the two proposals submitted for Suffolk: the Three Councils for Suffolk case submitted jointly by the district and borough councils, and One Suffolk, submitted by Suffolk County Council.

You can find out more on [the Three Councils for Suffolk website](#), including the benefits of our case for businesses, residents, town and parish councils and for the voluntary and community sector.

In addition to our case in full, there are also [Q&As](#) which may help you respond to queries from residents. The site also includes a link to the [One Suffolk website](#) to ensure awareness of both cases.

We are also raising awareness through social media and would be grateful for your help by following, liking and sharing our posts.

In addition, leaflets and postcards have been produced and should you wish to receive any of these materials, please let us know via your district councillor, or by contacting [Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils' communication team](#) directly.

### **Solar energy project for village hall gets funding boost**

A village hall solar energy project has secured a funding boost from Babergh District Council in the latest round of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) awards.

## **Suffolk Nature Recovery Strategy launched**

Suffolk County Council has now published Suffolk's Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). It follows close work over a number of years with many stakeholders - including our councils, as well as public engagement, to identify common themes to address the decline in nature and opportunities to enable it to recover.

You can [find the strategy as well as FAQs on the Suffolk County Council website](#). You may find this, the accompanying [Suffolk Local Habitat Map tool](#), as well as other publicly available data sets such as our [tree canopy survey report](#) and [the Suffolk Biodiversity Information service website](#), useful when planning your future town or parish environmental projects and funding applications. Please share this with community and environmental groups in your area, for the same purpose.

## **Anglian Water flood guidance**

Anglian Water has created a leaflet to help people protect their homes from winter flooding. The information is particularly relevant due to the long, hot summer we have had this year. You can find the leaflet as an attachment on this email. Further flooding information and guidance can be found on our website.

## **Sustainable Communities Food Fund**

Our Sustainable Communities Food Fund provides grants to small scale food initiatives such as community pantries, fridges and food pop-ups.

Between £250 and £5,000 is available and can be used for anything from the purchase of equipment and revenue costs to delivering training and workshops.

Funding is awarded on a first come, first served basis, so please encourage groups to submit an application as soon as they can.

## **14 tonnes of small electricals recycled and counting**

Since we launched our 12 pink electrical recycling bins in August, our residents have recycled more than 14 tonnes of unusable or broken small electricals.

Across the districts, Long Melford (1.75 tonnes) and Elmswell (1.38 tonnes) have seen the highest volume of items recycled.

All of this recycling has resulted in saving around 36 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent.

[Read our Facebook post](#) and support residents to [find their nearest bin on the Recycle Your Electricals website](#).

## **Tenant satisfaction rises while repairs backlog is reduced**

Our teams have continued to make progress to transform our housing services, with the latest data providing some positive results. The figures show:

- Outstanding repair jobs at council properties has fallen from 4,296 to 939 in the last 12 months
- Overall tenant satisfaction with repairs has risen to 90%, up from 75% in June 2024
- In October, 97% of jobs were completed right first time in Babergh, and 94% in Mid Suffolk – both ahead of the 85% target

We look forward to seeing this improved service reflected in our future tenant satisfaction feedback.

## National Landscape community grants

Several different funding opportunities relating to our nearby National Landscapes are currently open for 2026-27 applications.

For this new funding window, the application form has been simplified, removing previous barriers and helping organisations access the funding they need.

[Visit the Dedham Vale](#) or [Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths websites](#) to view all available grants.

## Suffolk residents urged to apply quickly for free home energy upgrades

Suffolk residents living in properties which are not energy efficient, could be eligible for funding to make their homes warmer and reduce their energy bills, thanks to Warm Homes Suffolk.

## Upcoming grant deadline

The application window for the Community Development Fund will close on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2026. Up to £10,000 can be applied for to help deliver capital, revenue or pre-project activities. All the information you need can be [found on our community funding page](#).

## Starting 2026 with fully funded training to strengthen local organisations

Community Action Suffolk is offering four fully funded training courses designed to strengthen the capacity of local organisations and build strength for the future. Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have supported this training by making use of the Shared Prosperity Fund. Find all the training sessions on the [Community Action Suffolk website](#).

## Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan progress overview

Sustainable Suffolk has shared the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan progress overview, giving an insight into the work done since the plan was published in 2021.

Included within the document is a breakdown of lots of work carried out by partner organisations, which includes our council. [Visit the Sustainable Suffolk website](#) to find out more, or [read the progress overview document](#).

## Suffolk car clubs

Electric vehicles can be hired in our districts, and other locations in Suffolk, by the minute, hour, or day.

Cars are located in Needham Market and Stowmarket in Mid Suffolk, and Hadleigh and Sudbury in Babergh.

Sustainable Suffolk has produced [a video which shows how the cars work](#) and you can [find more information about the scheme on the Sustainable Suffolk website](#).

It has been funded by the [Suffolk Public Sector Leaders group](#) - which our councils form part of.

## Meetings

Cabinet, Council and Planning Committee meetings can be watched, either live or catch-up, on our [YouTube Channel](#).

For agendas and minutes, please visit the [Democratic Services homepage](#).

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