

Babergh District Councillor's Report

July 2025

Last chance to complete our LGR survey

[Our Local Government Reorganisation survey](#) asking for views on the future of vital local government services runs until 25th July. We are keen for as many people as possible to have their say, so please continue to share it with your networks and communities.

Any further significant developments will go before Full Council and we will, of course, keep you fully informed. We will also be sharing that information with our staff, residents and communities so they understand our position and the rationale behind our proposals as they continue to take shape and get firmed up over the next two months.

Thousands of listed building owners could benefit from innovative planning change

Thousands of listed building owners could find it easier to make windows more energy efficient under innovative proposals from Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils.

New council chair elected, with outgoing chair appointed to cabinet role

Cllr Elisabeth Malvisi has been elected as chair of Babergh District Council – resuming the role she has carried out for most of the last two years.

New system to improve repairs process

Our tenants will soon see changes to how we handle their requests for repairs with the rollout of a new job management system from 1st July.

This system is designed to deliver a better experience for tenants while making life easier for our teams when dealing with repair reporting and appointments.

It will ultimately be used for all day-to-day management and reporting of repairs, maintenance and compliance (damp and mould) jobs across our housing stock.

The new system will:

- Increase our first time fix rates.
- Allow bookings to be made at first point of contact.
- Provide tenants with real-time notifications (SMS/email) when appointments are made.
- Give tenants reminders (SMS/email) of appointments and notifications when operatives are on their way.
- Offer an improved mechanism for tenants to provide feedback about the service they received.
- Increase efficiency and improve customer experience.

Licensing policy consultation

We are reviewing our Licensing Policy for 2026 to 2031, setting out the principles and guidelines we follow when making decisions on licences. The consultation runs until 11th July.

As part of the consultation, our licensing team wants to hear from residents, businesses and key organisations to help shape how licensing decisions are made.

Suffolk Community Awards

Nominations for the Suffolk Community Awards 2025 will be closing soon.

The awards celebrate all those that have improved the quality of life for communities across the county.

There are a range of awards to be won, with specific categories for community organisations, individuals, councils, councillors and beyond.

Nominations need to be submitted by Sunday 13th July, with the award ceremony set to take place on Tuesday 23 September at the Food Museum, hosted by Mark Murphy MBE.

[Visit the Suffolk Community Awards website](#) to make a nomination.

Supporting local event organisers

Organisers of local events can access free expert advice from our councils to ensure they are following best practice and that their events don't have any unintended impacts on our communities.

Our councils are two of several partners that make up a Safety Advisory Group – a free advisory service enabling event organisers to make sure they've got everything covered when planning their event.

If you know of an organisation or individual planning an event that would benefit from this service, be sure to [direct them to our web page](#).

Council will share in celebrations for artist John Constable's 250th birthday anniversary

In 2026, Babergh District Council will be supporting a national celebration marking the 250th anniversary of the birth of iconic Suffolk-born artist John Constable (1776-1837).

Rentable electric cars arrive in Babergh and Mid Suffolk

Six electric vehicles have arrived at three locations across Babergh and Mid Suffolk for communities to use as part of the Plug In Suffolk Car Club.

£38k boost for community facilities in Babergh

Improvements to village halls and community hubs are amongst the latest projects to receive a funding boost from Babergh District Council.

Councillors unite to defend democracy in local planning

Cross-party councillors have unanimously condemned Government criticism of local planning authorities and attempts to “rob them” of their democratic powers.

‘Trek, treat, repeat’ – Beautiful walks and foodie gems celebrated in new project

Stunning walks and fantastic places to eat are showcased across Babergh and Mid Suffolk in a new initiative.

Public Switched Telephone Network

Landline phones are switching to digital, which could stop telecare alarms working. This means that all landline providers need to know which of their customers use telecare, so they can keep them safe.

The switchover is already happening, so you need to act now. If you, a resident, or someone you know uses a telecare alarm, make sure to contact the landline provider for support. Visit the [digital phone switchover website](#) for more information.

Community Fun Days July 2025

Community Fun Days are returning to the districts at the end of July, providing families with a series of free days out packed full of activities. Events are taking place between 10am and 2pm at:

- Sudbury, Belle Vue Park – Monday, 21 July
- Hadleigh Pool and Leisure Centre – Friday, 25 July

Each event is free to attend and has activities for all ages – people just need to turn up on the day. However, children that receive means tested free school meals are able to pre-book some activities and order a free lunch by [visiting the Abbeycroft website](#) – our partners for this year's fun days.

Rural Housing Week event

Parishes across the districts are being invited to a Rural Housing Week event, hosted by Community Action Suffolk, from 10am to 3pm on 10th July at the John Peel Centre.

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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