

Babergh District Councillor's Report

July 2026

N2T Enabling Works Planning Application

As you all know by now, National Grid is inviting comments prior to submitting a series of planning applications under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to district councils along the N2T route for enabling works. The idea is so that these works can commence in advance of the consent decision for the main project and reduce delays later on. For us, there will be an application to cover changes to the A12 northbound junction at the Four Sisters, a haul road from there to the site of their future construction compound in Acacia Road, Raydon, including access points onto the B1070 and Acacia Road, and vegetation removal.

The parish councils and affected residents and landowners have been informed directly by NG and a public comment period runs from 26th June to 14th July. Babergh is expecting to receive an application soon after that. Works will commence, if permission is granted, in January or February next year.

Further information can be found at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/public-consultation-and-programme>. The essential first step is for the parishes and residents to submit pre-application comments by midnight on 14th July.

Babergh has a difficult position as the planning authority. Individual councillors can express their views but the council can't take a formal position as it has done so far regarding the forthcoming DCO. Specific service areas in the council will, as consultees, provide responses to the planning application when we receive it.

I will, of course, be speaking at the committee meeting as the ward member and I will coordinate my submission with the two parish councils. I have spoken to Rosie Pearson, who will be coordinating a response across all the applications in the three counties. Her group is also talking to their legal team this week. I have also walked part of the route recently with some Holton residents.

LGR update

Suffolk County Council's political leadership has now formally agreed to mount a legal challenge to Local Government Reorganisation in Suffolk.

In a highly choreographed and theatrical cabinet meeting on 29th June, the county's administration voted to waste up to £500,000 of our money chasing a futile legal challenge to something that is designed to save money. The judicial review can only challenge the process, not the decision, and so, even in the highly unlikely event that a court hearing finds in their favour, the government will simply address any process shortcomings that the judge may identify, rerun the process and reach the same decision.

The challenge against the Government's decision does not, however, change the LGR implementation work currently under way across all six of Suffolk's existing councils – this will continue as planned, pending any court decision.

In the meantime we all continue to work to ensure day-to-day business carries on as usual for our residents and communities.

Better Recycling update

The new bins and collection schedules are bedding in with our crews successfully collecting increasing food waste tonnage week-on-week. In the first week we collected 116 tonnes of food waste, 153 tonnes in the second week and 162 tonnes in week three, all turned into biofuel and biofertilizer.

Change on this scale is not without challenges, particularly as it has coincided with some extreme weather conditions, and we would like to thank residents for their patience and our waste teams for their efforts.

Any residents experiencing issues with collections should firstly check whether their road has been impacted by delays on the '*my bin hasn't been emptied*' page of our [Babergh](#) website. If the road is listed, the crew will return quickly. These pages also give useful information about any known issues in their areas.

If the road is not listed, residents should report the missed bin within two working days by completing the webform and, where appropriate, an ad hoc collection will be arranged to take place within the next five working days. The website can also be used to let us know if residents haven't received the new bins yet or if they have damaged bins.

Residents can also email us on recycling@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk, but to be honest, the best thing to do is contact me: I have been able to rectify problems very quickly.

Improving Hadleigh High Street

[The Way to Go Suffolk](#), a community initiative run by Suffolk County Council, is looking to engage with residents on ways to make Hadleigh better for everyone.

They are hosting drop-in sessions at The Guildhall, Hadleigh, from 11am to 2pm on Saturday 4 July and from 5pm to 7pm on Thursday 9 July.

[The survey can be found online](#) and is open to all who live or work in or use the town.

Armed Forces Day 2026

On 29th June, hundreds of people gathered in Stowmarket to join in with Suffolk's Armed Forces Day celebrations, coming together for a day of both family fun and reflection.

The event was the result of months of preparation from our communities team, supported by the communications team, and a great day was had by all.

Over the same weekend we also found out that our councils had received the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Silver Award for our outstanding support of the armed forces community

The award acknowledges the tangible changes we have made to our workplace policies and culture, helping to ensure that reservists, veterans, cadet force adult volunteers, and their families feel genuinely valued.

Suffolk Wine Trail

A new Suffolk Wine Trail has been launched to help showcase Suffolk's growing collection of local vineyards.

Funded by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils and West Suffolk Council, the new Suffolk Wine Trail has been created to support this new generation of vineyards and help boost wine tourism.

[More information about the trail, including an interactive map, can be found on the Visit Suffolk website.](#)

Switch Together Suffolk

Applications are now open for Switch Together Suffolk - a scheme designed to help Suffolk residents install solar panels and battery storage easily, at a competitive price.

By bringing households together, the scheme enables trusted installers to offer better deals, with a simple and supported process from start to finish.

Anyone interested can [apply on the Switch Together website.](#)

Have your say: Residents invited to help shape future of Babergh and Mid Suffolk

Residents, businesses, community groups and stakeholders are being invited to help shape the future of Babergh and Mid Suffolk as the councils launch the first stage of consultation on our new Joint Local Plan.

Sudbury bus station set for improvements after council secures £250k funding

Improvements will be made to Sudbury's bus station after Babergh District Council secured £250k to enhance the travel experience for both passengers and operators.

Families in Babergh urged to claim Healthy Start support

Families across Babergh are being encouraged to check if they are eligible for the Healthy Start Scheme – with a recent increase in payment levels putting even more money into the hands of those who need it most.

New campaign launched to showcase Suffolk vineyards

A new Suffolk Wine Trail has been launched to help showcase Suffolk's growing collection of local vineyards.

Residents urged not to miss out on heating oil help

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have joined forces with local Citizens Advice services to reach residents who may be missing out on financial help with heating oil – having already helped households unlock £100k in unclaimed benefits over the last year.

New Babergh Chair pledges support for charity close to his heart

The new Chair of Babergh District Council will be supporting a cause 'close to his heart'.

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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