

Babergh District Councillor's Report

September 2025

Three Councils For Suffolk: Big enough to deliver, local enough to care

The five district and borough councils of Suffolk, Babergh, East Suffolk, Ipswich, Mid Suffolk, and West Suffolk, have launched our joint Three Unitary Councils for Suffolk proposal, a locally led plan to reshape local government and deliver stronger, more responsive services to communities across the county. Our proposal was officially launched, along with our website <https://threecouncilsforsuffolk.org>, on 7th August.

Although we have consistently concentrated on taking a positive approach promoting the benefits of our proposal, it does seem that our opponents are expending their energies on waging a campaign of disinformation against the Three Unitary model. This does seem to be crystallising around the subject of council tax and there have been and will be some quite extreme claims. We will be publishing soon some likely scenarios for how council tax will be harmonised (we can't say for sure as this will be a matter for the new councils) but it won't mean rises above the current annual limits.

There is a public meeting in Raydon at 7pm on 2nd September and another in Hadleigh at 6pm on 8th September. These will give residents the chance to learn more about local government reorganisation and ask questions.

The final Three Unitary Case for Change will be going to all council meetings later this month for final approval prior to submission to government on the 26th.

Suffolk routes revealed for opening stages of Lloyds Tour of Britain Men

The two stage routes that will open this year's Lloyds Tour of Britain Men in East Suffolk and Mid Suffolk and Babergh, have been revealed, that will see the world's top cyclists pass through dozens of communities and cover more than 300 kilometres of Suffolk roads. Stage two on 3rd September will be hosted by our districts, starting at 11am in Stowmarket.

Residents of Higham, Holton (Bacon's Green), Raydon and Upper Layham will get the opportunity to watch as it passes through at about 2.15pm, but we can all watch the live broadcast on ITV4 throughout the day.

Suffolk Big Weekend ballot set to open

On Monday 1st September, the free ballot for the Suffolk Big Weekend opened.

The event is a celebration of Suffolk's rich heritage and varied tourism offering, with businesses from all across the county donating prizes.

We will be putting out lots of posts on our social media channels and to enter the ballot, residents will need to [visit the dedicated Suffolk Big Weekend website](#)

New emergency temporary accommodation for those most in need

Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils are to invest in additional temporary accommodation – helping those at risk of homelessness.

Twelve new electrical recycling banks installed in Babergh and Mid Suffolk

Residents can now recycle their broken electricals at one of 12 electrical recycling banks located in the districts.

Celebrate our local heroes – nominate now for the 2025 Move More Awards

Public nominations are now officially open for the 2025 Move More Awards – an event that celebrates the people, groups and organisations who champion sport, physical activity, movement and social cohesion across our communities.

Tree for Life reminder

Do you know any resident, family members or friends living in the districts that are welcoming, or have welcomed, a newborn or newly adopted child in 2025? Applications for our Tree for Life scheme can be made via our websites. The closing date is 10th January 2026.

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](#).

John Ward
Babergh District Councillor
Brett Vale
john.ward@babergh.gov.uk