

Parking charges decision confirmed

The council's Cabinet agreed on Friday 02 August to stop subsidising three hours of free parking in Sudbury, Hadleigh and Lavenham. After the decision was 'called in', the Overview and Scrutiny Committee asked for it to be reviewed on a number of grounds, including further consideration of a one-hour free tariff option and assessing the impact on High Streets and on our most vulnerable residents. Additional information was included in the new report, but it continued to recommend that the one-hour free option not be implemented. Despite counter-arguments made by several councillors, the original decision was upheld: the council will proceed with the charges agreed in April of £1 for short stay parking for the first hour, or £1 for two hours in long stay. There are no plans to introduce charges for parking on Sundays or Bank Holidays, and Blue Badge holders will continue to be allowed to park for free for up to three hours in all council car parks.

Listed building energy upgrades

BDC is making it easier for thousands of listed building owners to undertake sensitive energy efficiency upgrades. Features of listed buildings, such as poorly fitting windows and single glazing, can lead to higher bills for owners and are damaging to the environment. Historic England has stated that retrofitting historic buildings will be fundamental in achieving net zero. Owners who want to make upgrades must currently apply to the councils for Listed Building Consent. But Babergh and Mid Suffolk, working closely with Historic England, will be the first councils in the country to introduce an ambitious package of measures to make sensitive improvements quicker and easier to achieve, including:

- a Local Listed Building Consent Order, allowing Grade II listed property owners to upgrade or replace windows without having to make individual applications, subject to conditions
- a Local Development Order, allowing solar PV and other renewable technologies to be installed on unlisted buildings within the curtilage of a Grade II listed property, also subject to conditions.

Home adaptations for vulnerable residents

Additional funding has been agreed to help BDC carry out home adaptations for some of their most vulnerable residents, helping them to retain their independence in their own homes for as long as possible. Cabinet has agreed to increase funding to support more households to carry out home adaptations for family members with a disability, long-term illness or change in health. The increased levels of support, with grants available from £1,000 up to £15,000 will allow more residents to carry out the home adaptations needed to help them remain in their home and, in some cases, to speed up hospital discharges.

Food security fund

The Food Security Fund has been established to support small-scale, community-led food initiatives such as community pantries, fridges and food pop-ups. Between £250 and £5,000 can be applied for towards capital costs such as the purchase of equipment to support the preparation and storage of food, or project and volunteer administration. Funding will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, with applications being accepted in the 2024-25 financial year. Successful applicants will be required to deliver their project within 8 months of an offer being accepted. More information can be found on the funding page: [Babergh District Council Funding - Babergh District](#)

Babergh District Council Greens report to Hadleigh Town Council – August 2024

[Council - baberghmidsuffolk.com](http://baberghmidsuffolk.com). Any enquiries can be sent to the Grants Team at BMSDCGrants@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Community fun days

The Hadleigh Community Fun Day took place on Friday 09 August at Cox's Park. The fun days serve as events which bring the community together and involve fun family activities and various information stalls. They are open to everyone but are particularly aimed at providing support for those on lowest incomes, with all activities being provided to families for free. The aim of the Community Fun Days is to offer a fun space for people to come together, enjoy a picnic, and for the children and adults to get involved in some activities. The events have been funded in part through the Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF), the government-led national initiative to support children and families on the lowest incomes during the school holidays.

Babergh state of the district report 2024

BDC's second annual 'state of the district' report has been published and is available at: https://www.babergh.gov.uk/documents/d/babergh/babergh-state-of-the-district-2024_v1-0-1-pdf .

Jane Carruthers (Hadleigh South) and Simon Dowling (Hadleigh North), 15 Aug 24