

Babergh District Councillors Report October 2024

Banking Hub

Cash Access UK are still looking for a premises in Hadleigh. They are wondering about the Partridges building. The owner has not yet been contacted. Another Hadleigh resident has been in contact with Cllr. Carruthers as he is renovating a premises on the High St. and wondered if it would be suitable for a Banking Hub. He has been put in touch with Cash Access UK to see if his premises is suitable. We are awaiting a response.

Lidl

Lidl have yet to submit a planning application (at the time of writing). We have included it in our newsletter and Simon has had several comments on the subject so far, with more people in favour than against. The main concern seems to be around increased traffic.

Sustainable Travel Working Group

Cllr. Carruthers has joined BDC's Sustainable Travel Working Group who are working with Katherine Davies, the Sustainable Travel Officer.

Buses

Katherine has put in a bid for a new bus route from Hadleigh to Manningtree again. This time she is hoping to get an operator in place which she believes will help the bid to succeed. The route would cover that of the previous Dedham Hopper bus but run from Hadleigh to Manningtree offering transport to and from the railway station for commuters.

Electric Hire Bikes

The group are also looking at the possibility of installing electric hire bikes in Hadleigh. There is funding for six bikes across Babergh with two in Sudbury, two possibly at Alton Water for recreational use and two elsewhere, maybe Hadleigh.

The electric bike hire company Katherine has worked with in Mid Suffolk are called 'Eezybike' <https://eezybike.co.uk/>. They have installed two bikes and a solar powered charging pod at Needham Lakes as a pilot project. Babergh subsidises the cost of hire to £10 for half a day or £20 for a full day. Eezybike maintain the bikes. Ideally the pod would be on BDC owned land, possibly a car park.

These bikes might be good for visitors to Hadleigh giving them the chance to explore the surrounding countryside or to travel to out-of-town attractions such as Benton End (in future) or Dedham Vale. Perhaps suggested cycling routes could be provided (there may already be some). This would also offer residents the opportunity to have a go on an electric bike.

What do you think about this idea? Contact jane.carruthers@babergh.gov.uk

EV Charging Points

Suffolk County Council want to install more EV charging points across Babergh in 2026 and are looking for suitable places. They are thinking of properties without driveways who will struggle in future to charge vehicles. It is easier for SCC to use BDC land, but this limits their options. The possible sites in Hadleigh are: Beaumont Park (car park on land off Durrant Road), land at Meadows Way (between Parkside Pre-school and the skatepark), Angel Court, Angel St. and land on the north side of Angel St. including the parking area for Angel Court housing.

If anyone has any thoughts about where more EV points could go, please contact jane.carruthers@babergh.gov.uk

Land on A1071

We included this in our recent Green Party newsletter and Simon has already had a couple of residents from Weavers Meadow express an interest in being involved in creating a community space on this land, should this be possible. If anyone is interested in this potentially exciting project, please contact Cllr. Simon Dowling at simon.dowling@babergh.gov.uk .

Living Well in Winter Grant

The Living Well in Winter Grants are targeted at helping community groups tackle issues prevalent in our communities over the winter months, and exacerbated by the cost of living crisis, such as increased social isolation and decreased physical activity.

Up to £2,000 can be applied for towards new and existing activities to be delivered between December 2024 and March 2025, such as lunch clubs, warm spaces or subsidised sports sessions.

Living Well in Winter Grants are open for applications until Friday 8th November, at which points applications will be assessed using a scoring matrix. The scoring matrix and criteria can be viewed on the Babergh Communities Funding page here: [Babergh District Council Funding - Babergh District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk](https://babergh.gov.uk/midsuffolk.gov.uk)

Social Enterprise Support Fund

The Social Enterprise Support Fund provides support to social enterprises within Babergh and Mid Suffolk in their development. This includes boosting capacity and skills within an organisation, tailored support for effective communication or strategic planning.

Between £1,000 and £5,000 can be applied for towards revenue costs such as consultancy fees, project management resources and specialised support.

More information, as well as the Fund's priorities and requirements, can be found on our webpage.

Applications will be assessed on a first come, first serve basis, with funding limited to within the 2024-25 financial year. The deadline for applications is **31st January 2025**, though the Fund may close for new applications before then subject to demand.

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 within 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 here: [Babergh District Council Funding - Babergh District Council - baberghmidsuffolk.com](https://babergh.gov.uk/midsuffolk.com)

Any enquiries can be sent to the Grants Team at BMSDCGrants@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Capital Grant Funding

Capital Grants are aimed at assisting community groups in making improvements and repairs to social infrastructure. This may include

- village halls
- play areas
- sports clubs
- recreational facilities

Capital Grants are available to up to 100% of total project costs to a maximum grant of £10,000. Successful applicants will be required to deliver their project within 8 months of an offer being accepted and provide three quotes for the proposed works. Capital Grants will open for applications between Monday 18th November and Sunday 12th January 2025.

October Half Term HAF Provision (Holiday, Activities and Food Programme)

The government's Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) enables children and young people to enjoy fun activities with friends and develop new skills. Babergh have provided additional money to provide holiday activities during the October half term.

Children and young people across the district who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals can have free school holiday club places and a meal.

Other eligible children can include:

- Children assessed by the local authority as being in need, at risk or vulnerable.
- Young carers.
- Looked-after children or previously looked after children.
- Children with an EHC (education, health and care) plan
- Children who have low attendance rates at school or who are at risk of exclusion.
- Children living in areas of high deprivation or from low-income households who are not in receipt of free school meals.
- Children in transition phases between nursery and primary school or primary and secondary school.

If a child is not eligible, most providers offer paid for spaces.

Details of full provision across Babergh can be found here: [Holiday Activities and Food Programme - Babergh District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk](https://www.babergh.gov.uk/holiday-activities-and-food-programme)

Babergh and Mid Suffolk join bid to boost local tourism

Suffolk Public Sectors Leaders group (includes county, district, borough council, police and medical chiefs) has agreed to a five-year funding programme of £110k annually, to help enhance tourism across the region, with the opportunity to review after three years.

This matches funding already agreed by Norfolk County Council, overseen by Visit England and is part of a new Local Visitor Economy Partnership to enhance tourism in Suffolk and Norfolk. Their aim is to boost the visitor economy, promote sustainability, inclusivity, and accessibility, and ensure equitable benefits for both counties.

Launch of 2024 Rural Transport Survey

The 2024 Rural Transport Survey has launched. The survey is open until 30 November. Your feedback will help us shape the requirements for future rural transport services. **Online [2024 rural transport survey](#)**

Rural transport engagement events

If you would like to talk with our team about rural transport, there will be a drop-in event on 13th November from 10.30am-12pm, in The Dining Room, Hadleigh Guildhall (entry through Market Place) Hadleigh, IP7 5DN.

Pension Credit

We have been asked to highlight Pension Credit as there may be people who are entitled to it in our community. It can be claimed by pensioners even if they own their own home or have some savings if their weekly income is below £218.15 (single person) or £332.95 (couple). Those in receipt of Pension Credit may also be able to get:

- The Winter Fuel Payment
- Help with rent and Council Tax
- Free TV licence (if over 75)
- Help with NHS costs – dentist, glasses, transport.

Cllr. Jane Carruthers (Hadleigh South)

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