Babergh Councillor's Report to Hadleigh Town Council December 2025

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

As we expect you know, the government has launched a statutory consultation following the submission of the two different proposals for LGR in Suffolk in September.

The consultation seeks views on the Three Councils for Suffolk case submitted jointly by the district and borough councils, and One Suffolk, submitted by Suffolk County Council. This closes on January 11th. To complete the survey either go to https://threecouncilsforsuffolk.org/ where you will find a link or use the QR code on the leaflet/postcard.

The Three Councils for Suffolk website detail the benefits of our case for businesses, residents, town and parish councils and for the voluntary and community sector. There is also a link to the County Council's One Suffolk website to ensure awareness of both cases.

We have some leaflets and postcards to distribute around Hadleigh so that residents are aware of this opportunity to share their views.

As you know the government has announced a postponement to the election for a mayor of Norfolk and Suffolk which was due to take place next May. This election will apparently now be held in 2028.

Trees re-planted near Calais Street

Last week Babergh re-planted some fruit trees on Calais Street which had died due to drought last year. We are hopeful that with more community involvement these new trees will survive. There are plans to mulch them to help with soil water retention and a couple of residents have offered to help with watering if needed.

Better Recycling

As you know the way our waste is collected will be changing next year. The last government introduced plans to increase the levels of recycling at the kerbside following the Environment Act in 2021. This means that as from June 2026 we will have glass, food waste, cartons (Tetra Paks) and plastic film collected as well as current waste.

We will be given two new bins so that in total we will have:

Black bin - general or residual waste, the stuff which can't be recycled.

Blue bin – plastic, glass, metal tins, cans and foil (crushed up) and cartons (Tetra Paks)

Black bin with green lid – paper and cardboard, this is to keep it dry. Properties with limited space will be provided with a bag for paper and cardboard.

Food bin and small food caddy for the kitchen – food scraps such as plate scrapings, fruit and veg, bones, tea bags, coffee grounds, breads and dairy produce.

Brown bin – garden waste by subscription at £69 per year.

There is more information on Babergh's website https://www.babergh.gov.uk/future-changes-to-bin-collections and we will be running a public information campaign including a letter and four page leaflet to be delivered to every household from February onwards.

Funding available from the Babergh Grants Team

Community Development Grant 2025

Community Development Grants can be applied for towards revenue, capital or pre-project costs and activities. 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 12 months of an offer being accepted.

The current application window is open between 17th November 2025 and 18th January 2026. More detailed information, terms and conditions and eligibility criteria can be found on our Guidance Notes which can be found by following the link below.

Sustainable Communities Food Fund

The Sustainable Communities Food Fund, formerly 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, or revenue costs such as workshops and delivering activities to clients or volunteers.

Funding will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, with applications being accepted until 31 March 2026, though the Fund may close for applications prior to that point should funding be fully allocated. Successful applicants will be required to deliver their project within eight months of an offer being accepted.

For more information on funding please visit: Babergh District Council Funding - Babergh District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk

Finally, we would like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Jane Carruthers jane.carruthers@babergh.gov.uk

Simon Dowling simon.dowling@babergh.gov.uk

Kathryn Grandon kathryn.grandon@babergh.gov.uk