

CLlr Isabelle Reece: General Report to Parishes December 2025

Council Meeting 25th November

At the November Full Council Meeting, the Half-Year Report on Treasury Management 2025/26 from the Joint Audit and Standards Committee was received and noted and the final draft of the Bentley Conservation Area Appraisal & Management Plan was adopted

Norwich to Tilbury

The National Grid Energy Transmission (NGET) application for a Development Consent Order for N2T was accepted for examination by the Planning Inspectorate in September and the examination is expected to begin in the coming months. Babergh and Mid Suffolk are preparing submission and will attend the hearings and along with SALC, are helping parishes to make their representations too.

Statutory Consultation on Local Government Reorganisation

District and borough council leaders have welcomed the launch by Government of a statutory consultation into the future of local government in Suffolk and Norfolk. **People have until 11 January 2026 to have their say.**

Suffolk residents, businesses and local organisations are being urged to take part in a once in a generation opportunity to shape how council services are delivered for their local communities. The consultation is open now, and your views are vital. Local Government reorganisation for Suffolk includes proposals for a three unitary solution by the district and borough councils and a one unitary proposal 'One Suffolk' by Suffolk County Council. This is an opportunity for residents, businesses, and community organisations to help shape how local services are delivered for decades to come. The consultation seeks views on the two proposals for unitary councils in Suffolk – one for the eastern area, one for Ipswich and southern and one covering the western area of Suffolk. The District and Borough proposal is for Three Councils for Suffolk. These three councils would replace the current six councils – with each unitary providing 'all the services where you Live'.

Visit the official consultation portal at [Consultation on Proposals for Local Government Reorganisation in Norfolk and Suffolk - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government - Citizen Space](#) to submit your feedback.

Planning & Conservation

Members of the Planning Committee inspected the site of Application DC/23/05127 for the construction of a Solar Farm on land west of Boxted (Chadacre Ward) The Application is expected to come to Committee in the Spring.

The Council's designation of Bentley as a Conservation Area, a project dear to the heart of the Late Cllr Dave Busby, resulted in the Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan, which will be a vehicle for the understanding of both the significance of the area and the effect of impacts of development, neglect and other threats bearing negatively on its significance. The CAAMP is expected to form part of the planning authorities Historic Environment Record, be part of the evidence base for the Local Plan and a material consideration in planning decisions. The Final Report is well worth a look, as is the area well worth a visit, and can be found at the following link:

<https://www.babergh.gov.uk/documents/d/babergh/final-bentley-report-pdf>

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (Norfolk and Suffolk) was officially launched on 6th November. Babergh District Council has been actively involved throughout the process of its development. The Strategy aims to enhance biodiversity and support sustainable land management practices.

Cabinet Meeting 11th November

At its meeting of 11th November, Cabinet voted to decommission several of Babergh District's Sheltered Housing Schemes, as part of the growing move towards Independent Living. One such scheme is in our Ward is at Parkers Way in Nayland. For the report see: [BCA/25/24 DECOMMISSIONING OF SHELTERED HOUSING SCHEMES](#). A resident at the Scheme, David Finnegan, who recently became a member of Nayland with Wissington Parish Council and is the Scheme's 'Resident Expert', arranged a presentation on the Cassius Monitoring System, a digital and assistive technology developed by Suffolk County Council that can support people to live safely and independently at home for longer.

Conscious of the importance for health and social cohesion, residents at Parkers Way are keen to preserve the Communal facilities at their Scheme and if possible extend access by the wider community. I have had preliminary discussions with the Housing Department and have asked them to look into how this might be achieved.

Cabinet also approved the proposed Fees and Charges for 2026/27. See: [BCA/25/22 FEES AND CHARGES 2026/27](#)

For Further Information about Babergh District Council please see the Babergh District Council website: [Home - Babergh District Council – baberghmidsuffolk.com](#)