

Babergh District Council

Report for Parish Council Meeting September 2024

Planning

An open consultation on Proposed Changes to the National Planning Policy Framework was published on 30th July. It outlined changes the Government will make to meet its target of 1.5 million homes in the next 5 years. Changes include the reintroduction of mandatory housing targets and a new method for calculating housing need. Babergh has exceeded its planning targets and completed Part 1 of its Local Plan, but needs to accelerate completion of Part 2. Babergh's annual target has been increased from 416 to 763 properties. The focus is now on brownfield, 'grey belt' and green belt as opposed to urban development. The vast majority of Applications are granted and Babergh currently has a 'land bank' of 4,000 outstanding Permissions. The Consultation runs until 24th September: see link below

Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system

Parking Charges

On 2nd August, along with my Group colleague Paul Clover and several other cross-party colleagues opposed to the measures, I attended the Cabinet Meeting in which the earlier Cabinet Decision to Increase Parking Charges was upheld by a vote of 6 For & 1 Against.

Refund arrangements are planned for users of the Council's Sudbury and Hadleigh Leisure Centres and customers to Roy's in Sudbury. Further exemptions for users of nearby medical centres and mobile screening facilities; and possible means-tested permit schemes for parents using Council car parks for school journeys are being explored.

These exemptions have not been costed. The new charges will be in place by the beginning of 2025.

Council Meeting 23rd July.

The last Full Council Meeting received the Overview & Scrutiny Committee 2023/24 Annual Report & Draft Work Plan 2024/25; the Capital Investment Fund Company (CIFCO Ltd) Business Trading & Performance Report; the Babergh State of the District Report; the Solar & Low Carbon Energy Position Statement and the Process for Adoption of a Local Listed Building Consent Order (LLBCO) for Works to Windows and a Local Development Order (LBDO) for Solar PV on Outbuildings. Tom Barker was Appointed Monitoring Officer.

The next Meeting of Full Council is Tuesday 24th September

Recycling & Waste Collection

On 9th September Babergh Cabinet decided on proposed changes to Recycling & Waste Collection.

Joint Audit & Standards Committee Meetings

At Meetings I attended on 29th July & 19th August, the Jt. A & S Committee voted to recommend the process of Co-option of Non-elected Members to the Committee; received the Joint Annual Governance Statement 2023/24; the Interim Value for Money Arrangements Report 2020 – 23; the Annual Complaints Report 2023/24; and recommended minor amendments to the Code of Conduct Complaints Handling Procedure.

For Further Information see the Babergh District Council Website: [Home - Babergh District Council - baberghmidsuffolk.com](http://Home-Babergh-District-Council-baberghmidsuffolk.com)

Bures St Mary

Weeds

The Operations Team are about to start on their Winter Works Schedule, which includes dealing with weeds on pavements and BDC grounds.

Apple Tree Mews

Further to my communication of 23rd August, I checked again with the Head of Enforcement last week: before he went on holiday the progress report he had received from the developers was that they were waiting for a quote for the top coat. He would chase them up again this week and will let me know when he does the site visit, which will only happen after the top-coat has been applied.

Update Babergh Tenant in Bures St Mary

The Babergh Tenant we had all been concerned about is being seen regularly by BMSDC staff. He is open to and receiving support.

Bures Cricket Club

Following a referral from our Locality Officer, I have been in contact with Bures Cricket Club and will be supporting them in their fund raising activities for the restoration of the pavilion.

Cllr Isabelle Reece – Bures St Mary & Nayland Ward