

Your briefing notes for town and parish councils



Babergh & Mid Suffolk Councils

February 2024

[Babergh urges Government to fix 'broken' funding for councils](#)

Council leaders are calling for the Government to address a local authority funding crisis. A proposed 2.99% increase to Babergh's element of council tax bills would mean a £5.46 a year increase for residents in a Band D home.

[Further engagement over parking charges in bid to balance finances](#)

Babergh District Council is to conduct further engagement over plans to introduce short-term parking charges in its market towns with all town and parish councils, district councillors, and other recognised groups.

Engagement is already underway with the directly affected town and parish councils in Sudbury, Hadleigh, Lavenham and Chelmondiston.

Director of Operations Mark Emms is due to contact all other councils via their parish clerks over coming days with further information on how they can also have their say ahead of recommendations going back to cabinet. Please look out for further information soon.

[Funding available for community action on climate change](#)

Applications are being invited for The Suffolk Climate Action Community Match Funder. It is available to charities, community interest companies, parish councils, voluntary groups and other not-for-profit organisations, whose projects contribute to Suffolk's Climate Emergency Plan.

[£230,000 awarded to community projects across the districts](#)

Projects across Babergh and Mid Suffolk have received a share of £230,000 in grants and funding as part of the councils' commitment to residents' wellbeing and ensuring communities have access to local community facilities.

[Councils award funding to provide warm spaces this winter](#)

More than 30 community projects in Babergh and Mid Suffolk have each received a share of more than £36,000 to keep residents warm and connected this winter.

[New café and toilet block for Belle Vue Park](#)

Plans for a new cafe and toilet block in Vue Park have been approved.

[New public toilets for Sudbury](#)

Public toilets in Gaol Lane in Sudbury have undergone a complete refurbishment.

[Babergh and Mid Suffolk building control wins prestigious national award](#)

The Babergh and Mid Suffolk building control team is celebrating after receiving a prestigious national award for its work at Black Pheasant Barn, near Sudbury – which judges described as “*an impressive, modern and environmentally conscious barn conversion delivered on a tight budget and under tight timelines*”.

[More Brits overseas can now vote](#)

British citizens living abroad are now eligible to register to vote in UK general elections, regardless of how long they've been living outside the UK.