

To Chairman & Parish Councillors – Holbrook Parish Council
From Councillor Mary McLaren - Stour Ward
Holbrook Parish Council 18 December 2023

Babergh District Council Business Joint Local Plan

Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils have formally adopted their Joint Local Plan - the blueprint for the district's future development until 2037 – providing clarity for communities and developers. A Local Plan is prepared by the local planning authority and includes policies to tackle key social, economic and environmental issues - providing a framework to guide future planning decisions. The Joint Local Plan has been designed to ensure residents and communities have sufficient housing, employment and inward investment, the environment and heritage is protected, and the infrastructure is in place for health communities and thriving towns.

Neighbourhood Plans

Holbrook and Stutton have both undertaken successful referendums and can be proud of the confidence that was demonstrated by their residents on the day. Well done to both working groups who over the years worked and re-worked the plan until it was complete. In the Planning Process the Neighbourhood Plan carries weight in the ultimate decision by the Planning Authority and the Planning Committee.

For further information on the JLP process access babergh.gov.uk/jointlocalplan

“Constable Country is not for sale”

Babergh District Council has restated its objections to a new row of electricity pylons cutting through the countryside after the Chancellor pledged in the Autumn Statement to lower energy bills for those affected. National Grid has proposed an additional line of pylons and cables be installed across Babergh and Mid Suffolk – impacting the environment, local communities, and businesses. Once the landscape has been industrialised, nothing can compensate for that loss.

Call for land to support nature recovery.

To mark National Tree Week, Babergh District Council is working with the Woodland Trust in calling for land which could be planted on or improved for nature. The call is targeting local landowners to help increase the districts tree coverage and improve diversity. Of particular interest is land of less agricultural value near or next to land that may already be good for wildlife (woods, wetlands, meadows, heathland) or that can help join up with existing habitats. Babergh has a tree coverage of 10% and the aim is to have a minimum of 15% to support the council's climate change and biodiversity ambitions.

£1.4m to tackle criminal exploitation in Suffolk

Public sector leaders, which include district councils have agreed to award £1.4m in funding toward tackling criminal exploitation in the county.

Criminal exploitation includes a broad series of inter-related issues involving drugs, violence, modern slavery, missing persons, and home-grown drug dealing. Across our rural areas there remains a constant threat to young people, vulnerable adults, and our communities.

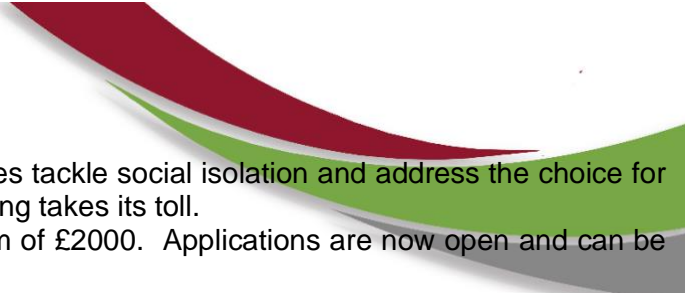
The Safer Stronger Communities Board continues to work to create safe environments for everyone in Suffolk.

New Winter grant to tackle social isolation.

Babergh District Council has launched a new grant to help communities tackle problems like social isolation. The Living Well in Winter grant has been set up to help local VCFSE (voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise) organisations to provide new accessible spaces and activities for people to enjoy or expand upon existing projects.



Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils
Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX
Telephone: (0300) 1234 000
www.babergh.gov.uk www.midsuffolk.gov.uk



The funding means that the councils can help communities tackle social isolation and address the choice for some residents to heat or eat this winter as the cost of living takes its toll.

Groups can apply for a minimum of £500 and a maximum of £2000. Applications are now open and can be submitted until Sunday 17th December 2023.

The Application form and scoring matrix used to assess applications is available on our website.

Visit the grants and funding page for Babergh District Council.

Awarded funding must be spent within 6 months of the grant offer being accepted.

Postal and proxy voting changes.

Changes to postal and proxy voting came into force on 31 October 2023 and will apply to all elections in England (including UK Parliament general elections, by elections, local elections and Police and Crime Commissioner Elections).

The changes include: -

- **A requirement for voters to reapply for a postal vote after three years.**
- **The introduction of an on-line absent voting application process**
- **A limit on the number of people someone can act as proxy for.**
- **The need to prove identity when applying to vote by post or proxy.**

A new government system is now available to allow voters to apply for a postal or proxy vote online. The Application process now requires voters to provide their National Insurance number as well as their signature.

Voters who are unable to prove their identity by providing documentary evidence will now have the option to ask someone they know to confirm their identity.

Voters who hold a Postal Vote before 31 October 2023 will need not re-apply before 31 January 2026

Under the new legislation voters will be able to act as a proxy for up to two people living in UK Elections where the changes apply.

Applications for a postal and proxy vote can still be made by completing an application form and posting to Electoral Services, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX


Further information can be found on the electoral commission website.

The countdown to Christmas within Babergh District Council

- Shop Local - supporting our local businesses wherever they are. Our Local Economy matters to all of us.
- Our operations team continues as usual right up to Christmas. Closed over the weekend and on Christmas Day and Boxing Day.
- Waste and Recycling – Change in bin collection days for Christmas and New Year - Schedules already on our website. Support re-cycling and Food Savvy campaigns throughout the month.
- Community support - not everyone has a happy time at Christmas. Ensuring that residents at risk and in need are supported within our communities.
- Preventing Homelessness and supporting rough sleepers www.streetlink.org.uk



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- We are running a social media campaign directing residents to useful resources and raising awareness of the support they may be entitled to. December topics – prepayment meters, energy efficiency, help for off gas homes, dealing with energy debt and benefit entitlement. Struggling with the cost of living, warm spaces and how to get help with food and essentials.

Access - on line

I need help - Babergh District Council

Telephone numbers

BDC Customer Services 0300 1234000 – 8.45am-5pm Monday to Friday
Ipswich Citizens Advice - 0300 330 1151
Sudbury Citizens Advice – 01787 321400



I would like to wish the Chairman and Holbrook Parish Council a Very Happy Christmas and a very Peaceful 2024

Mary McLaren
District Councillor - Stour Ward
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5 December 2023



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