

To the Chairman & Parish Councillors
Holbrook Parish Council Meeting
From Councillor Mary McLaren - Stour Ward
21 October 2024



Increased bin collections set to herald “recycling revolution”

At the end of September, Babergh District Council endorsed plans which will see improved recycling from 2026 alongside already agreed plans for weekly food waste collections starting at the same time.

The changes that went to Full Council ensure that the council can meet any new government legislation.

From 2026 people will be able to re-cycle more items in their existing recycling bin.

Glass and cartons such as Tetra Pak – which currently must be taken to Suffolk’s recycling centres and bottle banks will be included. Plastic Film will be incorporated in 2027

The additional re-cycling combined with the new weekly food waste collections could have a significant impact on re-cycling rates allowing over 58% of the waste that residents currently have to put in their black bin to be re-cycled instead.

A separate bin, box or bag will be provided for paper and cardboard. This separation known in the waste industry as “twin-stream collections” would ensure this is not affected by other items in the bin. Which improves its re-cycling value and quality.

Usable or expired items that residents will be able to put in their food waste bin include

- Leftovers
- Meat, fish and bones
- Tea bags and coffee grounds
- Bread, pasta and rice
- Eggshells and dairy products
- Fruit and veg peelings.

This reduced amount of general rubbish, in particular food items which are most likely to smell means the council will move to a more cost effective three-weekly rubbish bin collections from 2026.

However, the councils’ waste team will be sympathetic to those with exceptional needs on a case-by-case basis, such as those with larger families, with medical needs or without available space for the new bins. All local authorities in Suffolk as part of the Suffolk Waste Partnership are reviewing their waste and recycling services to ensure they meet the new nationwide “Simpler Recycling” requirements by 31 March 2026.

Changes to collections will be explained to residents as part of the Suffolk wide communications campaign nearer to the 2026 rollout.

Councils renew call for urgent government action to end council housing funding crisis

BDC at its September meeting resolved to write to the Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner and local MPs to re-iterate the need for immediate changes to the broken financial model that dictates England’s council housing system

Across the country, many councils are facing significant financial problems due to years of erratic national policy changes. In 2012 councils had to take out a loan to buy their own properties, creating a significant amount of debt to be self-financed through rental income. At the time rents provided councils with enough money to start repaying the debt and continue investing.

However, the Government later restricted rent rises – a welcome measure for tenants but there was no additional income to maintain investment.



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“Council homes transform lives, providing a foundation for a good life for millions of people across the country who otherwise would be locked out of having a decent affordable home” Councillor Jessie Carter – BDC Cabinet Member for Housing

Four Suffolk Councils have joined forces with more than 100 others in England to call for the new government to save council homes. In early September an event was held in Westminster when the above cross-party coalition published five solutions for the government to secure the future of England’s council housing.

The coalition (BDC, MSDC, IBC and ESDC) warn that England’s council housing system is broken, and that urgent action is needed for the government to deliver its housing promises. i.e

- A new fair and sustainable HRA (Housing Revenue Account) model including an urgent £644 million one-off rescue injection and long-term – certain rent and debt agreements.
- Reforms to unsustainable Right to Buy policies.
- Removing red tape on existing funding.
- A new, long-term Green and Decent Homes Programme.
- Urgent action to re-start stalled building projects avoiding the loss of construction sector capacity and a market downturn.

There is a need for a plan of “decade-renewal” - getting the HRA back on stable foundations, bringing all homes up to modern and green standards and delivering the next generation of council homes.

Councils issue response after devolution deal scrapped.

BDC and MSDC have added their voices to the joint statement following the news that a proposed Suffolk devolution deal has been scrapped.

“The district and borough councils within Suffolk look forward to working with Suffolk County Council and the Government to develop a new devolution deal for the whole of Suffolk”

Have your say on our new economic strategy

Both councils are developing a new economic strategy and want to hear your views. Two workshops have already taken place at the beginning of October in Sudbury and Stowmarket. Please complete the survey on- line if you wish to participate.

Change to Babergh Cabinet

Councillor Laura Smith (Sudbury) has replaced Councillor Daniel Potter (Orwell) as Cabinet Member for Thriving Communities.

Half Term Holiday Activities for young people across the District - Monday 28 October to Friday 1 November 2024

Please access the Babergh & Mid Suffolk Holiday Activities website as there are numerous venues and places need to be booked.

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