

To Chairman and Councillors Holbrook Parish Council  
From Councillor Mary McLaren- Stour Ward  
16 September 2024

### **Businesses to be recognised as Innovation Awards return for 2024**

Businesses across the district are set to be recognised for their fresh thinking and new ideas as Babergh and Mid Suffolk Innovation Awards return this autumn. The awards are held every two years and are a celebration of businesses in all sectors that are striving to use unique and creative approaches to deliver their products and services.

This is the ninth-year awards will be handed out acknowledging the most innovative local businesses across a range of categories.

#### **Categories**

- Shooting Star (individual or team)
- Rising Star
- Growth Business of the year.
- Customer Service Innovation
- High Street Innovation
- Sustainability Innovation
- Construction Innovation
- Food and Drink Innovation
- Business Innovator of the Year.

### **Sports and Recreation in Babergh gets £118k boost**

BDC Cabinet has voted to approve £118,633 worth of funding from the CIL Fund to Hadleigh and Tattingstone. CIL Payments are legally required from developers of residential sites across the district and are then distributed by BDC to help local facilities to keep pace with housing growth.

The latest round of CIL Funding will help two successful project bids – with improvements to Tattingstone Playing Field receiving more than £18k and the creation of a new sports pavilion in Hadleigh receiving £100K. The CIL award for Layham Road Sports Ground Pavilion is in addition to £108k of Section 106 funding which was allocated to the project.

Bids made for CIL Funding are regularly reviewed by the Council and earmarked for projects which help the local infrastructure keep pace with developments happening within the district.

This the thirteenth round of CIL Funding which has been available through the Council which has been available through the Council since May 2018 and to date has allocated £3.6m to infrastructure projects across Babergh.

### **Councils Objection to National Grids Norwich to Tilbury pylon proposals**

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have now published their full response to the National Grid's Norwich to Tilbury consultation objecting to the "considerable and potentially devastating impacts" of the proposal to their districts.

Whilst acknowledging the government's net zero commitment and the need to tackle energy security, carbon reduction and energy poverty - the councils point out the impact of strategic energy development on their communities, heritage and environment. In joint response the councils call for a pause to the scheme so alternatives can be fully considered and consulted upon. However they have offered further comments on the proposals in a bid to minimise the impacts of the development on districts and increase benefits for the wider eastern region. A full response can be accessed on the District Website.



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## Babergh & Mid Suffolk join bid to boost local tourism

Suffolk Public Leaders (County, district, borough councils, police and medical chiefs) have committed to a five-year funding programme of £110k annually to enhance tourism across the region. There will be an opportunity to review after three years.

This matches funding already agreed by Norfolk County Council, overseen by Visit England as part of a new Local Visitor Economy Partnership to enhance tourism in Suffolk and Norfolk.

This collaboration aims to boost the visitor economy, promote sustainability, inclusivity and accessibility and ensure equitable benefits to both counties.

## Councils host Call for Land summit in September

Both Councils are hosting a free event in September for local landowners in the districts to help put them in touch with organisations that can support them in managing their land better for wildlife.

Environmental Organisations across both districts such as Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Woodland Trust and the Forestry Commission are some of the organisations involved. The event was scheduled for 5 September in Stowmarket. The Councils have already helped almost 40 landowners in Babergh and Mid Suffolk with organisations that can help them with this work as emails went out to Landowners and interested organisations last month.

## “Solar Together Suffolk” launches offering residents (homeowners) affordable energy resources

Suffolk residents can join the group buying scheme which offers :-

- Solar Panels with optional battery storage and EV charge points
- Retrofit battery storage for residents who have already invested in solar panels and are looking to get more from the renewable energy they generate.
- The scheme allows homeowners to increase their independence on the national grid.
- It's free to register and there is no obligation to go ahead with an installation.
- Babergh and Mid Suffolk are working with iChoosr (experts in sustainable energy transition to make the transition to clean energy as cost-effective and hassle-free as possible)
- Householders can register online to become part of the group for free without obligation before the **18 October 2024**.
- iChoosr has been collaborating with UK Councils since 2015 in its Solar Together Scheme.
- To date Solar Together has installed 13,750 solar panels in Suffolk.

## Districts to benefit from new electric vehicle scheme

A trial of electric community vehicles is set to launch next summer in Suffolk with the tender process commencing this autumn.

**Plug in Suffolk Car Clubs** will be placing sixteen electric vehicles across eight locations in Suffolk which local residents can book by the minute, hour or day.

Planned locations are Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds, Newmarket, Sudbury, Needham Market, Stowmarket, Lowestoft and Woodbridge.

Members of the public interested in this project are urged to sign up to **The Plug in Suffolk Mailing List**.

Car Clubs have already offered people in other parts of the UK access to low emission vehicles without the expense of owning one.

Mary McLaren

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4 September 2024



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