

To Chairman and Councillors
Holbrook Parish Council
From Councillor Mary McLaren - Stour Ward
16 June 2025.



Local Government Re-organisation. (LGR)

Working with Suffolk's other district and borough councils we have just launched a wide-reaching survey inviting residents, businesses and communities to help shape the future of our county.

We want to hear people's views on the Local Government Re-organisation in Suffolk.

We are promoting the survey through the usual channels such as social media, traditional media and among our staff.

Every councillor is being supplied with postcards and posters to help discussion with local residents and community groups to promote discussion and ideas. Town and Parish Councils are also being issued with postcards and posters to promote the survey within their Parish and encourage those who can participate to make their views known.

Press Release - regarding the interim proposals for Local Government Reorganisation submitted by the five councils (borough and district) to the Government.

"We have just received the Government's response which supports us moving our proposals forward. We will be looking through the feedback in detail to ensure the final proposals we submit in September not only meets the guidance set by Government but crucially provides better outcomes for our communities.....

Multiple unitaries are vital to keep councils truly local for the people that they serve..... Big enough to deliver but small enough to care"Multiple unitary authorities would ensure strong democratic representation whereas one single council would be too remote for residents."

In the meantime, Suffolk County Council has also launched a survey on its "One Suffolk" Unitary proposal.

Babergh District Council News – Annual Meeting 14 May 2025

In the rotation of our Green, Independent and Liberal Democrat coalition arrangements in the council, John Ward was duly elected as Council Leader at the Annual Meeting in May. He has ambitious plans for the Council as we work towards major changes to local councils over the next three years.

"The council over the past two years since the last local elections has made excellent progress on housing repairs and maintenance, addressed new government house building requirements by working closely with communities, established a new nature reserve in Sroughton, worked to improve the energy efficiency of listed buildings and has simplified the funding of projects for community groups"

Cllr Ward stated that ensuring financial stability of the council remained his top priority

He emphasised:-

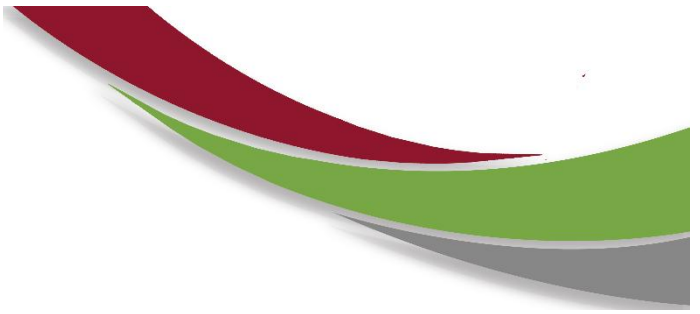
"We are now thinking about the legacy we want this final Babergh administration to leave to our successors. We have identified what we still want to achieve during the two or three years we have until the unitary councils take over. It is a long and ambitious list and we will share more details soon."

Babergh District Council Chairman

Councillor Ruth Hendry (Green Party – Sudbury) was elected by the Council and has chosen a domestic abuse charity as the recipient of any money raised at the Chairmans charity events.

Chairman of Licensing Committee

I was very pleased to be elected BDC Chairman of the Licensing Committee - regulating Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles and Under the Licensing Act - Sale of alcohol – retail – club premises – regulated entertainment and the provision of late-night refreshment.



Commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant

Babergh District Council has restated its commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant – an important pledge to thousands of families across the district. As an ex-service wife I fully support this commitment. The covenant sets out the action the Council will take to support those who serve, have served in the Armed Forces as well as their families.

It recognises the unique obligations of and sacrifices made by the armed forces community and states that they should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens.

The council has long supported the covenant but needs to restate their commitment and set out a refreshed action plan to meet its goals

- To enable someone to move into the area after being based abroad and needing housing especially if they have no local connection to be housed.
- To recognise the welfare needs of Armed Forces personnel and their families
- To encourage local businesses and communities to get involved and pledge their support for this commitment.

Babergh District Council Housing Team have improved the services for social housing tenants

Housing teams have turned the tide for tenants. Transformation of the service has improved the interaction with tenants, increased the involvement of the Tenant Board in assessing services and with the promise of further improvements have launched their new repairs pledges.

Free Tree for every Babergh baby born in 2025

The Tree for Life Scheme is open to all families across the district who have welcomed or are set to welcome a newborn baby or adopted child in 2025.

The initiative which runs every year gives parents the opportunity to mark their child's arrival by planting a fruit tree which can grow alongside them.

Parents that have lost a child during the same period are also able to apply for a memory tree as part of the same scheme.

Since its inception both councils have given out well over two thousand trees with 300 hundred families applying in last year's scheme.

Tree for Life applications can be made on the council website www.babergh.gov.uk/w/tree-for-life

Suffolk Community Awards open for nominations

Nominations for the Suffolk Community Awards 2025 are now open. In our parishes we have many people who go beyond the work they are expected to undertake on behalf of clubs and parish groups.

Access the Suffolk Community Awards Website

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4 June 2025