



Have your say: - Residents invited to help shape future of Babergh and Mid Suffolk.

Residents, businesses, community groups and stakeholders are being invited to help shape the future of Babergh and Mid Suffolk as the councils launch the first stage consultation of their **new Joint Local Plan**. The Scoping Consultation which opened on the 5th June and runs to 31 July 2026 marks the beginning of an important conversation about how the districts should grow and change over the coming years.

The Joint Local Plan is an important planning document that will guide decisions on housing, jobs, infrastructures, town centres, the environment, transport and community facilities, helping to ensure that Babergh and Mid Suffolk remain attractive, sustainable and thriving places to live, work and visit.

The consultation seeks views on the key issues and opportunities facing both districts and helps inform the evidence gathering and plan-making process.

It is the first opportunity for residents and organisations to help shape the new Local Plan before it is written.

At this stage decisions are not being made about specific development sites. The consultation is asking for views on the key issues facing the area.

It also seeks views on how Councils should engage with communities and stakeholders throughout the process.

Concillor Sallie Davies – Babergh Cabinet Member for Planning said “Our districts are unique landscapes, historic towns and villages, thriving communities and ambitious businesses. The Joint Local Plan provides and opportunity to build on those strengths while planning carefully for future needs.

We want this consultation to be a genuine conversation with our communities. Whether you have lived here all your life, recently moved to the area, run a local business or represent a community group, your views matter.

The decisions we make today will shape Babergh and Mid Suffolk for years to come and I would encourage everyone to take a few minutes to visit the consultation website and share their thoughts”

Suffolk’s local authorities have been working together on local plan preparation to support a consistent approach and effective cross-boundary working ahead of Local Government Reorganisation.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk’s consultation can be completed online and is supported by a range of background information explaining the purpose of the Joint Local Plan and the issues being considered.

Babergh Residents can find out more and take part by visiting either www.babergh.go.uk/w/joint-local-plan-scoping-consultation

New Campaign launched to showcase Suffolk Vineyards

Funded by the visitor economy teams at Mid-Suffolk, Babergh and West Suffolk Councils, a new Suffolk Wine Trail has been launched to help showcase Suffolk’s growing collection of Vineyards on the Visit Suffolk Website and will support a new generation of vineyards and help wine tourism.

Wine Tourism is increasing across the UK according to the industry trade body WINEGB as tourists seek out vineyard tours and the opportunity to sample local wines. There are more than 13 vineyards across Suffolk, with many offering tastings, regular tours and fine dining experiences with eight of the biggest being profiled on **the VISIT SUFFOLK website**. The launch was in June during English Wine Week as a celebration of British Viticulture.

The vineyards offer wines produced by a range of grapes, including Bacchus and Pinot Noir leading to white, rose, red and sparkling varieties.

Our nearest is the wonderful Shotley Vineyard, however many more to explore.



Residents urged not to miss out on Heating Oil help

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have joined forces with Local Citizen Advice services to reach residents who may be missing out of financial help with heating oil – Having already helped households unlock £100k in unclaimed benefits over the last year.

Both councils are now writing to residents who heat their homes with oil and may be eligible for help and have not yet accessed it. This follows confirmation from the Government in March of more than £50 million in funding for low-income households who use oil to provide hot water and heat their homes recognising the sharp and on-going increases in fuel prices.

Heating oil support can be accessed locally through Suffolk County Council's Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) which replaced the Welfare Assistance Scheme on 1 April 2026. Residents struggling with essential costs or heating oil may be eligible for a crisis payment or specific heating oil payment.

The council's targeted approach in partnership with local Citizens Advice reflects the growing evidence that many households nationally are missing out on financial support they are entitled to.

The campaign builds on the work carried out by the council's Cost of Living Team, helping residents to understand what help is available and assist with applications.

Over the past year the team has contacted more than 650 households about benefits or support they may be missing out on, helping residents overcome barriers such as uncertainty about eligibility, complex application processes and digital exclusion. This work has generated more than £100,000 in additional income for local household, often delivering on-going longer term financial benefits.

Residents can check eligibility details and apply for support via the [Crisis and Resilience Fund Page on the Suffolk County Council website](#)

Or contact Sudbury and South Suffolk Citizens Advice - 01787 321400

Oil Buying Schemes on the BABERGH Council Website

Call Customer Services on 0300 1234 000

Mary McLaren
Mary.McLaren@babergh.gov.uk
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