



Babergh District Council **Annual Report 2023/24**



May'23

Local elections: 10 Greens, 9 Independents, 7 Conservatives, 5 Liberal Democrats & 1 Labour Cllr make up the new Council.

Coalition agreed between the Greens, Independents and Liberal Democrats with the sharing of leadership across the 4-year term. Y1: Lib Dem, Y2 Green, Y3 Independent, Y4 Green

The long running Bellevue House issue to renovate the ex-council buildings in Hadleigh and turn into housing appeared settled as contracts were exchanged.

Jun'23

Council reiterates its objection to pylon proposals as does Suffolk County Council

Jul'23

Cabinet sets its strategy for the next four years citing climate housing and community at the heart of its priorities.

Aug'23

Cost of living support for residents reviewed. £100,000 made available to council tenants, a reduction in council tax for low-income households and £150,000 to households struggling with rent.

A 30% increase in funding to Citizens Advice Bureaus to accommodate increased cost due to increased demand.

Sep'23

Inspectors declare the long-awaited Joint Local Plan Part One to be sound and can progress to adoption. The plan has been seven years in the making. Work on Part 2 is underway

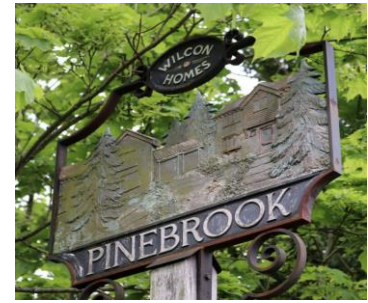
Oct'23

Babergh's new website launched. Most frequent queries listed on front page to save residents time.

Storm Babet. Suffolk resilience forum declares a major incident and provides cross agency support to those affected by flooding in the district.



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Nov'23

A consultation begins into measures that might streamline energy efficiency upgrades to listed properties.

A consultation was launched to help shape the future of Babergh following the strategy announcement in July.

The Joint Local Plan was adopted at full council.

Babergh put out a call for land to support nature, to increase tree coverage and to improve biodiversity.

The director of housing presented a plan to cabinet recently that defined how the repairs arrears would be fixed and new systems implemented.

The cabinet agreed to funding of £943k from housing reserves account be used to complete the repairs backlog.

Dec'23

Parking charges are back on the agenda. Babergh Cabinet declares that it needs to consider all options faced with a potential shortfall of £1.8M of funding.

Jan'24

Babergh urges the government to fix the broken funding for councils after cost of running the council was expected to rise by 12.8% year on year.

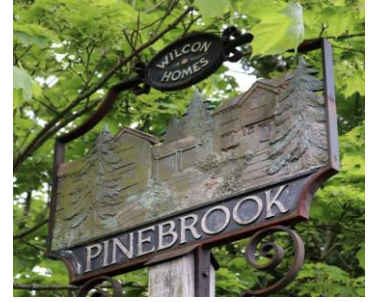
Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils have completed 128 new affordable council homes over the last 12 months - 42 in Babergh & 86 in Mid-Suffolk. This brings the total housing stock to almost 7,000 homes in the region; with 3,526 homes in Babergh and 3,373 homes in Mid Suffolk. More than you would have thought??!!

Feb'24

A balanced budget was delivered albeit by use of £1.2 million of reserves. Covering shortfalls from reserves isn't a long-term solution. There are about £2.4m left of usable reserves (reserves equate to yours & my savings account). We have to save around £6.7m over the next 4 years in order to keep the books balanced - this is a legal requirement. It's estimated that 1 in 5 councils are about to go broke which doesn't say much for the level of government funding. The council has increased fees & charges to reflect the actual cost of providing licences and services. A savings programme is expected to achieve savings of £540k



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Mar'24

Babergh District Council was named the best council in the UK - partly for its work on delivering green infrastructure

Parking proposals were considered by the Overview & Scrutiny committee and will now be forwarded to cabinet for consideration in April.

Apr'24

Parking charges debated by cabinet and approved 6-2. Decision called in and returns to Overview & Scrutiny. Recommendations made and returned to Cabinet for further debate & review during May.