

## District Council Report September 2024

### **Car Parking Charges**

A review of the affordability of making the first hour of parking free, in Hadleigh and Sudbury was considered by cabinet in August. Additional information was included in the new report, but it recommended that the one-hour free option was not implemented because it is unaffordable. This means the council will proceed with the charges originally agreed in April – which at £1 for short stay parking for the first hour, or £1 for two hours in long stay, are below those of neighbouring authorities. There are no plans to introduce charges for parking on Sundays or Bank Holidays, and Blue Badge holders would continue to be allowed to park for free for up to three hours in all council car parks.

### **New Waste Collection Plans**

The number of waste bins and collections is due to be considered by Cabinet soon. Residents in Babergh will not only see the introduction of new weekly food waste collections from 2026 but could also enjoy a 'recycling revolution' under new plans.

Plans will enable residents to recycle more items in their household recycling bin from 2026 to meet new government legislation where glass and cartons such as Tetra Pak will be included. Plastic film will then be incorporated from 2027.

A separate bin, box or bag would be provided for paper and cardboard. This separation would ensure this is not affected by other items in the bin, improving its recycling value and quality. This change will increase the number of bins each home has but the councils' waste team would be sympathetic to those with exceptional needs on a case-by-case basis.

### **Call for Land Summit**

The Council is 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. Attendees at the event include environmental organisations such as the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Woodland Trust, and Forestry Commission, among others.

They will be able to offer landowners advice, support, funding, and resources to help ensure their land best supports our native wildlife. This could be tree planting, hedge planting, meadow creation or allowing land to develop naturally. The summit will take place at The Mix in Stowmarket on 5 September between 10am-2pm.

Attendees will benefit from presentations, landowner case studies, as well as networking opportunities.

### **Norwich to Tilbury Pylons**

Following on from the National Grid consultation Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils, who are both affected by the route, have submitted a response. The councils continue to object to the "considerable and potentially devastating impacts" of the proposals to the districts.

Whilst it is important to acknowledge the government's net zero commitment and the need to tackle energy security, carbon reduction and energy poverty – the council has pointed out the impact of strategic energy development which affects our districts' communities, heritage, and environment. Our districts are currently receiving a lot of renewable energy applications.

In a joint response, the councils call for a pause to the scheme so alternatives can be fully considered and consulted upon.

### **Babergh join bid to boost local tourism.**

Suffolk Public Sectors Leaders group – which includes Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils – has agreed to a five-year funding programme to help enhance tourism across the region.

### **Sports and recreation in Babergh get £118K boost.**

Two separate sports and recreational projects in Babergh are to receive an injection of more than £118k from Babergh District Council, thanks to funds collected from developers. This includes £100K from CIL funding that has been allocated to Layham Road Sports Ground Pavilion in Hadleigh.