

District Council Report

November 2024

Corks Lane properties up for sale

The first eleven homes on the Corks Lane council offices site are now complete, with at least one apartment already sold. The site is up for sale following a sympathetic conversion of the buildings to preserve and enhance the original structures, ensuring retention of the properties character and features.

The development will eventually see the original buildings transformed into forty-nine new high-quality homes, a mix of one, two, three and four-bedroom apartments and one cottage, which are ideally located close to shops, schools, and the town's amenities.

The project has not panned out as originally expected and Green Party Councillors have pushed for a full investigation, as soon as the properties are all sold.

Kingfisher Leisure centre Pool re-opens

Following closure of the pool in August for repair of the glass roof, further investigations revealed other additional problems that require more complex repair, which will come as a big hit to the council's budget. While the council awaits to confirm the final quote, they expect the work involved to be in the six figures.

The Council is now examining a number of long-term options for the entire glass section of roof, which has around 170 bespoke panels. Completion of the interim work is now almost done ready for the pool to reopen on 11 December. This work, which has sealed the glass roof allows installation of an additional platform just beneath it so that the pool is safe to re-open. All other facilities at Kingfisher, including the gym, have remained open as usual.

Further CIL funding for communities

Following October's window for Community Infrastructure Levy applications twenty-four of Babergh's town and parishes are due to receive a portion of £281K.

This round of neighbourhood CIL is in addition to the £15 million CIL funding which has been allocated in both districts since 2018.

Community Energy Revolution

Residents were recently invited to join the council at Sudbury Arts Centre on 30 October for an event facilitated by Community Energy South.

The meeting provided an opportunity for communities to find out how they can generate clean energy, cut bills, and help the planet. With the council able to gauge interest in setting up a new local community energy scheme for the area.

Attendees were able to:

- hear from existing successful community energy groups in Suffolk, including Heating Bildeston.
- ask questions and get free advice from community energy experts.
- understand more about the development of community led renewable energy projects.
- and find out more about how they can get involved.

Councils call for action over council housing budget black hole.

Following a report backed by more than one hundred Councils across the country highlighting the national council housing crisis, Babergh and Mid Suffolk's green leaders have signed a joint statement urging the Government to help turn things round.

The statement urged the government to invest in urgently needed new council homes, addressing the unsustainable debt previously allocated to councils and creating a Green and Decent Homes Programme.

Students given opportunity to debate climate issues.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils' Schools are hosting a Green Skills Summit, which will take place on 15 November.

It will see just over 90 year 8 and 9 students from across ten schools in Babergh and Mid Suffolk, take part in a COP-style event. The students will represent sixteen nations debating real-world climate change challenges and emulating real-life negotiations.

The aim is to engage young people from a wide variety of socio-economic backgrounds about climate change and its effects. The hope is to open up opportunities for local action and sustainable career choices for the next generation, following on from this year's Green Careers Week.