

District Council report

May 2026

Activity at Babergh has been fairly quiet over the last six weeks due to the County council elections, which occurred last week.

During the campaign, the dissatisfaction and frustration that people are feeling towards all levels of government became apparent. Although I knew that people were unhappy, the thing I found quite sad was that people feel that all aspects of our lives are worse now than they used to be. In fact, several people asked me to name something that was better now and unfortunately, I am still thinking.

Many people were also focusing on national policies, which do not come under the remit of our local authorities. As we move into the new council year, I wanted to take the opportunity to re-iterate that my focus is on issues that effect the residents of Kersey, the other parishes in my ward and the residents of Babergh as a whole.

Community Funding Support

A number of parishes recently received awards from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Brantham Parish Council's plans to install a purpose-built skate park for youngsters and the wider local community. The funding would cover the majority of the project's total cost, with the remainder coming from the National Lottery and the local parish councils.

Also set to receive £100k is a project to upgrade St Andrew's Church in Great Cornard. The Grade I listed building is set to undergo essential infrastructure improvements to ensure the church can be an accessible and welcoming hub for the local community while keeping its heritage intact

Both projects were successful in their bids for District CIL funding, with a total of just under £297k set to be reinvested into Babergh communities, thanks to developer contributions. Also, amongst the successful bids was £85k for Burstall Memorial Hall to help extend the kitchen as part of a wider upgrade and improvement of facilities, and delegated approval was noted for a further award of just under £11.8k for the installation of solar panels, including on site battery storage, at East Bergholt Sports Pavillion.

Failure to pay community levy could cost developer.

Babergh District Council took court action after TTV Industrial Ltd failed to pay the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) on a housing development in Old London Road, Copdock.

As mentioned above CIL money is invested in helping local facilities keep pace with housing growth. TTV Industrial Ltd, based in Old London Road, Copdock, had planning permission to build seven homes on the site, and work on the first three of these started in 2020.

As a result, the business was served a Liability Notice for the required CIL payment relating to the three homes. It later argued, however, that this notice had not been served, while also claiming the homes were exempt because they were self-build.

Babergh District Council's attempts to resolve the matter were unsuccessful, and the business incorrectly maintained no CIL payments were due.

As a result, the council applied to magistrates' court for a Liability Order under the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010.

After a hearing at Norwich Magistrates' Court, District Judge Bone has ordered TTV Industrial Ltd to pay the total CIL liability of £105,475, statutory late payment interest of £31,623, and the council's legal costs of £9,880.