

# Annual Report

**Babergh District Council  
2021**

**Spring**

**Stoke by Nayland  
Nayland and Wissington**

**Bures St Mary**

## **Planning \* Licencing \* Waste \* Environment \* Economic Development \* Housing \* Communities\*Building Control\* Electoral Services\*Communities\*Housing**

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- Council tax will increase this year by 2.96% which on a typical band D house is 10p per week or £5 per year. Average general needs property rent will increase by £1.35 to £91.70 pw Average sheltered housing rent will increase by £1.10 to £76.10pw. Average sheltered housing service charge will increase by 0 .69p to £21.69pw (for the services of the Site Manager, alarm system and communal area). No increase in utility charges, these remain at £15pw.Parkers Way charges may differ as above is based on average charges.
- Cabinet reported that the general fund at Q3 shows a surplus of almost £1.4m. However, there is still a lot of pressure on our budget into next year.
- The council's housing, public realm, waste, and recycling fleet will switch to hydrotreated vegetable oil to reduce carbon emissions. CIL funding has been awarded to partly cover the costs of this change.
- Babergh administered grants, loans and emerging needs fund during a quick roll out of aid in Spring which has continued during second and third lockdown.
- The new Local Plan (Town and County Planning) is with the Planning Inspectorate/Department of Communities awaiting approval.
- Civil Parking Enforcement powers have been given to district councils incl Babergh. Teams are active every day across the district. We should expect greater revenue when lockdown ends.
- Babergh will reduce free parking in council owned car parks from

current 3 to 1 hour with a charging tariff imposed from Oct 2021 subject to assessment of high street recovery.

- Sudbury Town Council will no longer host the customer access point for residents in this area. This will be moved to Sudbury Library and the main face to face service will reduce to 2 days a week from April 2021 although residents will be able to get assistance on the other 3 days.
- Babergh and Mid Suffolk DC have established a joint company called CIFCO Capital. The last investment has been made and is generating a return on capital without which we would struggle to maintain services as central government grants are cut. Net income in 2019/20 is £1.634m
- CIL funding continues to be paid to facilitate new infrastructure – details are available of the latest round of awards that provide new toilets, play equipment, electric charging points, village hall kitchen facilities etc
- Land at Belle Vue Park in Sudbury will be sold in a deal to develop the area of the old swimming pool and the house. Access will remain at the entrance from Newton Road. A new entrance will be made to open up the Cornard Road side and a new café and toilets will be built from the proceeds of the sale. The developer will build private retirement living accommodation and wants to retain the house and include it in future plans.
- Cabinet agreed to spend £350k on solar carports at Kingfisher Leisure Centre in Sudbury. Government has matched funded with the aims of creating jobs, develop skills, provide infrastructure, tackle climate change. The panels will provide energy to the leisure centre and battery storage and EV charging as part of carbon reduction strategy and will be implemented by Spring '22.
- Following an earlier decision at full council a higher rate of council tax will be applied on empty unfurnished properties after standing unused for 10 years. The new chargeable rate is 300%.
- Work started at Gainsborough's House Museum to build a new adjacent gallery despite a short interruption due to Covid. This was possible with the aid of a substantial heritage lottery award and Babergh's gift of the old labour exchange building next to the museum. While closed major art works were loaned to the prestigious Pushkin Art Gallery in Moscow and it is hoped we will see a reciprocal loan when the new extension opens.
- Work is to start on a Parking Review to make sure we have parking appropriate to our needs in the future right across the district. This should start in the summer.
- A review of all Babergh garage sites will be undertaken later this

year to record ownership, condition and identify sites suitable for redevelopment [ownership allowing].

The housing team have worked hard to find temp accommodation for the homeless in the area during Covid. New accommodation has been purchased by Babergh that will offer temp places to homeless people.

- This is the first year that councillors have had an allocated budget of £2k to fund projects, items etc that will benefit the community, I spent my locality budget on 2 areas of expenditure. I agreed to fund a notice board at the recreation ground in Bures aiming to raise awareness of risks with swimming/diving in the river. I also part funded a new fuse board in the Village Hall, Bures. Finally, I agreed to allow Babergh to access the remainder of my 20/21 fund for emerging needs.
- The cost of the garden refuse collection increased this year by £2.50 to £57.50, and the compost 'giveaway' took place again this year.
- Food hygiene officers took action against a bakery who sold goods at various markets in Suffolk. They were fined £10k for the offence.
- Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (or CIL money) is in the 'pot' waiting for your community to spend it. Bures St Mary and Nayland have £8,787, Stoke by Nayland has £2,353 to spend.
- All council meetings are now live streamed on You Tube. You can watch live or at your convenience and you can see how each councillor voted on each motion. You can also see attendance rates for each councillor on each councillor's details page on Babergh site.
- More facts and figures are available for you to browse on the refreshed Joint Strategic Plan 2016-2020. It can be viewed at [X-6-16 - JSP Refresh-Appendix A.pdf \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)

It is a pleasure to continue to work with residents and parish councillors in this beautiful area to try and find solutions on local issues and to advocate on your behalf.

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