

Annual Report

Babergh District Council
2023

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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- Progress with major projects like development in the centre of Sudbury and Hadleigh has been slow. This week approval was given on a successful bid on Belle Vue House in Sudbury.
 - **Council tax will increase this year by 2.99%** which on a typical band D house is 10p per week or £5.30 per year. The expenditure on wages accounts for approx. 50% of costs and has risen this last year by £1.6m and is set to rise again this year ahead by £2.4m due to pay awards, and increments, and also inflationary increases and capital financing.
 - The 23/24 budget was approved with a **predicted surplus of £22k.**
 - For every £1 collected 74p goes to Suffolk CC, 13p goes to the Police and Crime Commissioner, **9p is retained by Babergh District Council** and 5p goes to the parishes.
 - The Housing Revenue Account was approved at the February meeting there was an increase 7% in Council house rents, equivalent to £6.68pm for social rent and £9.41pw for affordable rent. Sheltered housing service charges increased by 7%, equivalent to £12.19 a month (for the services of the Site Manager, alarm system and communal area). Utility charges for sheltered housing were increased by £7.42pm after a 2-year hiatus as gas, electricity and water prices have risen.
 - Public Realm was bought back in house in November 2022. A review of performance since then reports that the large mechanical sweeper has been deployed on average 3 days a week as opposed to 1 day a week under the contractor, 99.7% of fly tips that were reported were cleared within 48 hours, and in support of the Biodiversity action plan 340 trees were planted, 10,240 hedgerow

plants planted, 23,123sm of grass land became managed as meadows.

- The new Joint Local Plan (Town and County Planning) is entering a Main Modification consultation stage until 3 May.
- We have **held back parking charges for council owned car parks** as we are conscious about the effect charges would have on our already struggling high street businesses
- Cabinet approved a feasibility study to look at options for a new waste depot in the district to service the growing complexity in waste collection with new arrangements coming in on or sorting and recycling. Up to £12m has been agreed across both councils.
- I spent my locality budget on litter picking equipment that Stoke By Nayland requested with the remainder being allocated to Nayland Village Hall committee to help with costs of the public events planned for June.

It's been a very busy year. Since May 2022 I have assisted in 52 cases or raised questions with senior officers and resolved 52 of them. They are broken down as follows, Stoke by Nayland;19, Nayland;13, Bures St Mary;9, all areas issue;11.

It has been an honour to work with residents and parish councillors and I wish you well in the future. Please give your new Councillor your full support and appreciate the task they are taking on to serve residents.

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