



MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Wednesday 7th May 2025 commencing at 7pm held in Brantham Village Hall.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS USED INCLUDED AT APPENDIX B

PRESENT: Cllrs Mal Bridgeman (Chair), M Clark, L Cherry, A Edevane, J Heywood, G Mettam, A McCraw and E Osben

Also in attendance: S Keys (Clerk), Fiona Coley (Assistant Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

PC 05.25.01 - OPENING INCLUDING STATEMENT

The Chair declared the meeting open at 7pm and thanked all for attending.

A statement was then read out by the Chair indicating that, in accordance with legislation, the public and councillors were permitted to film, record, photograph or use social media in order to report on the proceedings of the meeting. A full transcript is on the Council's [website](#).

The Chair reminded the public that a Council meeting is not a public meeting, it is a meeting conducted in public. Members of the public, the press, and District, Borough or County Councilors are invited to attend our meetings and contribute during the public forum. Comments from the public during the remainder of the meeting should be by invitation from the Chair only.

PC 05.25.02 - ELECTION OF CHAIR - Cllr McCraw proposed that Cllr Bridgeman was appointed as the Chair of the Council for 2025-26, this was seconded by Cllr Osben, aif. Council noted the signing of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office by Cllr Bridgeman

PC 05.25.03 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR - Cllr Bridgeman proposed that Cllr Osben was appointed as the Vice-Chair of the Council for 2025-26, this was seconded by Cllr Cherry, aif. Council noted the signing of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office by Cllr Osben.

PC 05.25.04 - APOLOGIES

- a) Council to receive apologies for absence – Cllr C Donaldson, T Lancaster & County Councillor S Harley
- b) Council to consent to accept apologies received - **aif**

PC 05.25.05- DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND LOCAL NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

- a) To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests and other registerable interests as detailed in Appendix B of the LGA Model Code of Conduct - None
- b) To receive notifications of gifts of hospitality exceeding £50 – None
- c) To note the determination of requests for dispensations - None

PC 05.25.06 - MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) To consider and approve the minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 02nd April 2025 – **Cllr Osben proposed that the minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting, this was seconded by Cllr Heywood, aif** – Cllr Cherry abstained.
- b) To note and approve the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 10 April 2025 - **Cllr Osben proposed that the minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting, this was seconded by Cllr Heywood, aif** – Cllr's Cherry, Clark, Edevane & Mettam abstained.

PC 05.25.07 - REPORTS FOR INFORMATION - to receive written reports for information only:

- a) County Councillor Simon Harley – In the absence of Cllr Harley the Chair referred the Council to the circulated report (attached at Appendix C). The Chair noted that Cllr Harley's report advises that there is government money available to spend on SEND



- b) District Councillor Alastair McCraw – Cllr McCraw referred the Council to the circulated report (attached at Appendix D) and advised that if anyone wanted to speak to him outside of the meeting about his report then they were welcome to do so and confirmed that he had nothing else to add.

PC 05.25.08- PUBLIC FORUM

- a) To receive any questions or comments from members of the public – None received.

PC 05.25.09 - CLERK'S REPORT (Paper 1) -

- a) To review actions from the previous meeting – Noted
- PC 04.25.07 - Send back to the Police as this is more a Police matter. Completed
 - PC 04.25.07 - Establish the outcome of the request to Babergh and then review at this time. Response sent to Brantham Garage Sale team. No further request received at this time. Dismissed
 - PC 04.25.07 - To liaise with Babergh Fly Tipping Team about the possibility of Trail Cameras. Response received from Babergh District Council via Cllr McCraw as per report circulated.
- b) To receive the reports of items actioned under delegated powers – The Clerk updated on work undertaken during the month including:
- Audit preparation and work with Internal Auditor, this was delayed and the work was completed over the weekend.
 - Clerk was advertising the upcoming events and confirmed that there was still space for more teams at the quiz.
 - Clerk was preparing for the VE celebrations tomorrow night and encouraged everyone to come along.
 - Liaison with litter pickers when necessary re: vandalism, graffiti and dangerous litter
- c) To receive items of correspondence for noting only
- Item one: Email from member of the public in support of the Skate park.
 - Item two: Complaint about the gate post at Pattles Fen which has now been fixed.
 - Item three: Email from member of the public querying who owns the land at Brantham Place. MB and AM have responded.
 - Item four: Email from member of the public in support of the Skate park.
 - Item five: Email from member of the public about a fallen tree. Clerk has advised that this is a private matter and advised the resident to take legal advice.
 - Item six: Clerk advised that yet again another request for allotments. Response sent advising the individual that there are some others in the area.
 - Item seven: Email from member of the public complaining about a drone flying over her house. Advice given by the Assistant Clerk.
 - Item eight: Complaint about graffiti – This has been reported to Grounds Maintenance Contractor to clean it off.
 - Item nine: Notification from Babergh that the cost for dog pin emptying has increased, but that it is still subsidised by the Council.
 - Item ten: Manningtree Town Clerk advised that they are in full support of the Skate Park and would be making a donation and would advise the amount in due course.
- d) To receive items of correspondence for consideration of next steps
- Item one: Bollard for Cattawade Bridge – Following discussion the Council agreed that a quote for the work should be requested from Suffolk County Council and a request for funding available should be made to Councillor Harley. (*ACTION – Clerk*)
 - Item two: Request to adopt Bridleway from New Mill Lane to down the side of the Railway – The Council reviewed the request from a member of the public for the Council to approach a local landowner about creating a Public Right of Way across farmland near to The Bull. Following discussion the Council agreed that this should be approached during a meeting with the landowner on various issues.

PC 05.25.10- STATUTORY INFORMATION

- a) To receive nominations for the vacant posts of Councillor (1) – None



- b) Councillors to consider the Clerk's paper on Committee Structure, representation of outside bodies and other Parish appointed positions and consider amendments and/or nominations to the vacant positions on each committee – **Following discussion Cllr McCraw proposed the following appointments:**

- Skate Park - Cllr Edevane
- Finance – No Change
- Legal – No Change
- Recreation – No Change
- Footpath & Services – No Change
- Community – No Change
- Brantham 2034 – No Change
- Planning – Cllr Mettam
- Village Hall Committee – Cllr Osben is joining
- Safe Neighbourhood – Cllr Donaldson & Assistant Clerk
- Leisure Centre – Cllr Donaldson
- SALC – Cllr Bridgeman
- Village Fete – Cllr Osben

These amendments were seconded by Cllr Bridgeman, aif.

- c) Council to note that, in accordance with s151 of the 1972 Act, the Parish Clerk is appointed at the Council's Responsible Finance Officer as part of her contract of employment - Noted
- d) To confirm any amendments to the Council's Terms of Reference for Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Groups – no changes or amendments proposed.
- e) To review the updated version of Standing Orders for Brantham Parish Council and approve as necessary – **Cllr Bridgeman proposed that the updated Standing Orders should be approved, this was seconded by Cllr McCraw, aif.** The Clerk asked Councillors to be particularly mindful of the Code of Conduct included in the Standing Orders at Appendix 1.

PC 05.25.11 - FINANCE REPORT

- a) To review the minutes of the Finance Committee and note any decisions made - Cllr Osben reviewed the recent Finance Meeting and any decisions made.
- b) To consider/approve the proposal from the Finance Committee to provide the Cycle2Work scheme via salary sacrifice for Parish Council employees, if eligible. - **This proposal was approved, aif**
- c) To approve the accounts awaiting payment including those coming forth, the accounts paid since the last meeting and the receipts allocated since the last meeting (PAPER 4) – Noted - **Cllr Cherry proposed these payments and receipts should be approved by the Council, this was seconded by Cllr Heywood, aif.**
- d) To note and approve the balance of accounts and Bank Reconciliation as at 30 April 2025 – Current Account: £5011.98, Deposit Account: £202,342.85, Salaries Account: £102.76 – **Council noted the balance of accounts and proposed that these should be approved, aif**
- e) To receive and approve the Asset Register for the year ending 31st March 2025 – Council reviewed the Asset Register as circulated by the Clerk and noted total a total Parish Council asset value of £615,039.38. **Council proposed that this should be approved, aif**
- f) To approve the Statement of Accounts for Brantham Parish Council for the year ending 31st March 25 – Council reviewed the Statement of Accounts as circulated by the Clerk. – **Council accepted and approved the accounts for the year noting that the carried forward figure was the same as that declared as the year-end bank reconciliation, aif.**
- g) To receive and approve, as sole trustee, the Annual Accounts for the Brantham Village Hall Chairity (268836) for the year ending 31st March 2025 – **Council noted the Annual Accounts for the Brantham Village Hall Charity and proposed that these should be approved, aif.**
- h) To receive the internal audit for the year ending 31st March 2025 as carried out by SALC Audit team – The Council noted the Internal Audit report and actions/recommendations noted. The Chair thanked the Clerk for all her hard work. **Council proposed that this report should be approved, aif.**
- i) To consider and approve the completion of the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) for the year ending 31st March 2025 as per the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) – **it was agreed that Council**



was able to answer in the affirmative to the statements posed and that the Chair be authorised to sign the Annual Governance Statement, aif.

- j) To consider and approve the Accounting statements for the year ending 31st March 2025 as transposed onto the AGAR - **it was agreed that the Accounting Statements as written, and which were a summary of the Statement of Accounts as approved under item f, reflected the Council's overall financial position and were adopted as such, aif. It was agreed that the Chair be authorised to sign the Accounting Statements as written, aif.**
- k) To receive the list of payments which arise on a regular basis as the result of a continuing contract, statutory or obligation and regular maintenance contracts for the year 2025-26 - **Council noted the list of payments and gave approval that such payments be made provided that they were reported back to Council as retrospective payments once expenditure had been incurred, aif.**
- l) Council to confirm, in accordance with FR 6.9 & 6.10 its acceptance for the use of BACS (Bank Transfer) for the settlement of its invoices/requests for payments, provided such payments are authorised by two bank signatories, and the evidence of such authorisation is retained, and any payments are reported to council as having been made – **Council confirmed its acceptance of the use of BACS for the settlement of its invoices for the next two years, aif.**

PC 05.25.12 - PLANNING MATTERS

- a) To consider and approve response to the following planning matters to Brantham – None received
- b) To note the consultation on the following planning matters considered by email:
Proposed base station upgrade at Brantham Glebe woods, Brantham Ltd, Brantham Hall, Manningtree, Essex, CO11 1PT (ngrs: e 611687 / n 234684)
COUNCIL MADE NO COMMENT
- c) To note the following planning decisions relating to Brantham: None received.

PC 05.25.13 - REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS – Paper to follow

- a) To receive a report from the Parish Chairman and agree any actions as necessary - Noted
- b) To receive any other points to note from committees, sub-committees & working groups – Council noted the reports received from Cllrs.
- c) To consider the proposal from Cllr Edevane to provide a donation to Walton Holiday Club as thanks for Skate Park helmets and boards – **Cllr Edevane proposed that a contribution of £50 (from the donations fund) should be made as a thank you for the donation of skate equipment, this was seconded by Cllr Cherry, aif.**
- d) To note the response from EBHS ref. request for CIL funding for Brantham Skate Park – Council noted the response from East Bergholt Parish Council who confirmed that they would not provide a financial contribution towards the Brantham Skate Park. Council noted its disappointment with this response.
- e) To consider/approve any proposals or next steps as appropriate - none.

PC 05.25.14 - BRANTHAM 2034 UPDATE

- a) To receive an update from the Clerk and to consider the updated Brantham 2034 action plan- Council noted the detail added to the report by the Clerk.
- b) To review the Online Safety Questionnaire (circulated by email) and approve distribution – Council reviewed the circulated questionnaire. Cllr Clark queried whether a ranking system could be used for some answers. The Clerk agreed to make these changes following which **the Council agreed that the questionnaire could be circulated, aif.**
- c) To review the “New Residents” letter and approve delivery as appropriate – Council reviewed the letter circulated by Cllr Donaldson. Following discussion the content of the letter was approved, to be signed by the Chair of the Council and to be delivered to new homes when appropriate.
- d) To receive any other updates from Clerk or Councillors as appropriate - Noted

PC 05.25.15 - DATES OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- a) Finance Committee meeting, Wednesday 28 May 2025, 7pm
- b) Parish Council meeting – Wednesday 05 June 2025, 7pm



PC 05.25.16 - IN CAMERA ITEM

- a) To resolve that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed – **Cllr Osben proposed that the meeting was closed to the public, this was seconded by Cllr Clark, aif.**

The meeting closed to the public at 8.05pm.

- b) To review advice from Birketts ref. Pumping Station and agree next stage of action – The Council reviewed the advice received from Birketts on next steps. Following discussion **Cllr McCraw proposed that option 2 was pursued, this was seconded by Cllr Clark, aif.**
- c) Review aspects of the BMCIC lease including insurance repayments and approve next steps – The Chair presented an overview of recent discussions held with BMCIC. **The Council agreed that delegated powers given to the Chair and the Clerk, to carry out the next process, aif.**
- d) Discussion and review of Staff pension arrangements and approve any changes necessary – The Paper circulated by the Clerk was reviewed and discussed at length. Cllr Clark noted some concerns about any possible changes in terms of the financial and administrative implications on the Council. **Cllr McCraw proposed that the discussion was postponed whilst further information was sought and brought for review at the next meeting, 5 Cllrs voted in favour of the proposal, 2 Cllrs voted against a delay, 1 Cllr abstained from the vote. The motion was therefore carried.**

Cllrs Clark and McCraw agreed to do further investigation for feedback at the June 2025 Parish Council meeting.

SIGNED.....DATED.....



ACTIONS

MINUTE NO.	ACTION	WHO
PC 05.25.09 (c)	Contact SCC and Simon Harley about the possible purchase of a Bollard	Clerk
PC 05.25.10 (b)	To amend the signatories	Clerk
PC		



APPENDIX A

Accounts submitted for payment – 07 May 2025

Payee	Detail	Method	NETT	VAT	TOTAL
Business Services at CAS	Buildings Insurance (Brantham Leisure Centre)	BACS	2513.28		2513.28
SALC	Internal Audit (inv. 30152)	BACS	407.00	81.40	488.40
Dave Childs	Grounds Maintenance (inv. 2208)	BACS	225.00		225.00
Village Hall Brantham	Hall Hire (inv. 1151)	BACS	72.00		72.00

Accounts paid since 02 April 2025

Payee	Detail	Method	NETT	VAT	TOTAL
Parish Council staff	April 2025 Salaries, Clerk & Assistant Clerk Office Allowance	BACS	2962.93		2962.93
BMCIC	Grounds Maintenance Payment	BACS	40.00		40.00
Microsoft	Monthly Subscription Charges – April 2025	DD	20.60	4.12	24.72
Brantham Village Hall	Support for running costs - April 2025	BACS	416.67		416.67
Virtual Landline	Phone number for Parish Council	Direct Debit	7.29	1.46	8.75
Smarty.co.uk	CCTV SIM Cards	Direct Debit	27.00		27.00
NEST	Clerk's Pension	Debit Card	106.73		106.73
Suffolk County Council	Street lighting (inv. 9555566)	BACS	1217.54	243.50	1461.04
Pips Trees and Landscaping Ltd	Tree works – Merriam Close	BACS	575.00	115.00	690.00
Community Action Suffolk	Assistant Clerk – Website Training (inv. 5434)	BACS	50.00	10.00	60.00
HMRC	P30 Q4	BACS	2049.08		2049.08
Dave Childs	Grounds Maintenance (inv. 2176)	BACS	195.00		195.00
SALC	6 months payroll (inv. 29603)	BACS	144.00	28.80	172.80
Scribe	Accounts Renewal	BACS	345.60	69.12	414.72
SALC	2025-26 Subscription	BACS	876.76		876.76
Birketts	Legal Advice Invoice no. 1051161	BACS	600.00		600.00
My Special Home Magazine	Village Fete advert	BACS	72.00		72.00
Village Hall Brantham	Hall Hire	BACS	48.00		48.00
IT Services at CAS	Email accounts Invoice no. 0725	BACS	264.00		264.00

Receipts allocated since 02 April 2025

Who	Detail	Method	Amount
Lloyds Bank	Bank Interest	BACS	135.26
Birketts	24-25 rent repayment from BMCIC incl. legal costs incurred	BACS	4185.33
HMRC	VAT reclaim	BACS	4549.55
Babergh District Council	Precept 1 of 2	BACS	37,483.00
BMCIC	Part repayment of 2025-26 Buildings Insurance	BACS	1260.00
Lloyds Bank	Bank Interest	BACS	135.26



APPENDIX B – List of common abbreviations used.

Aif	All in favour
AGAR	Annual Governance and Accountability Return
APM	Annual Parish Meeting
APCM	Annual Parish Council Meeting
ASB	Anti-social Behaviour
BACS	Bankers Automated Clearing Services
BDC	Babergh District Council
BLC	Brantham Leisure Centre
BMCIC	Brantham Management Community Interest Company
BOS	Brantham Open Spaces Group
BMSDC	Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Council
BPC	Brantham Parish Council
CEP	Community Emergency Plan
CAS	Community Action Suffolk
Chq	Cheque
Cllr	Councillor
Cttee	Committee
DCLG	Department of Communities and Local Government
FC	Finance Committee
FOI	Freedom of Information
FR	Financial Regulations
GPoC	General Power of Competence
HMRC	His Majesty's Revenue and Customs
LPA	Local Planning Authority
LPF	Lower Playing Field
LSC	Legal Sub Committee
NHS	National Health Service
NDP	Neighbourhood Development Plan
NP	Neighbourhood Plan
PC	Parish Council
PCSO	Police Community Support Officer
RFO	Responsible Finance Officer
RFSC	Recreation, Footpaths and Services Committee
SALC	Suffolk Association of Local Councils
SCC	Suffolk County Council
SID	Speed Indicator Device
SLA	Service Level Agreement
SNT	Safer Neighbourhood Team
SO	Standing Order
TPO	Tree Preservation Order
VAS	Vehicle Activated Sign
VCSE	Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Organisations
HMC	Village Hall Management Committee



APPENDIX C

Report for May 2025 to the Parish Councils of Peninsula Division from Simon Harley (SCC Councillor)

Increasing School Places for SEND Students

On Tuesday 1 April, Cabinet voted to increase the number of school places in the county for children and young people with special education needs and disabilities (SEND), using £18.6m of available capital funding. The plans agreed include opening specialist units within existing mainstream schools, which would create around 100 new places for SEND students for the academic year beginning in September 2025. The second proposal agreed was to allocate up to £12m to create satellite provisions of the existing special schools in Suffolk, with a view that these would open in September 2026 and create another 100 places. The possibility of the council opening its own independent school was also discussed, and may be explored in the future. Since the Cabinet report was tabled, the government has announced that Suffolk will receive an extra £9,441,348 from the Department for Education to invest in new SEND school places. Plans will now be drawn up by the Local Area SEND Partnership on how to spend the money.

New Government Funding for Adult Learning

The Department for Education has allocated Suffolk County Council up to £4m to be spent delivering free skills training to an extra 1,345 adults across Norfolk and Suffolk this year. The money will be used to support the council's 'Skills Bootcamps', which help residents gain the specific skills they need to gain well-paid jobs with local employers. Courses last up to 16 weeks and offer a combination of online and in-person learning to suit a variety of schedules, this flexibility makes them ideal for people looking to upskill, change their careers or return to work. The funding also enables local businesses to train new staff or upskill existing employees, with many of the training costs covered. Employers can work directly with training providers to create courses that align with their needs. Those interested in taking part in the Skills Bootcamps can find more information here:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/business/supporting-employers-training-your-workforce/skills-bootcamps>

6,000 Public EV Chargepoints Planned

Suffolk County Council will be installing around 6,000 new public electric vehicle (EV) chargepoints across the county. From the summer, thousands of charging points will be installed on residential streets, with many locations suggested by local residents following the survey which was undertaken last year, or by liaison with communities and district/borough councils. The majority of installations will be bollard-style units at the kerbside, suitable for long-stay or overnight charging, when drivers will be able to benefit from an overnight off-peak tariff, and there will also be a dedicated resident's tariff which features discounted charging at all times. Public car parks will also see a number of rapid and ultra-rapid chargepoint installations, for quicker charging. This project has been made possible due to a successful £5.3 million bid by SCC to the government's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund. This summer's roll-out will use a proportion of this funding, with a further £16 million of funding provided by the chargepoint operator, *Believe*.

Suffolk Councils Supporting Sustainability in Schools

32 Suffolk schools recently attended a conference to help them write their climate action plans and deliver sustainability initiatives. The Suffolk Sustainability in Education conference, held at St Joseph's College in Ipswich, is the first of three events in the East of England to support schools to deliver on the objectives set out in the Department of Education's Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy.

The government has said that all schools should have a Sustainability Lead and Climate Action Plan in place by the end of this academic year. The event was co-organised by the Suffolk Sustainable Schools Network, an initiative



funded by Suffolk's public sector organisations and delivered by Suffolk County Council, to support the delivery of Suffolk's Climate Emergency Plan.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Suffolk County Council has drafted a new strategy to help restore and enhance nature across Suffolk, and has launched a consultation so residents can share their views. The county's Local Nature Recovery Strategy is one of 48 across the country, aimed at addressing the decline in nature and identifying a network of areas to help nature and biodiversity to recover. The plan is for the 48 strategies to create a national 'nature network', proposing actions such as the creation of new habitats, planting of trees and hedgerows, and more sustainable management of existing woodlands and other habitats like grasslands.

The consultation on the Suffolk Local Nature Recovery Strategy is open to everyone in Suffolk - residents, landowners, land managers, farmers, businesses and the wider community. There is also the opportunity to view and respond to maps of local areas, where specific measures to help nature could be taken. Both opportunities to provide feedback will close on 11 June 2025, and can be found at www.suffolk.gov.uk/consultations

While on the subject of local nature I would like to remind everyone of the importance at this time of the year of leaving hedgerows, grassy verges and other areas alone as much as possible in order to allow insects and birds to thrive. It is, of course, illegal to trim hedges at this time of the year and disturb nesting birds anyway but most are aware of this. Initiatives such as 'no mow May' can be encouraged to leave at least some of the garden uncut to allow wild flowers and insects to flourish (as well as saving time, fuel and money!!). Butterflies had their worst year ever in this country last year, though partly down to weather factors. Leaving wild areas alone will at least give their caterpillars a chance to grow and survive and they are a vital part of the food chain as well.

Social Media and Helpful Links

Follow us on:

Twitter - [@SuffolkGLI](https://twitter.com/SuffolkGLI) / [Twitter](https://twitter.com/SuffolkGLI)

Instagram – https://www.instagram.com/suffolkgli_group/

Facebook - [Suffolk GLI - Green, Liberal Democrat & Independent Group](https://www.facebook.com/SuffolkGLI-Green-Liberal-Democrat-&-Independent-Group/) | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/SuffolkGLI-Green-Liberal-Democrat-&-Independent-Group/)

Website - [Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group – The GLI Group at Suffolk County Council](http://suffolkgli.wordpress.com)
(suffolkgli.wordpress.com)

Cost of Living help and advice:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/family.page?familychannel=6> Benefits advice

and support: <https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/adult.page?adultchannel=0>

Flood preparation advice: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/suffolk-fire-and-rescue-service/fire-and-rescue-safety-advice-in-the-community/what-to-do-in-a-flood>

<https://suffolkprepared.co.uk/get-prepared/risk-advice/flooding/>

Flood recovery advice and support: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/about/flood-recovery-information-for-suffolk>



APPENDIX D – District Council report, May 2025

Local Government Reorganisation – latest

We are still awaiting the Government's promised feedback on our interim plan for local government reorganisation, submitted in March, but in the meantime we continue to work with the other district and borough councils to progress proposals for either two or three unitary councils to meet the differing needs of our county's diverse communities.

An important part of this process will be seeking the views of our town and parish councils, and the residents, businesses, organisations and communities across our districts.

We will be in touch over coming weeks with further information and would be grateful for your help to spread the message locally. Please look out for more details soon.

New regional mayor can bring benefits – but local views must be heard, councils say

The Government's proposed new Mayor for Suffolk and Norfolk can bring benefits to the region, but local communities must be fairly represented.

New-look grant sees more than £580k given to community projects

From filmmaking workshops to mental health support for young people, dozens of community projects across Babergh and Mid Suffolk have received a share of more than £580,000 as part of a new grant from the district councils.

Cash injection for communities in Babergh and Mid Suffolk

Town and parish councils in Babergh and Mid Suffolk are set to receive more than £813,000 in developer contributions to help community infrastructure keep pace with housing growth.

Solar partnership brings boost for businesses

A new pilot partnership is set to turn solar energy into savings for businesses in Babergh and Mid Suffolk.

Council designates new conservation area to protect historic and special part of Suffolk

Babergh District Council has designated a new conservation area in south Suffolk to protect an area rich in history and architecture.

Free compost for Babergh and Mid Suffolk residents

Green-fingered residents in Babergh and Mid Suffolk can collect free compost in May as part of a drive to get people growing.