



MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Wednesday 2nd July 2025 commencing at 7pm held in, Crowhurst Suite, Brantham Leisure Centre.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS USED INCLUDED AT APPENDIX B

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

Also in attendance: S Keys (Clerk), Fiona Coley (Assistant Clerk) and 5 members of the public.

PC 07.25.01 - OPENING INCLUDING STATEMENT

The Chair declared the meeting open at 7pm and thanked all for attending. The Chair also extended his thanks for the Fete, Colour Run and the Garage Sale and confirmed that they all appeared to be a great success. The Chair also made special mention of Cllr Lancaster who has decided to resign from the Council and again thanked her for her fantastic work and contribution to the Parish Council.

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 07.25.02 - APOLOGIES

- a) Council to receive apologies for absence – None
- b) Council to consent to accept apologies received -

PC 07.25.03- 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 07.25.04 - MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) To consider and approve the minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 4th June 2025 –
Proposed Cllr Osben, Cllr Clark 2nd aif – Cllrs McCraw & Mettam abstained

PC 07.25.05 - REPORTS FOR INFORMATION - to receive written reports for information only:

- a) County Councillor Simon Harley – Cllr Harley discussed his report and there were no questions raised.
- b) District Councillor Alastair McCraw – Cllr McCraw explained that a LGR survey had been conducted asking the public opinion on vital services, which had an excellent response. There were no questions.

PC 07.25.06- PUBLIC FORUM

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

PC 07.25.07 - CLERK'S REPORT (Paper 1) -

- a) To review actions from the previous meeting – Noted
 - Email the Garage Sale organisers and advise about parking in the area of Factory Lane – They advised that it was a bit too late to do anything about this but would keep this in mind for next year – Completed



- To make contact with BLC and encourage when they have big events to use the parking at the Fishing Park, in Factory Lane – Completed
 - Set up a meeting with Cllr Osben and the Clerk to discuss the potential affordable housing providers to use – Completed
 - Cllr Osben to liaise with SCC about costings and viability of crossings on the A137 – This was discussed. SID data will be obtained and added to the report following which the Clerk will send this to Cllr Harley for his input - **ACTION**
 - The assistant Clerk to chase up SCC about the sign for Sandy Lane - Ongoing
- b) To receive the reports of items actioned under delegated powers – The Clerk updated on work undertaken during the month including:
- Meeting held with solicitors – further work will be completed and proposals from Birkett’s presented to Parish Council when available.
 - Liaison with contractor for new website – hope that this should be up and running by the end of the summer
 - Assistant Clerk appraisal undertaken and objectives set – further information available on request.
 - Liaison with SALC and SCC ref. new Staff pensions arrangements – these are now in place and 2 members of staff have enrolled in the new Pension Scheme.
 - Contact made with affordable housing providers – hoping for a meeting to be set in the near future
 - Attendance at Garage Sale day to raise awareness about Neighbourhood Planning – The Clerk explained that there was a bit of “development fatigue” however there is now a new volunteer for the NHP group which is really positive.
 - The Clerk also confirmed that an application for the Lawful Development Certificate for the Skate Park has been submitted to Babergh District Council.
- c) To receive items of correspondence for noting only
- Item one: Email from Pc Jarrett in relation to ASB – This was discussed and the Assistant Clerk is going to liaise with Pc Jarrett to see what can be done. **ACTION**
 - Item two: Complaint about ASB – This will also be discussed by the Assistant Clerk with the Police and Babergh Community Officers.
 - Item three: Email from member of the public about parking at New Village involving a van – The complainant has been advised to contact Police in future as this is not something that the Parish Council have jurisdiction over.
 - Item four: Email from member of the public concerned about Brantham Hill/Ipswich Road – The resident has been advised of the plans that the Parish Council are working on in relation to this matter.
- d) To receive items of correspondence for consideration of next steps
- Item one: Email from member of the public about the opportunity of advertising in the village – This was discussed at length and it was agreed that the Clerk would explore costings and possible locations. - **ACTION**
 - Item two: Request for a change to the kissing gates on Sycamore Way to make these accessible for mobility scooter users - This was discussed at length. County Councillor Simon Harley noted that it was unlikely there would be funding from SCC for this work and that this would need to be funded by the Parish Council. Cllr McCraw stated that he felt it would be possible to improve this by moving one of the current gates back. Cllr Mettam noted that he had already seen mobility scooters using the current gates. Following discussion **Cllr McCraw proposed that the Council investigated the possible options with a view to improving if possible, this was seconded by Cllr Clark. 1 Cllr voted against the motion, 1 Cllr abstained from the vote, all other Councillors voted in favour of the motion. The motion was therefore carried. - ACTION**

PC 07.25.08- STATUTORY INFORMATION

- a) To receive nominations for the vacant posts of Councillor (1) – The Chair noted that he had received notice of the resignation of Cllr Toni Lancaster from Brantham Parish Council. The Chair noted thanks to Cllr Lancaster for her work for the Council, particularly on the Brantham 2034 consultation process. The Clerk noted that this resignation means that the Council now has two vacancies to be filled by co-option. The Council noted the applications for co-option received from Robert Chamberlain and Mark Chatfield.



- b) To approve co-option to the Council to fill current vacancy – **The Council proposed that Robert Chamberlain & Mark Chatfield were co-opted to the Council, aif.** The Council noted the submission of signed Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms. These were duly counter-signed by the Clerk.

PC 07.25.09 - 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. The following decision were noted by the Council:
- Donation of £763.02 to Brantham Bowls Club
 - Donation of £250 to Manningtree and District Community Bus
 - Authorisation for the Skate Park working group to spend funds when necessary within the Clerk's normal spending limits.
- b) To consider/review any proposal received from the Finance Committee to provide (noted in the minutes) - Cllr Osben noted that a request had been received from local residents for a bus shelter for school children at Temple Pattle. Cllr Osben noted that there are at least four bus stops for high school children without bus shelters. The Council agreed that further investigation on likely cost and funding available would be undertaken and a proposal brought back to Council - **ACTION**
- 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 2) – Noted, no questions - **Cllr Mc Craw proposed these payments and receipts should be approved by the Council, this was seconded by Cllr Osben, aif.**
- d) To note and approve the balance of accounts and Bank Reconciliation as at 30 June 2025 – Current Account: £5000, Deposit Account: £199,230.15, Salaries Account: £94.26 – **Council noted the balance of accounts and proposed that these should be approved, aif**
- e) To review/approve Budget to actual statement to the 30th June 2025 - **Approved, aif**
- f) To review/approve reserves position to 30 June 2025 – **Approved, aif**
- g) To note the CIL report to the 30 June 2025 including nominal sums for potential CIL expenditure for the coming year – Noted
- h) To note the donations approved to date 2025/2026 - noted.

PC 07.25.10 - PLANNING MATTERS

- a) To consider and approve response to the following planning matters to Brantham –
- DC/25/02626
Spooners Cottage, Slough Road, Brantham, CO11 1NU
Erection of 1no replacement Self-Build/Custom Build dwelling (following demolition of existing) – **NO COMMENT**
- DC/25/02778
Rivers End, Bergholt Road, Brantham, CO11 1QR
Application under S73a for the Removal or Variation of a Condition following grant of DC/18/03053 dated 01/03/2019 Town and Country Planning Act 1991 (as amended) - Variation of Conditions 18 (Ongoing Requirement of Development: Restricted Water-Based Activity Times), 27 (Ongoing Requirement of Development: Time Restriction on Holiday Dwelling/s) and 28 (Ongoing Requirement of Development: Occupation Restriction of Camping Field) as per accompanying Planning Statement (3790 VOC-PS Constable Park) – **NO COMMENT**
- b) To note the following planning decisions relating to Brantham: None received.

PC 07.25.11 – BRANTHAM 2034

- a) To receive an update from the Clerk on work to date and to note the updated [Brantham 2034 plan](#) - Noted
- b) To review the results of the Safety Questionnaire circulated online and to consider/agree any next steps as necessary – The Clerk noted that there had been a good response to the questionnaire and that some key points had been made.
- c) To consider/agree next steps as appropriate – Cllr Donaldson provided an overview of the responses and noted the following:
- There is a feeling of unease following the murder last year, particularly amongst women.



- Concerns were raised about dog attacks in the village but following discussion it was noted that there had actually only been one significant dog attack in the last year.
- Speeding and road safety continue to be a major concern.

Following discussion the following actions were agreed for Cllr Donaldson:

- Exploration of the dog walking group/buddy idea
- Investigation of idea of limiting dog access/off lead dog access on shared public open spaces

It was agreed that Cllr Bridgeman and Cherry would work together to access SID data and use this as evidence for future road safety improvements.

Clerk to provide an overview of results of the consultation and provide an overview of proposed Council actions going forward.

Future actions might include the possibility of a funded PCSO and more CCTV.

PC 07.25.12 - NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- a) To receive an update from the Chair ref. Neighbourhood Planning and funding changes – The Chair noted that in the recent Spending Review the government withdrew the grant funding available for NHP. There is national lobbying ongoing to try to reverse this decision but the Chair noted that Neighbourhood Planning would now represent a cost to the Parish Council. Cllr McCraw noted that he felt it was unlikely that there would be future government funding for Neighbourhood Plans going forward.
- b) To consider/agree next steps as appropriate – The Chair noted that the Council had previously agreed its commitment to undertaking a NP in Brantham. The Council considered the likely costs of this process as circulated by Ian Poole from Places4People. Following discussion **Cllr Bridgeman proposed that the Council proceed with the NP process on a step-by-step basis, this was seconded by Cllr Clark, aif.**

PC 07.25.13 - AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- a) To receive an update on Affordable Housing project – The Clerk noted that the results of the Housing Needs Survey had not been received in time for the current meeting. It was agreed that this item would be carried forward.
- b) To consider/agree next steps as appropriate – see above.

PC 07.25.14 - BRANTHAM FIREWORKS EVENT

- a) To consider/approve the request from the Brantham Fireworks Committee for use of the Lower Playing Field for their event this year – The Council considered the request received from Darren Smith, **Cllr Bridgeman proposed that the request should be approved according to the same agreement as last year, aif. ACTION**
- b) To consider/agree next steps as appropriate – See above.

PC 07.25.15 - BOLLARD INSTALLATION AT CATTAWADE BRIDGE

- a) To consider the quote received from Suffolk County Council ref. installation of bollards at Cattawade Bridge) – Council noted the quote received from Suffolk County Council for the installation of one bollard of £645 or of two bollards of £1074.
- b) To approve one of the following options:
 - Installation of one bollard at a cost of £645
 - Installation of two bollards at a cost of £1074
 - Do not install additional bollards – **Cllr McCraw proposed the installation of 2 bollards, Cllr Osben seconded, ten Councillors voted in favour of the motion, 1 Cllr abstained from the vote. The motion was therefore carried. (ACTION – Clerk)**

PC 07.25.16 - REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

- 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 – Cllr Heywood highlighted that concerns have been raised by local parents about pigeons sitting on the top of swings and creating mess and requested that deterrents are installed to prevent this.
- c) To consider/approve any proposals or next steps as appropriate – The Clerk noted that pigeon deterrents would be purchased and installed as part of her delegated authority.



PC 07.25.17 - DATES OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- a) Finance Committee meeting, Wednesday 23 July 2025, 7pm
- b) Parish Council meeting – Wednesday 03 September 2025, 7pm

MEETING CLOSED 20.33

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



ACTIONS

MINUTE NO.	ACTION	WHO
PC 07.25.07 (a)	Send details of the plans for the A137 crossing to Cllr Harley	Clerk
PC 07.25.07 ©	Liaise with Pc Jarrett about ASB	FC
PC 07.25.07 (d)	Establish the cost and location for advertising boards in the village	Clerk
PC 07.25.07 (d)	Liaise with SCC about the kissing gates at Sycamore Way	Clerk
PC 07.25.09 (b)	Establish if there is any funding for Bus shelters	FC & SK
PC 07.25.11 ©	Explore the option of having some walking groups in the village	CD
PC 07.25.14 (b)	Follow the same procedure for Firework display as last year	Clerk
PC 07.25.15	Arrange installation of 2 bollards at Cattawade Street	Clerk
PC 07.25.16	Purchase pigeon deterrent and arrange installation	Clerk



APPENDIX A

Accounts submitted for payment – 02 July 2025

Payee	Detail	Method	NETT	VAT	TOTAL
Dave Childs	Grounds Maintenance (inv. TBC)	BACS	395.00		395.00
Brantham Village Hall	Hall Hire (inv. TBC)	BACS	TBC		TBC
Parish Council staffing costs	Salaries, Clerk & Assistant Clerk Office Allowance, Pensions	BACS	3952.86		3952.86
HMRC	P30 Q1	BACS	2530.48		2530.48
Brantham Bowls Club	Donation as per FC 06.25.06	BACS	763.02		763.02

Accounts paid since 04 June 2025

Payee	Detail	Method	NETT	VAT	TOTAL
Parish Council staff	Salaries, Clerk & Assistant Clerk Office Allowance	BACS	3321.76		3321.76
BMCIC	Grounds Maintenance Payment	BACS	40.00		40.00
Microsoft	Monthly Subscription Charges – May 2025	DD	20.60	4.12	24.72
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
Amazon	Colour Run purchases	Debit card	65.69	11.94	77.63
Amazon	Village Fete Purchases	Debit card	174.30	34.81	209.11
Babergh District Council	Application fee – Lawful Development Certificate	Debit Card	232.00		232.00
Event Colour Ltd	Paint for Colour Run	Debit Card	385.66	77.13	462.79
EAS Medical	Medical cover for Village Fete	Debit Card	279.00		279.00
Bubble N Bounce	Village Fete costs	Debit Card	112.00		112.00
Buy T-Shirts Online	T-shirts for Colour Run	Debit Card	202.50	40.50	243.00
Information Commissioners Office	Data Protection Fee	Direct Debit	47.00		47.00
Lloyds Bank	Salaries Account Charge	BACS	4.25		4.25
Fi Coley	Stationary	BACS	4.90		4.90
Swiftprint UK	Village Fete Banner	BACS	25.00	5.00	30.00
Ros O'Donnell Design	Brantham Skatepark Website Hosting	BACS	115.20		115.20
Birketts	Legal Advice (inv. 1081395)	BACS	300.00	60.00	360.00
SALC	Councillor Training – Gmettam (inv. 30293)	BACS	66.00	13.20	79.20
Manningtree & District Community Bus	Donation as per FC 06.25.06	BACS	250.00		250.00
Dave Childs	Grounds Maintenance (inv. 2208)	BACS	315.00		315.00
Birketts	Legal Advice ref. pumping station (inv. 1070179)	BACS	500.00	100.00	600.00
D. Hyatt (Brantham Open Spaces Group)	Petrol and equipment for BOS	BACS	80.03		80.03

Receipts allocated since 04 June 2025

Who	Detail	Method	Amount
Lloyds Bank	Bank Interest	BACS	147.33
Stripe	Colour Run Entries	BACS	567.04
Sumup	Colour Run Entries	BACS	768.37
Eventbrite	Colour Run Entries	BACS	26.00
Amazon	Refunded Colour Run glasses	BACS	8.69
Various	Village Fete contributions	BACS	210.00



BRANTHAM

Parish Council

Highcliff Vets	Car Park Lease	BACS	1365.15
BMCIC	Quarterly Rent	BACS	412.50



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

July 2025

APPENDIX C

County Councillor's Parish Report

Cllr Simon Harley, Peninsula Division

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07955 434409

Funding for Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution

On Tuesday 17 June, Cabinet approved allocating £1.9m from council reserves towards the cost of work the council needs to undertake to set up the new mayoral authority with Norfolk County Council and to prepare its business case for a single unitary council, which needs to be submitted to the government in September. Mayoral elections are due to be held in May 2026, with the mayoral authority set up a few months earlier, in February. The government has provided £1m towards the costs of the mayoral authority, which Suffolk County Council and Norfolk County Council have agreed to split between them. The government has also allocated £290k for Suffolk towards Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), which is to be shared with the other councils who are also preparing their proposals for the government to consider in September. The council is not planning to use all of the £1.9m from reserves, which it is allocating as the financial outturn for 2024-25 was better than expected – it just wants to put aside some money it can use if necessary. The costs of setting up the mayoral authority and reorganising local councils is more likely to be tens of millions; it is the potential long-term savings that makes the process worthwhile to the government, who provide council funding.

Raising Educational Attainment in Suffolk

On Tuesday 24 June, the council's Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee considered the educational attainment of children in the county and how to improve it, as Suffolk is currently below national attainment figures at Key Stage 2 (year 6) and at Key Stage 4 (year 11). The council works closely with headteachers and the leaders of multi-academy trusts (MATs) so that schools can learn from each other via the Suffolk Education Partnership, which was established in January 2023. The Department for Education's RISE (Regional Improvement in Standards and Excellence) programme also undertakes targeted work with schools to help them improve grades, and council officers in the education team also provide support to all local authority-maintained schools, with mentoring and advice for governing bodies. Support is also offered to academy schools, although they do not have to engage with it; while the council still has statutory responsibility for school improvement for all of Suffolk, academies receive their funding directly from the government and not from local authorities. The meeting also noted that Suffolk still receives a low level of funding compared to other counties, and council leaders regularly lobby the government for fairer funding.

Suffolk Libraries Changes to Suffolk Community Libraries

From the 1 June, libraries across the county were taken back in-house by Suffolk County Council at the end of the contract with Suffolk Libraries, who had been running the libraries since 2012. This was a controversial decision which attracted a lot of public and press interest, including a petition against it which was signed by over 20,000 people. The new name for the service is Suffolk Community Libraries, with new branding, but the council's political administration has given assurances that all current libraries will remain open, with no reduction in opening hours.

Local Businesses Celebrate Carbon Reduction

On 11 June, the council held its annual Carbon Charter event to recognise local businesses for their efforts at carbon reduction. The awards were set up by the council in 2010 and since that time more than 500 businesses of all sizes have been given Carbon Charter awards for taking action on climate, reducing their carbon emissions or developing green spaces. Speakers at the event included CNH Tractors, Groundwork East and Home Farm Nacton, and prizes were given to Suffolk Chamber of Commerce, Shepherd Engineering, Kelling Heath Holiday Park and Woodhill Park. If you are a business owner and want to find out about how to reduce carbon and make your enterprise more environmentally friendly, please visit www.carboncharter.org

Council Gains £8m for Bus Service Improvements

Suffolk County Council has been awarded a grant of £8m from the Department for Transport to fund new and enhanced bus services across the county. The new funding from the government's Local Authority Bus Grant can be used for the following:

- £2,805,076 revenue funding for new or enhanced services
- £5,229,805 capital funding for new and improved bus stops, bus stations or vehicle upgrades

The council plans to use the money to improve bus priority on congested streets, upgrade the Real Time Passenger Information system (giving live updates in bus arrival times), and improve bus stops and routes. It will also use some of the money to look into the journeys people take with a view to creating more innovative fare offers in future and get more people to use bus services. Previous funding has been used for projects such as the first Sunday and evenings service between Bury St Edmunds and Sudbury in over 20 years, and direct links from Haverhill and Mildenhall to West Suffolk Hospital. Details of successful local bids for the funding will be posted on the Suffolk on Board website, and if you are interested in putting forward a bid for future funding, you can find information on how to do that here: <https://www.suffolkonboard.com/news/2024/06/bus-service-improvement-plan-where-should-the-money-be-spent/>

Flood Team Wins Local Government Chronicle Award

The council's Flood Investigations and Grants Team are celebrating after winning a national award for its work supporting the communities affected by flooding caused by Storm Babet in October 2023. The team, which was set up in the immediate aftermath of the storm to help flood victims to apply for grants, won the Local Government Chronicle (LGC) award for Small Team of the Year at a recent awards ceremony at Grosvenor House in London. Over 900 homes and businesses were affected by Storm Babet, which caused the worst flooding in Suffolk for more than 70 years.

Social Media and Helpful Links

Follow us on:

Twitter - [Suffolk Green, Lib Dem & Independent Group \(@SuffolkGLI\) / Twitter](#)

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

Facebook - [Suffolk GLI - Green, Liberal Democrat & Independent Group | Facebook](#)

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

Cost of Living help and advice:

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

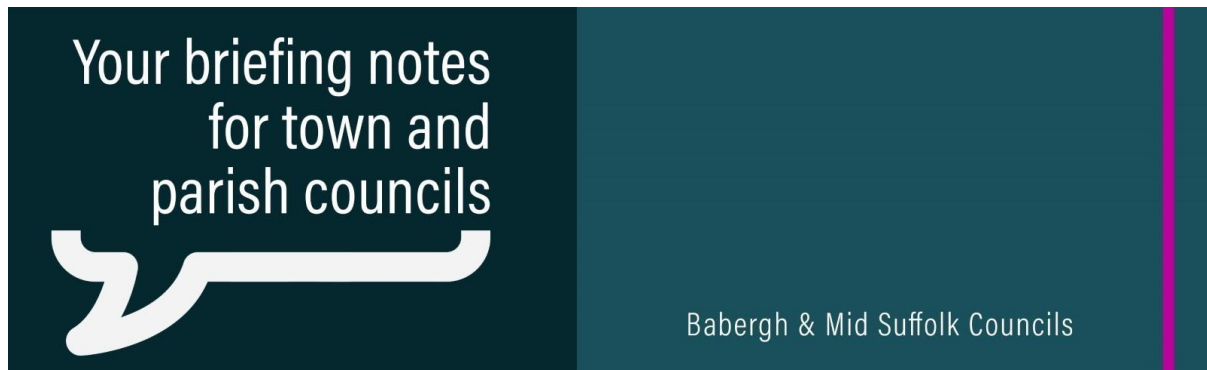
and support: <https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/adult.page?adultchannel=0>

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



Last chance to complete our LGR survey

[Our Local Government Reorganisation survey](#) asking for views on the future of vital local government services runs until 25 July. We are keen for as many people as possible to have their say, so please continue to share it with your networks and communities. Any further significant developments will go before Full Council and we will, of course, keep you fully informed.

Thousands of listed building owners could benefit from innovative planning change

Thousands of listed building owners could find it easier to make windows more energy efficient under innovative proposals from Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils.

New council chair elected, with outgoing chair appointed to cabinet role

Cllr Elisabeth Malvisi has been elected as chair of Babergh District Council – resuming the role she has carried out for most of the last two years.

Council will share in celebrations for artist John Constable's 250th birthday anniversary

In 2026, Babergh District Council will be supporting a national celebration marking the 250th anniversary of the birth of iconic Suffolk-born artist John Constable (1776-1837).

Rentable electric cars arrive in Babergh and Mid Suffolk

Six electric vehicles have arrived at three locations across Babergh and Mid Suffolk for communities to use as part of the Plug In Suffolk Car Club.

£38k boost for community facilities in Babergh

Improvements to village halls and community hubs are amongst the latest projects to receive a funding boost from Babergh District Council.

Councillors unite to defend democracy in local planning

Cross-party councillors have unanimously condemned Government criticism of local planning authorities and attempts to “rob them” of their democratic powers.

‘Trek, treat, repeat’ – Beautiful walks and foodie gems celebrated in new project

Stunning walks and fantastic places to eat are showcased across Babergh and Mid Suffolk in a new initiative.

Public Switched Telephone Network

Landline phones are switching to digital, which could stop telecare alarms working.

This means that all landline providers need to know which of their customers use telecare, so they can keep them safe.

The switchover is already happening, so you need to act now. If you, a resident, or someone you know uses a telecare alarm, make sure to contact the landline provider for support. Visit the [digital phone switchover website](#) for more information.

Community Fun Days July 2025

Community Fun Days are returning to the districts at the end of July, providing families with a series of free days out packed full of activities. Events are taking place between 10am and 2pm at:

- Sudbury, Belle Vue Park – Monday, 21 July
- Hadleigh Pool and Leisure Centre – Friday, 25 July

Each event is free attend and has activities for all ages - people just need to turn up on the day. However, children that receive means tested free school meals are able to pre-book some activities and order a free lunch by [visiting the Abbeycroft website](#) - our partners for this year's fun days.

Rural Housing Week event

Parishes across the districts are being invited to a Rural Housing Week event, hosted by Community Action Suffolk, from 10am to 3pm on **10 July** at the John Peel Centre.