



Babergh and Mid Suffolk Call for Sites Frequently Asked Questions for Town and Parish Councils

April 2026

Dear Town / Parish Council,

This set of FAQs is designed to help you to respond to questions that you may have or have been receiving from your communities now that our Call for Sites exercise has closed and the list of submitted sites has been published.

1. What is the current status of the Call for Sites?

The Call for Sites closed on 9th January 2026. We have published all submitted sites on our online map. This is for information only – it is not a judgement or indication of support.

2. Does publication mean any site will be developed?

No. Publication simply provides transparency. None of the sites gain planning status, preference or priority by being shown on the map.

3. Why have Babergh and Mid Suffolk published the list now?

It is important that people can see what land has been submitted before assessments begin.

4. Have any of the sites been assessed yet?

Not yet. Officers are now starting detailed assessments to understand suitability, availability and deliverability.

5. When will the assessment results be shared?

Through the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) later in 2026.

6. Can residents comment on these sites at this stage?

Not yet. Formal comments come later, during consultation on the draft Local Plan. That is when communities can give their views on any proposed site allocations.

7. What should we say to concerned residents?

Reassure them that these are just submissions. No decisions have been made and many sites will not progress. Formal opportunities to comment will come later.

8. Does publication of the sites map imply Council support?

It does not. Publishing all submissions is standard practice and does not indicate preference or likelihood of development.

9. What types of sites were submitted?

A wide mix – housing, employment, community uses, nature recovery and more. Housing sites generally needed capacity for at least five homes or 0.25 hectares.

10. What if residents ask why they weren't consulted earlier?

Explain that the Call for Sites is an early evidence stage. Consultation happens later when we have proposals to consult on. Publishing early helps keep the process transparent.

11. Can new sites still be added now?

The Call for Sites window has closed. Any further opportunities would come through later plan-making stages.

12. What is the role of Parish Councils right now?

Help manage expectations, reinforce that publication does not mean development, direct people to official channels, and encourage engagement when the draft Local Plan is released.

13. What should we avoid saying?

Avoid anything that suggests decisions have been made. No site has been chosen, endorsed or moved forward at this point.

14. Where can we point residents for more information?

To the published map, the Joint Local Plan Review webpage, and upcoming updates on the SHELAA and draft Local Plan consultation.

Please refer to the official Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils' Joint Local Plan homepages (links below):

<https://www.babergh.gov.uk/joint-local-plan>

<https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/joint-local-plan>

[Ends]