

District Council Report July

New Waste Collections

The weather was favourable for the waste crew's week, and they operated at an average 99.8% of food waste collections being made on the same day across both councils.

The team planning for earlier starts again this week as the weather heats up again. It is worth noting that the Council have not at any stage since the commencement of the new service taken any frontline resources from other services e.g. Public Realm, which has protected delivery of other essential environmental services.

The new food service collected 180.83 tonnes of food waste across both districts, an 11.7% increase on the previous week.

However, we are still working through and improving on:

- Delivering the final new bins and food waste caddies
- Starting to process more requests to downsize bins
- New food collection drivers and loaders
- Maintaining the food waste daily completion rates
- Further reducing the causes which are driving the high volumes of calls and e-mails (missing or missed bins)

If residents are still missing bin, please report to the district council via email to recycling@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk advising that they have not received their new bins/caddies, include the full address – if they have no internet access, they can call the council on 0300 1234 000 (option 4). Meanwhile,

- Continue to use your existing bins until the new bins arrive.
- If the new green-lidded bin has not been received, continue to put paper and card into your blue bin, along with glass, plastics, metal, and cartons.
- Until the new food waste bin is received, continue to put food waste into the black refuse bin.
- Put out bins for collection as per the new schedule Babergh / Mid Suffolk
- Change over to new system once bins arrive.
- The mixed materials in your blue recycling bin, and green-lidded paper and card bin, will still be recycled.

If residents have reported missing bins to the council but are still waiting after a few days, please tell them to let me know.

New Chair appointed to Council

Cllr Lee Parker, Liberal Democrat member for Assington ward, was elected as the new council Chair at Babergh Annual Council meeting held on 12 May 2026.

Cllr Lee Parker's chosen charity is Sudbury Defibrillators, a charity who launched a mission to ensure nobody in Sudbury is more than 2 minutes away from their nearest defibrillator.

Joint Local Plan Consultation

The Scoping Consultation, which opened today (5 June) and runs to 31 July 2026, marks the beginning of an important conversation about how the districts should grow and change over the coming years.

The Joint Local Plan is an important planning document that will guide decisions on housing, jobs, infrastructure, town centres, the environment, transport, and community facilities, helping to ensure that Babergh and Mid Suffolk remain attractive, sustainable, and thriving places to live, work and visit.

The consultation seeks views on the key issues and opportunities facing both districts and will help inform the evidence gathering and plan-making process.

At this stage, decisions are not being made about specific development sites. The consultation is asking for views on the key issues facing the area.

It also seeks views on how the Councils should engage with communities and stakeholders throughout the process.

Locality Funding

I am pleased to say that I have £2000 locality funding that I am happy to use to help projects in the village. However, I have already had a couple of requests from Elmsett so if there is anything in the village that needs assistance, please let me know.

Heating Oil support

The councils are now writing to residents who heat their homes with oil and may be eligible for help but have not yet accessed it. Residents struggling with essential costs or heating oil may be eligible for a crisis payment or a specific heating oil payment.

The councils' targeted approach, in partnership with local Citizens Advice, reflects growing evidence that many households nationally are missing out on financial support they are entitled to.

Healthy start support

Families across Babergh are being encouraged to check if they are eligible for the Healthy Start Scheme. Healthy Start is a national programme which provides vital financial support to pregnant women and families with young children to help them access healthy food, milk, and vitamins.

The scheme is open to those who are at least 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under four, and who are receiving certain benefits such as Universal Credit, Income Support, or income-based Jobseeker's Allowance. Some groups, including pregnant under-18s, may also qualify regardless of benefits.