

# Your briefing notes for town and parish councils



Babergh & Mid Suffolk Councils

March 2024

## **[Support pledged for environment, economy and communities – despite warning of ‘financial cliff edge’](#)**

In agreeing its 2024/25 budget, Babergh District Council has outlined its determination to create a ‘more resilient and sustainable future’ for the district, despite severe financial pressures.

## **[Council leaders warn of ‘catastrophic effect’ of Suffolk County Council budget plans](#)**

Proposed changes to Housing Related Support ‘could impact on our most vulnerable residents’.

## **[Parking charges petition is heard as council considers next steps](#)**

*‘We don’t want to lose free parking, but we have tough decisions to make’* – the message from Babergh councillors as a petition objecting to new tariffs is debated.

## **[Tax premiums agreed for owners of second homes and empty properties](#)**

Councillors at Babergh District Council have agreed higher tax premiums for owners of second homes and long-term empty properties as part of a raft of measures to bring more homes back into use.

## **[Council’s loft insulation offer for Suffolk homes](#)**

Funding is available to help residents make their homes warmer and save money on their energy bills.

## **[Making Suffolk’s older properties more energy efficient and cheaper to run](#)**

A free event to explore how to make Suffolk’s older homes more energy efficient is at The Hold in Ipswich on March 6.

## **[More of Suffolk’s tree cover and orchards to be restored](#)**

Suffolk County Council has secured £201,213 from the government’s Local Authority Treescapes Fund for 1,877 new trees in a bid on behalf of all Suffolk councils – including Babergh District Council. The funding will go toward planting and maintaining the trees – many of which will be ‘standards’, which are around six feet in height when planted.