

Please find below my Annual Report which runs alongside all the monthly reports submitted.

It has been confirmed that the new Food waste collections for Babergh residents will start from 2026, Funding to begin the new food waste collections in Babergh has been agreed, as part of a nationwide requirement by central government.

During the past 12 months Babergh has continued its work to improve the standards of all its housing stock, this is a long-term commitment which will continue over the next few years.

In November Babergh announced - 'A significant investment in Hadleigh's future' – as the former council offices that are being converted into homes went on the market. The first homes developed at Babergh District Council's former Corks Lane offices in Hadleigh have gone on the market – with the properties hailed as a significant investment in the town's future. Though there is a Forecast **loss** of £3.4m from the development.

In January, Babergh announced it had 'no option' but to review Joint Local Plan after Government's huge housebuilding hike.

Subsequently, Babergh suspended its Joint Local Plan Part 2 and announced it would work on a completely New Joint Local Plan. This work is now underway.

In January, Babergh removed all Free Parking in its Car Parks and introduced new parking tariffs across the district. We are waiting for the first report to come from the Cabinet to understand the impacts of this change to retailers within our two main towns of Sudbury & Hadleigh and on any uplift in passenger numbers regarding residents using buses instead of cars.

In February the Government launched a public consultation on Suffolk and Norfolk devolution, this was a public consultation on proposals to create a Mayoral Combined County Authority across Norfolk and Suffolk.

Both Stephen Plumb and I have again worked together in distributing our Locality Grant money across the whole of Chadacre. (7 Projects)

Stanstead Village Hall £800,

Stanstead PC £280,

Coldham FC £600,

Friends of Glemsford Library £300,

Lawshall Little Saplings Pre School £1000

Hartest Institute £750

Glemsford Friday Café £250.

The LGR & Devolution debates continue at pace, we await more information which will be widely shared with residents when available. Babergh have submitted an initial response to with proposals for Local Government Reform (LGR) which was for two or three unitary authorities. Suffolk County Council submitted a response with a preference for one single unitary authority.

I'm pleased to report that CIL money continues to support community projects throughout the district, several projects within our Chadacre Ward have benefitted from this.

The big conversation in the coming months will revolve around Devolution and Local Government Reform and the implications it will have to the residents of Babergh, by September a final submission and business case must be submitted to Government with Babergh's preference on how many unitary authorities we would like to see.

As has been the case I will endeavour to keep the Parish Council and residents informed through my monthly reports.

I would like to thank the Parish Council for its continued hard work and cooperation throughout the past 12 months.