

**PAUL CLOVER/MARGARET MAYBURY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT FOR LAVENHAM
PARISH MEETING 4th APRIL 2024.**

Babergh Cabinet proposal to introduce car park charges in the town centres of Lavenham, Sudbury and Hadleigh update

Within a few days of the consultation closing, the Council issued papers for the Overview and Scrutiny committee detailing two tariff options on parking tariffs for the first hour with no free period. What the papers also showed is the true cost of delivering the car park service is way above the present £425k claimed at £880k in year 1 and £1.024m in year 2. This is without the cost of delivering the approved parking strategy. To cover these costs the charges will need to generate significant income which in year 2 could be £833k. No surplus will be created by these parking charges until year 3 due to the high cost of administration. Yet the cost of not implementing these charges will be minimal in terms of difference to the budget position. £50k year 1 and £75k year 2. The O&S committee have returned the papers with 11 recommendations including one that the first hour should be free. What became evident from the questions raised at the meeting that the council had little understanding of the way individual car parks worked and the requirements and status of the residents who used them and the consequent impact on the communities and business owners. To this end Lavenham parish council have submitted a highly detailed letter as to the detrimental impact the charges will have to Babergh operations director. Sudbury and Hadleigh town councils have responded in a similar manner.

CIL Funding

The latest briefing on CIL funding reported that Tennis, cricket and sports clubs and community shops would be eligible for up to £100k bids as up to 75% of the project cost. Also footpaths and cycleways are eligible for 100% funding but not to include the costs of the feasibility and design work carried out by the council.

Energy efficient homes

The Govt have added another £1.6m boost to the £2.25m funding to make council homes more energy efficient.

Babergh position on National Grid plans

Babergh Council have informed the National grid of their opposition to plans to install more electricity pylons between Bramford and Twinstead.