

PAUL CLOVER/MARGARET MAYBURY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT FOR LAVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 4TH DECEMBER 2025.

Energy performance improved for listed buildings

Owners of listed buildings can now improve their energy efficiency by installing secondary glazing or replacing windows on Grade II listed building where they have previously received listed building consent. Both permissions are subject to certain conditions.

Call for Sites

The present Call for Sites is in progress in preparation for Babergh's new joint local plan. One of the areas on the Call for sites map is the plot behind Chilton Corner containing a recently confirmed footpath.

LGR public consultation period open

The cases for one and three unitary authorities for Suffolk from SCC and BDC respectively have now been submitted to the secretary of state. The public consultation period is now open and closes on 11th January 2026. There are differences from either council over the savings that are claimed to be achievable.

One Suffolk claim savings of £78.2m in first five years and £39.4m p.a. thereafter. Their calculations assess that three unitary authorities would cost £145.3m above present costs in the first five years and £13.1m more p.a. after that. In contrast BDC claim that they will make annual savings of £34m per year and reinvest £20m in important services. The reinvestment of £20m will commence in year 1 of the new unitary authority in 2028 but the savings of £34m will not commence until year 3 (2030/31). By year 10 (2037/38) savings have been calculated as £70m.

Better Recycling

We have now been briefed on the Better Recycling 5 bin system which is looking to go live 1st June 2026. To recap, each household will retain their original black bin for refuse only (not food waste). The blue bin will be used for glass, tetrapak cartons, metal tin cans/foil and all types of plastic, the new green lidded bins will be used for paper and card only. Each of these 240 litre bins will be collected on three weekly rotation. In addition households will be supplied with a 25 litre food caddy which will be collected weekly. Collections will be on the same day of the week. Garden waste collections will continue as usual. For households where standard issue is not suitable there will be the option of 180/140/50 litre bins plus different coloured sacks. The Chilton depot is being upgraded in order to better manage the requirements of the new scheme.

Melford Road Sudbury Junction

Despite objections from various parties, this development is scheduled to go ahead from mid January 2026 at significant cost believed to be upwards of £250k. To our knowledge no case has been properly substantiated as to the needs for these works which will lead to increased congestion and pollution. The works are likely to last for two months.

Bird Flu outbreaks confirmed

As has already been confirmed to the parishes in this ward, Suffolk is presently enduring a serious outbreak of bird flu. The closest being Lawshall at present. Dogs being walked on footpaths close by should be kept on leads. Any dead wild birds should not be touched and reported on the Defra helpline 03459 33 55 77. Owners of poultry should disinfect hands and footwear before tending.

Small electricals recycling

Since the launch of the pink bin scheme 14 tonnes of unwanted electricals have been recycled.