

PAUL CLOVER/MARGARET MAYBURY DISTRICT
COUNCILLOR'S REPORT FOR LAVENHAM PARISH
COUNCIL MEETING 6TH AUGUST 2026.

Meadow Land Fire Risk

Further to the continuing hot weather, the decision has been taken to bring forward the cutting of open spaces by four weeks, starting 27th July. Not all areas are managed as wildflower meadows and it will take time to complete the works. In many areas the grass has already dried out and is not supporting much wildlife. Priority will be given to open spaces close to houses and fences.

Farmer's Market/Church St Car Park

Following incidents involving vehicles and pedestrians in Church St car park during the recent Farmer's Market, this has now been reported to Babergh Council with a view to improving safe access for pedestrians and managing vehicle movements in a more orderly manner. We will report back as soon as more information is available.

Free Community Fun Day

Belle Vue park in Sudbury is hosting a free Community Fun Day on Wednesday 12th August from 10am to 2pm. Free activities include a bouncy castle, axe throwing, arts and crafts and dancing.

Free 3D insight into the works of John Constable

To celebrate the 250th anniversary of John Constable's birth, residents are invited to experience his famous artworks through 3D headsets. The exhibition is free to attend and is being held at the Constable Memorial Hall in East Bergholt between 10am to 3pm from the 17th August to 23rd August.

Reporting Empty Properties

The Govt. is looking to reduce empty homes by sustainably converting them to increase the housing supply. This new initiative is called 'Houses4Homes'. By working with Landlords and Owners the aim is to offer more choice to market and reduce the number of long term empty homes. Empty properties can be reported via the Babergh website, emailing: enquiries@houses4homes.org or calling 0300 1234000.

Funding Summit

The next council run funding summits to help voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) organisations access the funding they need will take place at Lavenham Village Hall on Monday 5th October. The summit will include workshops and talks. Further information including how to reserve spaces will follow in due course.

State Pension Age change

Between 6 April 2026 and 6 March 2028, the State Pension age will gradually increase from 66 to 67 – affecting those born on or after 6 April 1960. Everyone can use the free State Pension age calculator on the GOV.UK website.

You can also use the ‘check your State Pension forecast’ tool to see what you will receive and also increase the payment by filling in any gaps in your record.