

**PAUL CLOVER/MARGARET MAYBURY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT FOR LAVENHAM PARISH MEETING
7TH NOVEMBER 2024.**

Babergh Growth £3m projected loss

Despite previous assurances that the Cork's lane development of the old council offices in Hadleigh would return a profit the latest forecast is that it will produce a £3-3.5m loss.

The marketing campaign accompanying the first phase of sales has been criticised for showing erroneous pictures of foreign cities and shops alongside geographic inaccuracies.

In actuality the loss will translate to each property being sold at the subsidised cost of £50-60k. This comes at the same time as a recent disclosure that BDC are anticipating a £500k loss due to the unexpected closure of UBS investments.

Babergh Governance Policy

Following lobbying from various Councillors over a number of years since 2022, we introduced a Motion to debate the BDC Governance system in terms of Council's preference for a Cabinet or Committee system. After much discussion, this is now scheduled for debate next year and any change in the governance system would take effect in May 2026.

An annual governance statement will soon be published alongside a statement of accounts on the Babergh website.

Kingfisher Pool

Following extensive repair work to the roof, the Kingfisher pool is now due to reopen on 11th December.

Community Energy Scheme

Babergh District Council is inviting residents, groups and businesses in Stour Valley to find out more about creating community energy schemes. For more information, please see the Babergh website.

Parking and Universal Credit scams

Following a spate of these scams via mobile messages, Suffolk Trading Standards have published advice on how to recognise and prevent these scams. Please go to their website and sign up to their newsletter.

Rural Transport consultation and Survey

Suffolk On Board is hosting a rural transport event for residents at Hadleigh Guildhall on 13th November to discuss solutions and improvements to the rural transport system. Resident's feedback is also available via the Babergh rural transport survey website which closes on 30th November.

Suffolk County Council are also running a survey on their local transport plan. Residents can view this plan and have their say on the SCC website up until 25th November.

Solar Together Extension

This new scheme has been extended until 15th November with 3,100 residents already signed up for a quote. Residents can sign up for a no obligation quote on the Solar Together website.

Pension Credit

Pension credits are available to any state retirement pensioner who is finding it difficult to manage household costs. The credit is worth on average £3,900 and will unlock additional support including winter fuel payments, housing benefit, council tax reductions, NHS dental care etc.