

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ANNUAL REPORT FOR

LAVENHAM 2024-25 – CLLRS MARGARET MAYBURY AND

PAUL CLOVER

Council has been dominated this year by the introduction of increased car parking charges. Vigorously opposed by your district councillors these were implemented in January.

Housing laws caused Babergh to report itself to governmental housing regulatory body due to its lack with compliance over certain energy certificates. This “marker” has now been removed with proactive repairs and refurbishments being undertaken by Babergh’s housing department.

Awaab’s Law was introduced this year which makes compliance over housing mould and damp mandatory with action, latterly, needed within twenty-four hours.

The new Director of Housing has been successful in their endeavours for the promotion of tenanted homes.

National Government has implemented change to local government with Suffolk becoming one of the new cohort of Mayoral and Unitary applications. We await the outcome of both issues.

Due to the Government’s new target of building 1.5 million homes in this parliamentary term, Babergh District Council are to review their Joint Local Plan which will more or less double each parish’s Housing target.

Ward issues which your district councillors have interacted with, over the year, covered most of Babergh’s statutory matters plus more, including:

- Advising on Capital Grants application process
- Meeting with James Cartlidge, MP and other stake holders to resolve parking issues in Lavenham
- Lobbying successfully against the closure of Market Hill car park, Sudbury
- Advising on new waste bin collection system for 2026
- Deployment of Locality budget for printing of Lavenham tourist map and guide
- Liaising with Babergh DC on funding of footpath at Green Willows
- Promotion of new Rural Transport consultation and survey plus new 753 bus service
- Advising on the Solar Together scheme and Home Energy voucher scheme. Also Pension Credit service
- Reporting on Suffolk Nature Recovery strategy
- Reporting and interacting on housing issues
- Reporting on litter and fly-tipping issues
- Consulting with Babergh planning on various issues

- Assisting with minor housing adaption applications
- Consultation on withdrawal of planning application notices
- Advising on CIL applications
- Attending Coffee morning, Fairs and various other village events including handover of Affordable Housing scheme at The Paddocks
- Introducing option of Eezybike scheme
- Advising on Solar partnership for Business
- Advising on free horticultural skills course and free compost availability
- Locality Budget being used for printing Lavenham's T500 brochure

Next month sees my (Cllr Maybury) tenth anniversary of being elected a district councillor, serving Lavenham for six years.

I was delighted to welcome Cllr Clover into the fold as district councillor for the Ward two years ago.

Between us we attend as many parish council, social events, volunteering positions, Babergh committee and council meetings as is possible to do so. Our work is varied, fulfilling, sometimes frustrating too but thoroughly enjoyable. We are lucky to have such vibrant parishes within our Ward and thank parishioners for their welcome, questions, challenges and friendship.

Penultimately, we would like to thank all parish councillors for their dedication to Lavenham who alongside the parish clerk work tirelessly for the good of all within the parish.

Cllr Margaret Maybury and Cllr Paul Clover 15/05/25