

PAUL CLOVER/MARGARET MAYBURY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT FOR LAVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 3RD APRIL 2025.

Combined County Mayoral Authority Update

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have now agreed that two or three Unitary Authorities would best represent the local interests of Suffolk and this decision has been submitted to Government. Suffolk County Council have voted to have just one Unitary Authority representing Suffolk. A new web page has been set up to answer questions regarding Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation.

Notification of Planning Applications

The Council are proposing to stop sending Notices of local Planning Applications to neighbours unless it is a major Application of ten or more homes. A consultation period has already commenced to elicit resident's views and this will close on 12th May.

Plug-in Suffolk Car Club

As part of an initial 18 month trial, residents will be able to hire EV cars this coming summer. There will be two cars available in Sudbury's Girling Street car park and Hadleigh's Maiden Way car park. Other venues will include Stowmarket, Needham Market, Ipswich, Lowestoft, Bury St Edmunds, Woodbridge and Newmarket. Local residents will receive free membership to Suffolk Car Club. If successful the scheme will be rolled out with more venues and greater availability. More details can be found on the Suffolk County Council website.

Mould and Damp – Social Housing

Under Awaab's Law it is now a requirement that any reports of damp or mould or any other health and safety issues in a customer's home are actioned on the same working day. Please report any cases to Customer Services on 0300 123 4000.

Joint Local Plan Review

Due to the Govt's new housing target being set at 1.5 million homes to be built in the next five years, Babergh DC have no option but to review the Joint Local Plan. This four year process will include strategic development, two public consultation stages, evidence gathering, examination and modification. Initial calculations show that the Indicative Interim Housing Requirement for Lavenham will be a figure of 400 new dwellings over the next 20 year period. Following deductions for residual dwellings on commenced sites (31) and sites not started (2) this gives a net figure of 367 new dwellings. These figures, although indicative only, should be factored in when developing any neighbourhood plan. Grant funding up to £10k is available to support this.