

# **PAUL CLOVER/MARGARET MAYBURY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT FOR LAVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2025.**

## **Devolution/Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) update**

The Suffolk County Council elections postponed from this May are now planned to take place in May 2026 alongside the Mayoral elections.

Suffolk's District and Borough Councils have now opened the survey to canvass resident's views on the future of their county under Local Government Reorganisation.

Residents can access the survey by searching for 'Shaping Suffolk Together' and it is also available on social media feeds such as Facebook and Instagram. Every parish council will also receive posters and postcards promoting the survey.

Workshops with towns and parishes are being arranged so that any future unitary councils can be designed to work as effectively as possible together. The LGR will impact everyone and therefore it is important that as many people as possible register their views. Alternative formats of the survey will be available. General information on the progress of LGR can be found on Babergh's website. The survey will close on 25<sup>th</sup> July.

At present various districts are favouring different single/multiple authorities. The Govt are looking for aligned, evidence based proposals drawing on the same publicly available data with the applicant explaining the reasons for preference. The final case for change needs to be submitted by 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025 and it may be that the decision is made by June 2026 rather than January. Elections for councillors to Shadow unitary authorities could then be held in May 2027 with full implementation of the new Unitary Authority in April 2028.

## **Eezybikes launches in Sudbury**

Electric bikes to hire are now available close to Sudbury's Kingfisher Leisure Centre, just off the Gainsborough Trail. What3words: comic.unfilled.tastings

Bookings can be made via the EEZYBIKE website – part of the hire cost being subsidised by Babergh Council. If anyone would like to try the bikes to see how they might work in Lavenham, simply log on to the website.

## **Traveller Encampment Aubrey Drive, Sudbury**

A recent Traveller Encampment of approximately seven caravans took residence here for just over a week. The site has now been vacated leaving a significant clear up operation

being required and the detritus is already spreading over a larger area including a wildlife balance pond. The site is on land owned by Taylor Wimpey and there are several access points which I am looking to secure to prevent future reoccurrence of the problem. The lesson here is to ensure that any parish open spaces should have any access points secured.

### **Suffolk Community Awards**

Nominations for the Suffolk Community Awards 2025 are now open. The Awards look to celebrate all those that have improved the quality of life in their community. There are a range of awards to be won, with specific categories for community organisations, individuals, councils, councillors and beyond. Nominations close on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July. The Award Ceremony will take place on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at the Food Museum, hosted by Mark Murphy MBE. To make a nomination please visit the Suffolk Community Awards website.

### **EA Flagship's wildflower meadows programme**

Flagship already manage grassy areas in over 200 communities including Great and Little Waldingfield. These areas attract twice as many species as mown areas. For more information please contact: [biodiversity@flagship-housing.co.uk](mailto:biodiversity@flagship-housing.co.uk)

### **Celebrate a new born's life with a free tree**

Applications are now open to mark the birth of a baby or one that's adopted with A Tree for Life scheme. Parents who lose a baby are also entitled to apply. There are a choice of fruit trees available to residents of Babergh.

### **New data on impact of car parking charges**

We understand that monitoring data is soon to be available on the impact of car parking charges and will be holding this up to scrutiny when available.

### **Visit to Cork's Lane Residential development**

A tour was arranged of the conversion of Hadleigh's council offices. The project has taken a substantial time to bring to market with no two properties appearing to be the same design due to the unusual layout of the building which is listed. We will monitor to see the uptake in sales as the various phases are released.