

Report to Parishes

In the last full council meeting on November 21st after a number of years spent in the last administration developing the Joint Local Plan document, this was introduced in its entirety and passed and adopted by a strong majority.

The plan ensures a new framework for shaping communities within Babergh and Mid Suffolk and is split into two parts. A supplementary planning document will also highlight key areas of the JLP for further enhancement. The plan will help to guide future and further development on a timetable up until 2037.

Settlement maps can also be accessed publicly on the council's website and will be updated on the outcome of any new respective neighbourhood plans.

A revised local development scheme was also implemented by both Babergh and Mid Suffolk and this will help timetable the 2nd part of the Joint Local Plan.

During last month I visited another waste site in my role as Cabinet Portfolio Holder in Environment, this time involving composting and garden waste at Material Change in Creting St Mary near Needham Market. I was able to gain insights into how compost material collected from bins received from both Babergh District Council and Ipswich Borough Council can be matured over a 6 week process and then transferred as enriched compost to be provided for farmland at the point of prime enrichment so nothing is wasted.

Towards the end of last month I took part in a photo call organised on behalf of Babergh's Climate Change team at Kingfisher Leisure Centre to welcome and endorse a new backwash water system installed for the swimming pool. This new facility will change the way the pool gets its heat source, saving thousands of tonnes of CO2 emissions and is the first of its kind in Babergh. There will also be economic savings for the running of the new system, and as part of the Abbeycroft Leisure

Group there will be a similar backwash system installed at Hadleigh leisure swimming pool planned for next year.

Finally, as part of the council's strategy to engage further tree planting and provide net gain in biodiversity within both districts across Babergh and Mid Suffolk, I was invited for a photo call and subsequent press release to help publicise the new Call For Land initiative, which is supporting landowners to make existing land sites available for additional tree coverage, these benefits could also include sites such as the Peninsula and neighbouring villages.

It's widely acknowledged there is a restrictive problem in the suitable land use for sites in Babergh especially, so this scheme could help free up more opportunities to provide a new template for biodiversity within our district.