

Parish Report – November 2025

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Towns and parishes across Babergh and Mid Suffolk are set to receive more than £1m in developer contributions to help community infrastructure keep pace with housing growth.

Developers building homes within the districts are charged a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), which the Councils then reinvest in communities via their towns and parish councils.

In this latest round of Neighbourhood CIL funding, 29 town and parish councils in Mid Suffolk will receive a share of nearly £918K, with 20 Babergh towns and parishes receiving a portion of £129K.

The town and parish councils can decide how to spend this money to best support the development of their local area and meet the need of the community. Those areas with successfully adopted Neighbourhood Plans will receive a higher amount of funding.

This round of Neighbourhood CIL is in addition to £27 million of District CIL funding which has been allocated in both districts since 2018, funding projects including school expansions, an emergency services hub, health care extensions, sporting infrastructure and footpaths and cycleways.

Call for Sites

Babergh District Council, East Suffolk Council, Ipswich Borough Council and Mid Suffolk District Council will shortly start preparation of their new Local Plans.

The new Local Plans will set out a strategy identifying sites for development and set policies against which applications for planning permission are determined, alongside national planning policies and Neighbourhood Plans.

These will provide a blueprint for the future of each area - ensuring residents and communities have sufficient housing, employment and inward investment, that environment and heritage is protected, and the right infrastructure is in place.

As part of the early preparatory work, the councils are working together to launch a 'Call for Sites', beginning Monday 20 October. The Call for Sites runs until 5pm on **9 January 2026**.

This invites submissions of land to be put forward for consideration to be included in Local Plans - for uses such as housing, employment, sports and leisure and community purposes.

These are not planning applications, and no site put forward will automatically see development take place.

The process involves a form to be completed by anyone wishing to submit sites. The form can be completed online, by email or by post.

Each suggested site will be considered by planning teams before it is decided whether it goes forward as a proposed Local Plan site allocation. Decisions about preferred allocations will be based on a range of evidence and assessment, as well as through public engagement.

[Call for Sites \(20 Oct - 9 Jan 2026\) - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk](https://babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk)

listed building energy upgrades easier

Babergh and Mid Suffolk have one of the highest numbers of listed properties in the country, but these historic properties often suffer from poor energy performance due to factors such as poorly fitting windows and single glazing.

It leads to higher bills for owners and is costly for the environment. Historic England says retrofitting historic buildings will be fundamental to achieving net zero.

In the past, owners had to apply to the councils for Listed Building Consent to make upgrades.

But Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, working closely with Historic England, have just introduced a new Local Listed Building Consent Order – the first rural council in the country to achieve this.

It makes sensitive improvements quicker and easier:

- Secondary glazing on historic windows - Grade II listed buildings can now have secondary glazing installed on historic windows without needing consent from the council, subject to certain conditions.
- Replacement of windows in Grade II listed buildings – Where original windows have already been replaced after receiving listed building consent, they can be replaced again, subject to conditions.
- Replacement of an existing window in a modern extension to a listed building - Windows in Grade II listed buildings can be replaced, or have secondary glazing installed, if they have previously received listed building consent, subject to conditions.

A reminder that I have now been issued with this year's Locality Budget to support activities and groups in the Rattlesden Ward receiving applications up to end December 2025.