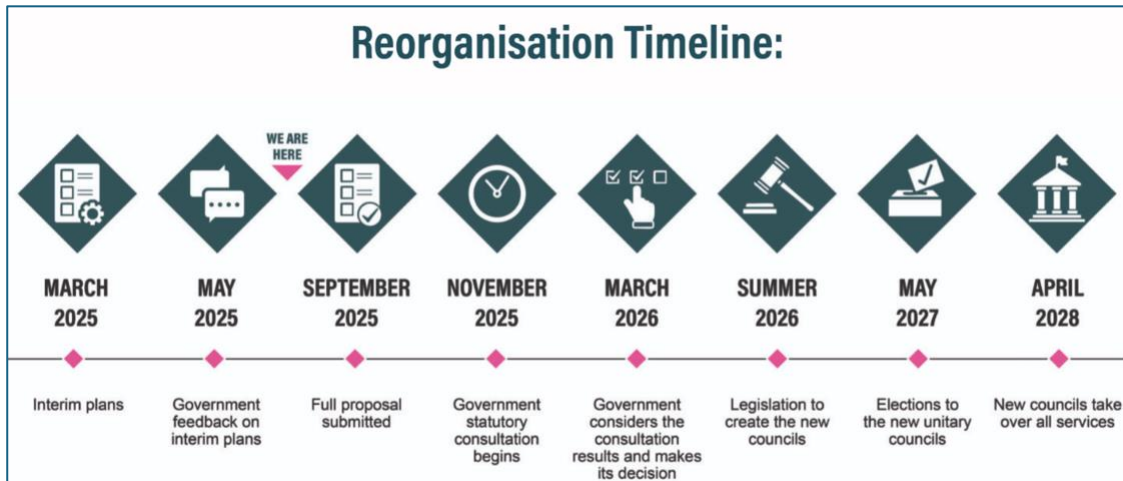


Monthly Report October'25 - Sproughton & Pinewood Ward

GENERAL UPDATES

The district wide monthly update can be found here - Download [Babergh's town & parish briefing notes](#).

Devolution & Local Government Reorganisation: We are still waiting for the public consultation to start. This is scheduled for November but no firm date. Timeline reminder below.



Marks & Spencer @ Copdock: This application is still outstanding. No news as to when it will be decided.

Better Recycling (originally Simpler Recycling): If you would like to read about recent updates see [the Suffolk Recycles website](#), which includes a list of frequently asked questions.

Banking Hub @ Morrisons, Hadleigh: The Planning Committee approved an application for a new banking hub to be installed in Morrison's car park in Hadleigh. This will go some way towards providing banking services to the town which have been sadly lacking.

David Busby: We have had the by-election in Copdock & Washbrook. This was a contested election which is unusual as normally other parties do not contest a seat where the incumbent has died. But, all parties campaigned - it was eventful! We did hope that Dave's legacy would be a Lib Dem win, however that was not to be - Reform won the by-election and the new councillor Marc Rowland has taken his seat on the council. Both John Whyman & myself, who were covering Dave's parishes during his illness have handed over any relevant casework.

Local Listed Building Order (13Oct25): This new initiative covers Grade II listed buildings covering the installation of secondary glazing to historic windows, installation of double glazing, or energy saving glass, to windows which have previously been consented and introduced after listing - or which are already installed within a consented modern or post-listing extension. Sounds complicated but basically means an easier process to get the windows in listed building repaired and improve the energy efficiency of the listed building which as we all know tend not to be!

2026/27 Budget: Work is underway constructing the budget for the next financial year. It's going to be a challenging one. Costs have risen and our income streams are subject to change. All departments have been asked to look at costs and to meet a preliminary target budget. The cabinet have reviewed

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fees and charges. We will hear about government funding early in the New Year so will have a better understanding of what needs to be done to finalise a balanced budget then.

PORTFOLIO

Climate Change: The second 'Green Skills for Schools Summit' was held on 10th October at the Royal Hospital School. Ten schools from Babergh & Mid Suffolk attended, debating real-world climate change challenges and emulated real-life negotiations, as world leaders will at COP30. The council-run event, facilitated by [InterClimate Network](#), was designed to engage young people from a wide variety of socio-economic backgrounds about climate change and its effects. Baberghs' hope is to open up opportunities for local action and sustainable career choices for the next generation, coinciding with this year's [Green Careers Week](#) (3 - 8 November 2025). Students were also encouraged to think about the local action they and their schools can take to help tackle the climate crisis and get towards net zero.

Biodiversity: We have reviewed the first draft of the Biodiversity Action Plan. A few tweaks need to be made before it gets presented to Cabinet.

The cabinet approved the Norfolk & Suffolk Local Nature Reserve Strategy in October. I have been invited to the launch event in November.

We are also beginning to look at a process for Habitat Banks which are units of land that developers can use to offset the impact of development from the biodiversity perspective.

THE WARD ITSELF

Parking at Suffolk One: Finally the paper has been submitted to Highways for design & costing. I will be chasing this regularly to see where it has got to and try to get a date when the costings will have been done. All stakeholders including residents had the opportunity to comment on the paper before it went in - and thank you to those residents who ploughed through it and commented.

Traffic Solutions 4 Sproughton: We are reasonably close to submitting this paper - there were many responses to the suggested measures which is good as this gives us a good evidence base so Highway know that the proposed solutions are backed by residents.

Sproughton Nature Reserve: The agreement is going back and forth like a yo-yo it seems. Currently Babergh are waiting on some information from Ipswich BC - that should be the final bit as both sides have seen the agreement and commented on it at least once.

Gipping River Path: I also met with Ipswich BC, the River Gipping Trust and the Public Rights of Way (PROW) for a walk along the river from Bramford to Sproughton looking at what needs to be done to repair the path. We have some funding to repair the sleeper bridge and brace the riverbank where it has eroded. I'm also setting up a discussion with the Environment Agency & SusTrans to see what we could do about the Old Ipswich Flood Barrier which presents an obstacle to walkers - especially those in mobility scooters or with pushchairs.

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If you ever have an issue to raise with me please use the contact details below. I look forward to hearing from you.

Helen Davies

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