**May’23**

Local elections: 10 Greens, 9 Independents, 7 Conservatives, 5 Liberal Democrats & 1 Labour Cllr make up the new Council.

Coalition agreed between the Greens, Independents and Liberal Democrats with the sharing of leadership across the 4-year term. Y1: Lib Dem, Y2 Green, Y3 Independent, Y4 Green

The long running Bellevue House issue to renovate the ex-council buildings in Hadleigh and turn into housing appeared settled as contracts were exchanged.

**Jun’23**

Council reiterates its objection to pylon proposals as does Suffolk County Council

**Jul’23**

Cabinet sets it strategy for the next four years citing climate housing and community at the heart of its priorities.

**Aug’23**

Cost of living support for residents reviewed. £100,000 made available to council tenants, a reduction in council tax for low-income households and £150,000 to households struggling with rent.

A 30% increase in funding to Citizens Advice Bureaus to accommodate increased cost due to increased demand.

**Sep’23**

Inspectors declare the long-awaited Joint Local Plan Part One to be sound and can progress to adoption. The plan has been seven years in the making. Work on Part 2 is underway

**Oct’23**

Babergh’s new website launched. Most frequent queries listed on front page to save residents time.

Storm Babet. Suffolk resilience forum declares a major incident and provides cross agency support to those affected by flooding in the district.

**Nov’23**

A consultation begins into measures that might streamline energy efficiency upgrades to listed properties.

A consultation was launched to help shape the future of Babergh following the strategy announcement in July.

The Joint Local Plan was adopted at full council.

Babergh put out a call for land to support nature, to increase tree coverage and to improve biodiversity.

The director of housing presented a plan to cabinet recently that defined how the

repairs arrears would be fixed and new systems implemented.

The cabinet agreed to funding of £943k from housing reserves account be

used to complete the repairs backlog.

**Dec’23**

Parking charges are back on the agenda. Babergh Cabinet declares that it needs to consider all options faced with a potential shortfall of £1.8M of funding.

**Jan’24**

Babergh urges the government to fix the broken funding for councils after cost of running the council was expected to rise by 12.8% year on year.

Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils have completed 128 new affordable council homes over the last 12 months – 42 in Babergh & 86 in Mid-Suffolk. This brings the total housing stock to almost 7,000 homes in the region; with 3,526 homes in Babergh and 3,373 homes in Mid Suffolk. More than you would have thought??!!

**Feb’24**

A balanced budget was delivered albeit by use of £1.2 million of reserves.Covering shortfalls from reserves isn’t a long-term solution. There are about £2.4m left of usable reserves (reserves equate to yours & my savings account). We have to save around £6.7m over the next 4 years in order to keep the books balanced – this is a legal requirement. It’s estimated that 1 in 5 councils are about to go broke which doesn’t say much for the level of government funding. The council has increased fees & charges to reflect the actual cost of providing licences and services. A savings programme is expected to achieve savings of £540k

**Mar’24**

Babergh District Council was named the best council in the UK – partly for its work on delivering green infrastructure

Parking proposals were considered by the Overview & Scrutiny committee and will now be forwarded to cabinet for consideration in April.

**Apr’24**

Parking charges debated by cabinet and approved 6-2. Decision called in and returns to Overview & Scrutiny. Recommendations made and returned to Cabinet for further debate & review during May.