

District Councillor's Report to Bildeston Parish Council

2nd March 2026

Bildeston Issues

I have been in contact with Orbit Housing and its contractors regarding footpaths at its Ipswich Road site and the construction of a ditch. There is now a temporary footpath running by the side of Artiss Close which matches the alternative the Parish Council wanted.

There have been residents' complaints about parking by Council contractors at Brooksfield and damage to a grass verge. Thank you to Cllr. Robin Sidgwick for providing photographs. I have spoken to the project manager at the Council and he informed me that the work would finish around the end of March. He did speak to the contractors and initially parking improved but that did not last. I will report back to the Parish Council at the meeting .

The Joint Local Plan and the Call for Sites

Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils are proceeding with its new Joint Local Plan in response to significant changes in national planning policy and updated Government housing requirements which have led to an 86% increase in our annual housing target. Babergh has held two Call for Sites at the end of 2025/2026 and in 2024.

The Councils have published a map of all sites submitted during these Call for Sites exercises. It can be accessed here <https://www.babergh.gov.uk/web/babergh/w/call-for-sites>.

Let me stress this is not a list of preferred locations for development and all these sites have to be assessed and consulted on by communities. We have published it so communities have early visibility.

Assessments will be published through the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment in Spring 2026. Officer assessment does not determine allocations — that occurs at the draft plan stage, which will be subject to full public consultation.

The County Council Elections are back on!

The Government has said that the County Council elections must be held after having told the County Council that it could cancel the election if it thought it had, 'capacity issues.' It is the district councils' officers who run the election on behalf of the County and fortunately given the policy backtracking we have experienced from the government did not stop preparations.

The election will be held on 7th May. To vote in person on 7 May, you must be on the electoral register by 23:59 BST on **Monday 20 April**.

You can register online with [your National Insurance number, external](#), or by writing to your council's electoral registration office.

The rules about postal and proxy votes have changed, and you need to renew them every three years. Any postal or proxy votes set up before 31 October 2023 have expired.

If you are already registered, the deadline to request a postal vote is 17:00 BST on **Tuesday 21 April**.

We are expecting to hear about the government's decision about the future of local government in Suffolk this month, maybe.

Better Recycling

Residents will have received the first of a series of communications about the changes to waste and recycling. These changes were put into law by the last Conservative government. The aim of these changes is to increase recycling rates up to 65% in 2035 from 42% today.

The Government requirement for households and workplaces will be four containers for:

- residual (non-recyclable) waste
- food waste
- paper and card
- all other dry recyclable materials (plastic, metal and glass)

A new green-lidded bin and food waste caddies are due to begin arriving in May as the service will start on 1st June. If you take food waste, paper and card, glass etc out of the black bin there will be very little waste left in it which is why collections will move to a three weekly basis with food waste being collected every week.

If residents believe they have not got sufficient space for four bins, then they will be given bags or boxes. Below is a link to FAQs:

[Future changes to bin collections - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk](https://www.babergh.gov.uk/midsuffolk.gov.uk)