

HARTEST APM 2017: District Councillor's Report

Babergh District Council 2016/17 View of the Year

1. Charlie Adan steps down as Chief Executive. Deborah Cadman (Chief Executive, Suffolk County Council) covers until the appointment of Arthur Charvonia, who leaves the post of Strategic Director at Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Councils. His time and salary is split with Mid Suffolk District Council.
2. Babergh, with a Conservative majority, will become a Leader/Cabinet led model from May 2017.
3. Babergh leaves Cork Lane, Hadleigh to move into Endeavour House, Ipswich. There is to be a local contact office in Sudbury, likely to be within the Sudbury Town Council building. Details of opening times/services to be available yet to be confirmed.
4. Local Government Boundary Commission to review the Babergh Ward sizes – number of Councillors – currently 43 at Babergh, likely to be reduced to 31. If confirmed, ward boundaries will be looked at starting in May 2017 and there will be a public consultation period. The new wards will be in place for the 2019 District Elections.
5. The Devolution Plan for Norfolk and Suffolk (ie, a combined authority) stalled when all Councils in Norfolk could not support the plan. Suffolk has continued, but it seems unlikely that Government will support a scheme for Suffolk alone.
6. Recycling up - 20 tonnes of glass being collected and recycled a month - 6.5% increase in business waste collection.
7. 65 new Council Homes to be built across the District, 14 have so far been passed to new occupants.
8. £725,000 in grants to community groups.
9. £460,000 of income generated this year by solar panels, up 70% over last year.
10. Council Tax rise of 3.4% for 2017/18. A mandatory decrease of 1% in Council House Rents, ie an average decrease of 91 pence per week. Garage Rents rise by 10%.

JAMES LONG

District Councillor – Chadacre Ward