

## District Councillor Report: Earl Stonham Parish Council

### November 2025

New 'call for sites' opens	As part of the work on the New Joint Local Plan, a 'Call for Sites' was opened on 20 October. This runs until 5pm on 9 January 2026. This call invites submissions of land to be put forward for consideration to be included in the Local Plan - for uses such as housing, employment, sports and leisure and community purposes. It is important to note that the Call for Sites will not in itself determine whether a site should be allocated for future development, and does not give it any planning status. All sites will need to be assessed further, and the overall strategy for the Local Plan will be informed by a range of evidence as well as feedback from consultations. More information about this process can be found here: <a href="https://www.babergh.gov.uk/web/babergh/w/call-for-sites">https://www.babergh.gov.uk/web/babergh/w/call-for-sites</a>
Listed Building Energy upgrades	Babergh and Mid Suffolk are the first rural councils to introduce a new Local Listed Building Consent Order. In the past, owners of listed buildings had to apply to the councils for Listed Building Consent to make upgrades to improve energy performance. They will now be able to replace some windows or install secondary double glazing without needing to make an application. More details can be found at <a href="https://www.babergh.gov.uk/llbco">https://www.babergh.gov.uk/llbco</a> .
Sustainable communities food fund.	Our Sustainable Communities Food Fund provides grants to small scale food initiatives such as community pantries, fridges and food pop-ups. Between £250 and £5,000 is available and can be used for anything from the purchase of equipment and revenue costs to delivering training and workshops. Funding is awarded on a first come, first served basis.
Activities for the older generation	During October and November, Everyone Active is encouraging a greater number of over 60s to become more physically and mentally active. This is part of the 'Age is just a Number campaign'. A number of activities are being held around the district – not just the main leisure centres. More information can be found via the Everyone Active website <a href="https://www.everyoneactive.com/promotion/ageisjustanumber/">https://www.everyoneactive.com/promotion/ageisjustanumber/</a> .
Upcoming changes to bin collections	Suffolk Recycles is currently running a social media campaign to prepare residents for the upcoming changes to bin collections in the area from 2026. It is important for us all to ensure that people get the correct information - please do direct residents to this website <a href="https://www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk/recycling-composting/recycling-at-home/better-recycling">https://www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk/recycling-composting/recycling-at-home/better-recycling</a> where the facts are clearly laid out.
Debenham Rd Speed reduction	I strongly support the campaign for a reduction of the limit to 40mph. Council officers responded very helpfully to my request for data which the campaign team have used in their writing their report.

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