

PAUL CLOVER/MARGARET MAYBURY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT FOR GREAT WALDINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 9TH FEBRUARY 2026.

New Govt Funding Allocation

The Govt. has redivided the funding allocations that Councils receive from central Govt. In general Councils in urban areas will receive more and rural Councils receive less. Furthermore, the provisional settlement core spending power will be frozen for the next four years. However there will be transitional protection against loss of income through a range of funding floor levels. In 29/30 this will have moved to a new funding level of £13.943m down from the present £14.355m – a 2.87% decrease. Due to the way the calculations are made Babergh have done comparatively poorly here. With the new calculations on Business rates Babergh have forecast a £9m loss over the life of the Medium term Financial Plan. Letters of appeal has been sent on both the last two points. On Council Tax, the Govt is assuming all Councils will apply the maximum amount at 3% or £5, whichever is the greater.

Local Elections

As you are probably aware some County Councils have cancelled local elections in order to free up more capacity to manage LGR reform. However Reform UK have instigated Judicial review proceedings to challenge this decision. If successful, elections may still go ahead. If the elections don't go ahead the next ones will be for Shadow District Councillors in May 2027.

Better Recycling update

Residents should soon start receiving 'pre-information literature' Followed by delivery of the new bins prior to the scheme launching in June. The information will also be available on social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and Tik Tok. Also with a view to efficient recycling, residents can apply for paperless billing on Council Tax and Business rates.

Norwich- Tilbury update

The date and agenda for the meeting to discuss procedural matters and time table for other hearings has now been published. Anyone can attend in person at Ipswich Town Football Club or via Teams. Contact Bab ergh Officer, Bron Curtis for further details.

Careeriosity – Inspiring the next Generation

Anew initiative has been launched to help inspire aspiring youngsters, 12 to 25 on various career paths during February half term. One of the events is 'Build a Museum' at Gainsborough House,

Sudbury on Thursday 19th February. Full details of all events will be found on the MENTA website.

Feel Good Suffolk's Five Dinners

This is a free service to help residents plan healthy meals, make the most of ingredients in their cupboards and save money on their food shop. To sign up simply visit the Feel Good Suffolk website.

Suffolk Net Zero support for Babergh businesses

Free expert advice on net zero support to help save energy and cut costs is available from Groundworks East. They will also provide guidance on grants and funding.