

District Councillor monthly report for August 2026. Cllr Marc Rowland

Free community days out.

Delivered by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, the events will take place between 10am and 2pm at Belle Vue Park in Sudbury on Wednesday 12 August, and at Stowupland Village Hall on Wednesday 19 August.

Families that attend can look forward to taking part in a wide range of activities, including everything from bouncy castles and axe throwing to arts and crafts and dancing.

Alongside the free activities, local organisations and charities will also be on hand with information stalls, offering advice and access to important local resources.

Each community fun day is free to attend and families need only turn up on the day to take part. However, children that receive means tested free school meals are also able to pre-book some activities and order a free lunch by [visiting the Eequ booking platform](#).

Link: [Summer fun returns with free community days out - Babergh District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk](#)

Reducing fire risk during hot weather

Residents are being reassured over [action being taken by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils](#) to manage its meadow areas – reducing fire risk during hot, dry weather while also protecting wildlife.

The recent heatwaves and drought have led to increased concerns over risk of fires – with biodiversity experts offering reassurance over the steps being taken to ensure responsible land management.

Seasonal mowing would usually start in late August, but we have decided to bring this forward.

In addition to this, the councils are continuing to support and promote fire safety messaging and [advice from Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service](#) on our social media channels - please do share their messaging with residents in your ward to ensure everyone can stay safe during the hot weather.

Reporting empty properties

The Government wants to reduce the number of empty homes, by bringing them back into use in a sustainable way to increase overall housing supply.

To do this, we have an empty homes initiative called 'Houses 4 Homes'.

It aims to help fulfil the growing housing need, and offer more choice to the market, by reducing the number of long-term empty homes within the districts.

We work with landlords and owners of empty properties to get them occupied again.

If you are aware of an empty property, please report it to us.

You can [report a property via the Babergh](#) and [Mid Suffolk websites](#), by [emailing the Houses 4 Homes team](#) or calling our customer services team on 0300 1234000.

Annual canvass underway

Our elections team has started contacting households in Babergh to confirm who is registered to vote. The canvass is carried out every year to keep the electoral register up to date and ensure that any individuals - who are eligible - are registered to vote in any forthcoming elections or referendums.

Annual canvass emails will display the elections team email address but will feature a gov.uk banner on the email, *to hopefully avoid being considered as spam*.

Residents can notify us of any changes, if needed, online, by email, telephone or post. Details on how will be included in the email including two unique security codes.

If there is no verified email address, or we do not receive a response to the email, letters will be sent instead.

Residents can [contact the elections team](#) if they have any annual canvass questions.