District Council report for Boxford PC 19th October 2026

As now being widely reported, there will be national local elections first week of May next year. Most of them will be for unitary councils but here in Suffolk which includes Babergh, they will be for the old District Council format which will put us out of step with the vast majority of the country, along with Norfolk, Suffolk and Hampshire.
In my view, late at the trough will mean a poorer deal, lets hope I am wrong.

At last weeks full council meeting, the coalition councillors at Babergh, united to send the strongest letter possible regarding planning for future housing and infrastructure development to the secretary of state. It has been amended and had added weight since then and will be sent at close of play tonight, it is embargoed until then but I will read our the concluding para at your meeting tonight and do not think many people will disagree with it.

Budget day yesterday brought some relief to those most hit by the cost of living and every other crisis we have at the moment.
New measures include a £100.00 payout to all CT payers from band A – D in early new year, we are hoping to get that done and organised by the end of January, this will be paid direct into the bank accounts of all those that qualify and we have details for, which is about 95% I believe.
Also our share of the hundred Million promised yesterday will be targeted towards those most hit by rising costs of everything, many of whom live in bands above D.
Not forgetting our share of the £430. Million to get every rough sleeper of our streets by Christmas, bearing in mind that not every homeless person sleeps on the streets, or in doorways, that will be hard for us to achieve.
I can report also that between September 25 – Sept 26 our teams managed to direct targeted support to families and others to claim £300.000 of existing benefits to help themselves out. This is a problem that many people are not aware of what is available to them.
One piece of good news is that from the end of this decade, local councils will be allowed to keep the revenue from business rates and I do understand this has already started since the budget of 2025. That will be a huge benefit and I look forward to keeping the £400 grand that is nicked of us for daring to run our own carparks for the benefit of our residents and shoppers.

Local good news is that the planning applications I am involved in within our village are progressing well and will continue to do so I am sure.
The little playground at Goodlands has had new fence/barrier erected and is due to have membrane and a top up of bark as well. A good result I think.

That's maybe enough for now but as always happy to answer questions from Councillor's and public alike. Kind Regards as always. Bryn.