

District Councillors Report (January)

Councillors Nunn and Malvisi wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Marking 15 years of food hygiene inspections

Did you know we have 968 food businesses in Babergh and a further 958 in Mid Suffolk?

This year is the 15th anniversary of the Food Standards Agency's (FSA) food hygiene rating scheme and, to mark the occasion, our food and safety team have shared some stats on how they help businesses in our districts comply with the regulations.

On average, the team carry out 1,000 food business inspections each year, making sure eating out is safe.

Currently, 87% of food businesses in Babergh have a rating of five (very good), and 97.3% are broadly compliant (a rating of three, four or five).

In Mid Suffolk 87% of food businesses also have a rating of five, with 98.7% being broadly compliant.

Each month, we share the businesses that have been awarded a five on our Facebook and Instagram pages. Be sure to [follow our social media](#) to stay up to date with the latest ratings.

If you're eating out in the districts or anywhere in the UK, make sure you [check the rating first via the FSA website](#).

Keeping our communities safe

Our colleagues in public protection recently travelled to the Guildhall in Hadleigh for a team away day.

During the day, they shared details from recent case studies, investigations and initiatives and explored how these experiences informed future decision making and best practice.

Topics covered on the day included:

- public health funerals and exhumations
- a year as an undergraduate environmental health officer
- testing taxi cases
- illegally imported meat found in a van
- food hygiene prosecutions
- marine safety measures
- roadside work on major trunk roads

Thanks to the diligent work of our public protection teams, people living in our districts are kept safe from a variety of things that have the potential to cause harm on a daily basis.

Waste Education in Schools

You may be interested in our summary of engagement with schools during 2025. We have developed good links with some schools in the districts and continue to promote our education service through events, social media and groups such as the Suffolk Sustainable Schools Network.

This year we met over 2400 children and staff at primary schools in both districts. We delivered workshops and assemblies on various waste topics. Attached is an outline of the sessions that we currently offer to schools.

In Babergh we engaged with over 700 pupils and staff at the following schools (some of which we visited more than once):

- Capel St Mary
- Hintlesham and Chattisham
- Ipswich High School
- Pot Kiln
- Tudor School Sudbury

In Mid Suffolk we engaged with over 1700 pupils and staff at the following schools (some of which we visited more than once, and two included parent engagement sessions):

- Abbott's Hall
- Bacton
- Cedars Park
- Combsford
- Mendlesham
- Old Newton
- Ringshall
- Wilby

For each visit we prepare useful information for parents and request that the school shares it with them. We also share additional resources with teachers and encourage them to extend pupils' understanding in the classroom.

Next year we will continue to develop our educational content with new sessions linked to curriculum. We will utilise school networks to share information about Better Recycling, creating sessions for pupils and opportunities to engage with their families.

Summer internships and graduate programme

Applications are now open for undergraduates who wish to join us as part of the summer internships programme.

The 12-week programme starts on **22 June 2026** and is a chance for students to develop their skills and explore a variety of career paths and learning opportunities.

The deadline for applications is **31 January 2026**.

If you know someone who would benefit from taking part, be sure to [share the brochure](#) with them, which also contains details on how to apply.

Additionally, the Suffolk Graduate Partnership offers a two-year development programme designed to give graduates hands-on experience in local government and the chance to contribute to meaningful projects that shape our communities.

To qualify, applicants need to have at least a 2:2 degree and have graduated within the last two years (from Summer 2026).

Applications close on **28 February 2026**, with the project starting on **21 September 2026**