

District Councillor report for 2025-26 – Burstall

Major changes have developed over my short time as your district councillor, such as the government decision to have a 3-council body instead of 1 council and district councils, known as LGR.

There will be Western Suffolk, Eastern Suffolk and Ipswich and South Suffolk from May 2028. Babergh is currently forming part of a Voluntary Joint Committee that will begin to facilitate the discharge of function relating to preparatory and transition arrangements that refer to Structural Change Order (SRO) when legislation comes into force. The elections for the actual councillors that will sit on the unitary council will take place in May 2027. The joint committee will be there only to help the transition and merely make suggestions to the new shadow unitary council. Full completion of the reorganisation is expected to be completed May 2028.

Reform UK have now taken control of Suffolk County Council with only a short time to show if and how they will improve our county. Whilst I understand it was not everyone's first choice; I believe that we should give them a chance to prove themselves ahead of the elections next May.

One of the biggest challenges I have faced since being elected is the lack of understanding and senseless actions of Babergh DC towards the BESS / Solar Farm. Again, there is another pre-planning environmental impact assessment for further development ahead of any planning application being submitted.

I am proud to have worked alongside such a dedicated and knowledgeable Parish Council with regards to this issue and I promise, I will continue to fight for you, as residents of Burstall, right up to the day it is stopped or Babergh no longer exists.

On a good note, I am pleased that the village hall has been successful in its application for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money towards the redevelopment. I am looking forward to seeing the work begin and hope that you will allow me to join you at the grand re-opening, as I'm sure it will be the centre of your community for many generations.

I am looking forward to continuing to represent Burstall for the next 2 years and although I work full time, I will continue to be available to listen to and address any concerns that you may have.

Marc Rowland (Cllr)

Babergh DC

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