

## BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL MEDIA RELEASE

### **Babergh pledges to protect wildlife**

**For immediate release:** 30 September 2019

**Wildflower verges, free trees for families, and a map showing Babergh's wildlife networks are included in council pledges to help protect biodiversity and natural habitats within the district.**

At its Full Council meeting last week (Tuesday 24 September), councillors passed a motion with a range of pledges to enhance and protect biodiversity in Babergh.

Initiatives include developing plans to introduce wild flower verges to encourage bees and insects; creating and developing a Wildlife Network Map to identify potential wildlife corridors and encourage eco-tourism; as well as the introduction of a Tree for Life scheme – offering parents in the district a free tree to celebrate the arrival of a child.

The council will work with public sector partners and other parties as part of the environment and climate change taskforce, to fulfil the pledges and look at the ways biodiversity corridors can be enhanced in Babergh to protect wildlife. This works towards Suffolk's ambition of being the greenest county.

The environment and climate change taskforce will look at how Babergh and Mid Suffolk will respond to the climate change challenge and fulfil their ambition to become carbon neutral.

Approved amendments put forward by the Green group included a pledge to provide additional biodiversity resources to support the taskforce as required, more support for planning officers, strengthening the role of the public realm team and providing necessary advice to parishes and other community landowners.

Funding for this work during 2019/20 will be approved by Cabinet with the taskforce recommending the future budget in a report back to cabinet by Spring 2020.

The motion tabled by Cllr Elisabeth Malvisi, Babergh District Council's Cabinet Member for Environment complements the biodiversity motion passed at Mid Suffolk District Council's Full Council on 25 July.

Cllr Elisabeth Malvisi, said:

“Recognising the responsibility we have to enhance protect biodiversity and wildlife in Babergh is so important. Through the environment and climate change taskforce, and working with partners, we will now look at how we can support biodiversity and wildlife conservation in our Babergh communities – working towards the county-wide aim to make Suffolk the greenest county and build on our 2030 carbon neutral ambitions.”