



Your area in the future - Your voice now!

Is the future of your town or village important to you? Are you concerned about where your children might live when they grow up, where and how the services we all need will be provided and how your environment will be protected? At first sight, the term Local Development Framework (LDF) might not seem that important. But your attitude might change if you knew that it is the means by which Babergh will direct where new housing and businesses will go - and how important issues such as sustainable living should be in the future. In recent months, Babergh has already been touring the district trying to explain what the LDF is all about and what should be its guiding principles.

Babergh staff have pitched up at Brantham, Hadleigh, Shotley and Sudbury to meet with the public and hear their views on these important matters. Rich Cooke, Babergh's Planning Policy Manager, said: "These conversations with residents and business people have been really helpful in starting to shape some of the answers to key questions such as 'should future new housing be spread evenly across the district or concentrated in the two market towns and on the fringe of Ipswich?'.

"It is certainly not too late for people to submit their thoughts on such 'big

picture' questions."

In the autumn, Babergh will be producing another report which pulls together the responses from this first consultation and other comments received.

During 2010 the Council will start the process of identifying specific locations for future developments - at which point the public will again have a chance to have an influence. Only written responses can be accepted, so please visit www.babergh.gov.uk to download a response form. Please telephone 01473 826678 or email us on ldf@babbergh.gov.uk if you have any further questions or would like a response form sent to you.



Originally from Suffolk, Gemma studied at the Leith School of Food, in London, after which she built a successful business as a professional caterer working for the likes of film and TV scriptwriter Richard Curtis and journalist Emma Freud.

Returning earlier than planned because of the death of her father, Gemma has established her business in Boxford.

"I wanted my business to grow so that I could cater for functions of 150 - 200 people, as well as being a personal chef for smaller events.

"The business growth loan from Babergh has helped me to build a professional kitchen in some old stables and to partially fit it with equipment. I couldn't expand my business if I was operating out of a small kitchen."

We can't provide all the answers but...

We can't provide all the answers - but we know who can.

Whether we call it a recession, an economic downturn or the credit crunch, these are difficult times - both for residents and businesses. One of the greatest challenges is finding the answer to the question - who or where can I go to get some much-needed advice and help, now and in the future?

Here, *Babergh Matters!* has some

suggestions to get you started.

Can you get to a PC? Try www.one-suffolk.co.uk and "credit crunch", www.direct.gov.uk or www.adviceguide.org.uk or our own website www.babergh.gov.uk and don't forget that all Suffolk libraries have PCs that you can use. Not the option for you? So let's start identify what is the main issue facing you:

Redundancy? Call Jobcentre Plus for

free on 0800 0556688. Once they have done their bit other help can follow. Struggling to pay your bills? If it's lots of bills talk to your nearest Citizens Advice Bureau. Either at Sudbury on 01787 374671 or Ipswich on 01473 219777

If it's just your Council Tax or Council Rent that's the problem, talk to Babergh on 01473 825757

In short if you think we can help give us a call. That's why we're here!