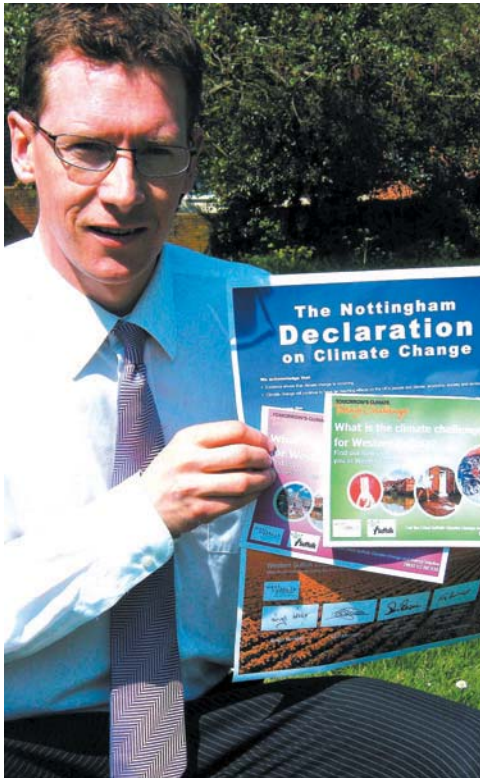


CLIMATE CHANGE - is it everyone's problem?



A new series of leaflets aimed at informing Babergh residents about climate change and the practical steps they can take to reduce its impact has been launched. Babergh District Council – and other strategic organisations in west Suffolk – led the way earlier this year when they signed a Magna Carta-style agreement on climate change. The agreement, known as the 'Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change' includes a commitment to reduce the carbon footprint of Babergh and other organisations in the West Suffolk Local Strategic Partnership. This would be achieved by working with central government to contribute, at a local level, to the delivery of the UK Climate Change Programme, the Kyoto Protocol and the target for carbon dioxide reduction by 2010. Suffolk has been identified by the Met Office as being particularly at risk from the effects of climate change. Heatwaves, droughts and flooding have already affected the county in recent years – and are predicted to become more frequent within the lifetime of

the current generation. Jonas Grist, Babergh's Technical Officer (Waste Strategy), said: "We think a Magna Carta-style signing shows our commitment as a partnership to do our bit to reduce the impact of climate change in west Suffolk. "We believe the signed document, which will be displayed at the headquarters of Babergh's offices in Hadleigh, is a great way to get the public's attention over this hugely important green issue. "Babergh also firmly believes that responsibility for climate change is everyone's. At the moment we are paying for mistakes made 40 years ago, let's try as much as we can to make sure our children aren't paying for ours." The signing of the climate change declaration was accompanied by the launch of household and business publications that raise awareness of why climate change is so important to everyone in Suffolk. These, together with advice on what action we can all take to reduce the impact of climate change, are available at Babergh's District Council offices or from www.greensuffolk.org.

KEEPING YOU SAFER.....

From illegal meat and poor hygiene standards to lack of relevant Health and Safety procedures – Babergh's Food and Safety Team have dealt with them all this year. The team have had a series of successful court prosecutions. In one case, a Chinese restaurant was ordered to pay £12,000 in fines and £4,400 in legal costs after persistently failing to meet basic food and hygiene standards. In another prosecution, a Babergh butcher had meat in his possession that had been illegally slaughtered and supplied to him for butchering. The meat was seized from his premises by Babergh Officers and subsequently destroyed after the case went to court the following week. A Stowmarket farmer, who had supplied the butcher, was ordered to pay the incineration costs plus Babergh's legal fees. Further action is still being considered. Officers also prosecuted a Babergh riding school after it failed to follow basic safety procedures for a new rider where



a child fell from a horse and suffered a fractured arm requiring surgery and a four-day spell in hospital. The riding school owner was fined £1,015. Julian Halls, Babergh's Principal Food and Safety Officer, said: "All of these are very serious offences and the fines imposed reflect this. "Babergh has a duty to members of the

public to make sure businesses comply with current legislation and guidelines. "It is Council policy to work with the trade to maintain and, where possible, improve standards. Where we are offering advice and it is ignored we can, and will, use the law to bring about improvements - but this is always as a last resort."