



**Corks Lane
Hadleigh
Ipswich IP7 6SJ**

**MEDIA RELEASE
8th May 2003**

BABERGH LAUNCHES INNOVATIVE LANDLORDS FORUM.

Babergh District Council is launching a Landlords Forum – with a view to improving the safety and quality of private rented accommodation in the area.

Following on from a questionnaire sent out to local landlords as part of its Best Value Review, Babergh's Environmental Services Team are organising an evening session of speakers and workshops on Thursday 29th May, aimed at improving the dialogue between the Council and private landlords.

"Our aim is to further improve Babergh's working relationship with the district's many private landlords" said Sue Herne, Senior Environmental Health Officer and the organiser of the event. "We will bring together many of the Council's professionals who work to help both landlords and their tenants."

At the first meeting, Bob Southgate, Babergh's Head of Revenues, will talk about issues around Housing Benefit and the responsibilities of landlords. An information pack relating to Energy Efficiency Grants that are available to landlords will also be available on the night.

Other issues that will be discussed will include the need to form better links between private landlords and Babergh and a talk on the results of the Council's recent House Condition Survey.

This first meeting will be held in the Council Chamber at Babergh's offices at Corks Lane, Hadleigh. The meeting will commence at 7pm.

Any landlords or letting agents that wish to attend should contact Sue Herne at Babergh District Council on (01473) 825871 or on sue.herne@babergh.gov.uk to book a place. ENDS

For further media information, contact Paul Simon, Communications & PR Officer (01473) 826634