



Hadleigh is a busy and attractive market town. Babergh District Council is proud to be able to contribute to making the place look as good as it does – and convenient for everyone. Here *Babergh Matters!* looks at some ways in which the Council achieves this.

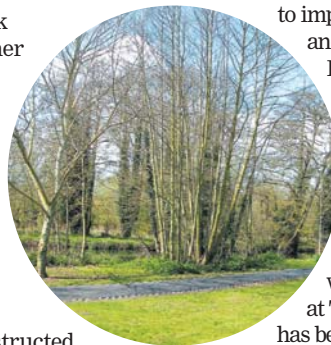
### Helping the Hanging Gardens of Hadleigh

Babergh's Horticultural Team is fully behind the scheme to further brighten up the town by increasing the number of hanging baskets in bloom. Babergh's Horticultural Officer, Jo Seymour, has been providing advice about running the scheme and tips on the best plants and flowers to use. Babergh has also offered to help co-ordinate activities should the idea be extended to include the various flower beds in the town as well.



### Take me to the river

With summer upon us, residents and visitors to Hadleigh can now more easily stroll along the River Brett thanks to improvements funded and managed by Babergh. The second part of the programme to resurface, raise and widen (from four feet to six to make it easier for couples and families to walk together) the path at Toppesfield Gardens has been completed. "We hope that this makes this lovely spot even easier to access and enjoy," explained Mark Tavernor, Babergh's Horticultural Manager. For further information: [www.babergh.gov.uk/babergh/walks](http://www.babergh.gov.uk/babergh/walks) for countryside walks in Babergh (Hadleigh and Sudbury).



### Making parking easier!

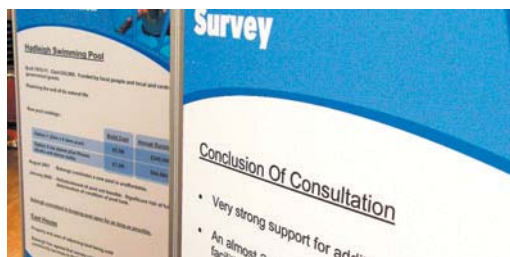
In July, Babergh District Council will be installing a new ticket machine at its High Street car park near to the disabled parking bays. According to Stewart Schleip, Babergh Open Spaces Manager: "We hope that this will reduce any inconvenience that disabled drivers might have previously had in having to get a ticket from the machine nearest to Magdalen Road".

# HADLEIGH: a clearer picture of what's wanted

"The people of Hadleigh have given us a clear picture of what they want; we must now strive to help deliver it for them". Cllr. Nick Ridley, Babergh's Strategy Committee Chairman, was speaking at the end of investigations into what leisure services residents would like in addition to the swimming pool, which the Council has committed to keeping open for as long as possible. The Facilities in Hadleigh Steering Group, comprising Babergh District and Hadleigh Town Councils and South Suffolk Leisure, sent out a questionnaire to over 1000 homes in late February across Hadleigh and the surrounding villages in February. The Steering Group had already identified

wanted to get first-hand feedback from the community as to whether these ideas were on the right track. The main findings uncovered by the 301 responses were as follows: ■ 64% of respondents wanted a new building for leisure purposes, with 36% preferring any available funds to go to existing facilities other than the pool ■ Should a new building be constructed, 28% of responses suggested they would use it as a place for local organisations to meet, 25% to meet club hire needs, another 25% for supervised youth activities, 15% for playgroups and 7% for other uses

In May, using the services of Leisure-net Solutions Ltd., a firm specialising in researching consumer leisure, both existing providers of leisure services such as local clubs and organisations and the general public were able to comment on these findings at meetings held in the Town Hall. These comments were still being analysed as *Babergh Matters!* went to press. Babergh's Strategy Committee is due to meet in mid-June and is being asked to consider the next steps needed to move the project forward.



a range of possible facilities (these were social area with catering and IT facilities, a gym, a community space and dance studio) that any new building might contain and