

Play Your Part for cleaner, safer neighbourhoods

Many people are actively doing their bit for the global environment by recycling, saving energy and buying local produce. But what do we do about anti-social behaviour that can affect our immediate surroundings such as litter, graffiti, fly-tipping, dog fouling and abandoned cars?

These are some of the most common complaints from local residents yet many are reluctant to challenge irresponsible dog owners or report people for dropping litter. Young people often get the blame but some adults can be just as bad; not realising that all littering is a criminal offence carrying fines of up to £1000.

Keeping our communities clean, safe and litter-free is a challenge for council services, which costs tax payers more than half a billion pounds a year nationally. Cleansing teams work hard to remove graffiti and rubbish promptly to reduce the risk of repeat offending, but they rely on the public to keep them informed.

Babergh District Council is working with local businesses and residents to tackle graffiti by identifying and prosecuting persistent 'taggers' as well as providing free graffiti removal kits.

Parish and town councils have also responded to the problem by providing extra litter and dog mess bins, fixed penalty notices, volunteer litter picks and removing graffiti, however they too need the support of the community to succeed.

Play your part for a cleaner, safer environment by reporting any anti-social behaviour as soon as you see it.

The new Safer Neighbourhood Teams made up of police, councils, organisations and volunteers are working together to listen to people's concerns and tackle local issues promptly. You can contact your parish/ward team and report problems by visiting www.safersuffolk.org.uk or telephoning Suffolk Constabulary on 01473 613500.

You can contact Babergh District Council environmental services department on 01473 825890, or email waste@babergh.gov.uk. Problems such as fly-tipping and abandoned cars can be reported online at www.onesuffolk.co.uk.