

# A clean sweep for Babergh

The streets of the district are cleaner than ever – and now Babergh has scooped four Stars in a national award scheme to prove it! Judges from the 2009 Clean Britain Awards toured Babergh and looked at a variety of criteria including litter and waste bin management.

Babergh has been rolling out many projects across the district in a bid to discourage litter bugs – including extra litter bins, working with businesses to reduce cigarette butt litter and stepped up enforcement patrols with officers handing out fines for litter dropping. The Council's own performance indicators, where people are surveyed on their impressions of cleanliness in the district, has also seen an improvement. Hadleigh and Sudbury town centres have



seen an 81 per cent increase in total cleanliness since the last survey. Daniel Whymark, Babergh's Local Environmental Quality Officer, said: "Babergh is delighted to have gained national recognition for the district because of its cleanliness. "Litter is unsightly, anti-social and it costs the Council Taxpayer money to clear up. Although pleased with the result, Babergh isn't going to rest on its laurels – we're now gearing up to go one

better and scoop the full five stars in 2010!"

Babergh also encourages members of the public to have pride in where they live and help with litter problems by organising community litter picks. Anyone wanting to get involved with community litter picking can call Babergh to organise the loan of high-visibility vests, gloves, litter pickers and rubbish sacks. For more information, call 01473 825890.

## Crackdown on anti-social dog owners

Babergh officers are calling on residents to act as its eyes and ears on the streets to help it stamp out the problem of careless dog owners who let their pets foul public areas.

Scores of complaints from concerned members of the public about increased instances of dog fouling in the Hadleigh, Sudbury and Great Cornard areas of the district have been recorded.

Now dog owners who fail to clear up after their pet could soon be on the receiving end of a £50 fine – as patrols to combat this anti-social behaviour will soon be stepped up as a result. And Babergh is urging the public to help too – to help catch offenders red-handed and stamp out this anti-social behaviour.

Jo Hart, Babergh's Environmental Protection Officer, said: "Apart from being a nuisance, dog fouling can be a health risk - particularly to children – so it is especially alarming that people are failing to clear up after their dogs in the vicinity of schools."

More patrols across the district are being carried out with officers poised to issue Fixed Penalty Notices of £50 to those caught red-handed.

The public can report any instances by visiting the Council Offices on Corks Lane, by calling 01473 826622, or emailing [environmental.protection@babergh.gov.uk](mailto:environmental.protection@babergh.gov.uk)

## Gotcha! Covert camera catches litter bug

A driver has been fined £60 after throwing two wine bottles out of his car and being caught red-handed by a hidden camera - in what is thought to be the first successful use of this technology in Suffolk.

Babergh District Council's Environmental Protection Team uses CCTV cameras to deter fly-tipping and littering by monitoring known hotspots in the district.

The reviewing of camera footage of a roadside pull-in on Sheepshead Hill, Great Cornard over the last weekend in January, Council enforcement officers witnessed the driver

throw two wine bottles through the window of his car and drive off.

The owner of the vehicle was traced through the Driver and Vehicle

Licensing Agency (DVLA) and formally interviewed. The evidence recorded on the camera was sufficient for enforcement action to be taken and resulted in the driver being issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN).

Daniel Whymark, Babergh's Local Environmental Quality Officer, said: "Babergh takes a zero tolerance approach to such crimes. In the past six months alone we have issued eight FPNs for littering.

"There is no excuse for littering, especially from vehicles, and we hope that by raising awareness of this particular incident, potential litter bugs will think twice before committing an offence."



Evening Star photograph