



More home 'sweet' homes for Babergh

A new target for delivering affordable housing in the district is being considered after Babergh revealed it had exceeded its last Target 700 by 12 per cent. Officers and Councillors are now looking at a new target which will see Babergh aiming to achieve a further 500 affordable homes for the district from 2009 to 2014.

The new target reflects the difficult economic climate and downturn in the housing market, which means many private developers have scaled down future plans and less people are able, or want to, to get mortgages.

Ian Tippet, Babergh's Strategic Housing Manager, said: "Babergh is really pleased with what it has achieved with its affordable housing programme – and has exceeded its target by 12 per cent within an exceptionally short timescale. "We know that local people need, and want,

these types of homes and that is why providing more affordable housing is such a high priority. Making sure there are affordable homes not only gives people security but it also makes sure rural communities keep their vitality and sustainability.

"Babergh is now looking forward to the next five years and delivering even more homes to even more people."

Between April 1st, 2004 and March 31st, 2009, Babergh has achieved:

- Completions of 424 homes for affordable rent and shared ownership.
- 79 more homes under construction.
- A further 284 homes with planning permission already granted.
- Making a total of 787 secured in the district in the last four years. This means Babergh has exceeded its target by 12%.



Work to start on affordable housing for Lavenham

More families struggling to find affordable homes in one of Babergh's most desirable villages could soon have reason to celebrate.

Babergh is working in partnership with the parish council and Hastoe Housing Association to deliver a housing development in Lavenham because of significant local demand.

Plans to build seven, two and three bedroom houses on Brent Eleigh Road have been given the go ahead and work is due to start on site next month.

Priority will be given to people with strong local connections to the village. Ian Tippet, Babergh's Strategic Housing Manager, said: "Lavenham is a beautiful village but house prices and private rent is extremely high.

"We have found there is significant demand from local families who would like to stay in the village they grew up in, or where they have family, but just cannot afford to.

"This scheme will go a long way to helping those people - and also keep the vitality and diversity of the village alive."

An Open Afternoon is also being held for this scheme on June 18th, from 2.30pm until 7pm, in the Guildhall, Lavenham. Everyone is welcome to attend and look at the plans and register interest. If you would like more information on the Open Afternoon - or to register your interest for this latest development or get further information about affordable housing in your area - please visit www.babergh.gov.uk or call Babergh on (01473) 825757.