

## District News

Welcome to this months District News, both Neil and I hope that all is well with you although our 'Summer' weather is not exactly showing itself.

Owing to the calling of a General Election by the Prime Minister on July 4<sup>th</sup>, certain measures are put into place for councils that prohibit certain actions by both Officers and Councillors. Owing to this there is not much happening to share with you this month.

## Local Plan

Because of the above there has been a slight delay in publishing Regulation 19 of the plan as below: -

### Local Plan timetable update

The timetable for the emerging Draft Uttlesford Local Plan has been pushed back about two weeks due to the General Election.

The draft plan was scheduled for publication in late June but will now be published immediately after the election on 4 July, **now to be published on Friday 5 July**, meaning subsequent meetings have been rescheduled. This is due to restrictions placed on local authorities in the build up to an election.

The key meeting dates in the revised programme are as follows:

- Local Plan Panel – moved from 2 July to **Monday 15 July**
- Cabinet – moved from 11 July to **Thursday 18 July**
- Extraordinary Full Council – moved from 16 July to **Tuesday 30 July**

If approved by Full Council, the plan will be subject to a period of public consultation – known as the "Publication Version" – before it is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for examination later this year.

This consultation, if passed by full council, is scheduled to be opened on **Thursday 8 August** and run for 8 weeks instead of the legally required 6.

There may be a slight adjustment to the publish and consultation date.

More information will be made available on the UDC website.

[www.uttlesford.gov.uk/new-local-plan](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/new-local-plan)

## St Claire Hospice

I visited the UDC Community Safety Partnership road show on site in Little Hallingbury on Tuesday 11 June where there was representation for both council and local groups waiting to give free advice and in the case of Touchpoint Stansted, free food. The fire service had some very good advice on Fire Safety in the Home and are happy to survey your home for free smoke alarms including fitting or just checking your own one to make sure it is in

working order. If you want to take them up on this offer send me your details and I will ask them to make an appointment. However today I would just like to promote St Clare Hospice, who are doing a great job in our community, please see the extract taken from their website below: -

### **Who we are and what we do**

St Clare Hospice is a charity providing specialist palliative care to improve the lives of people affected by a life-limiting illness in West Essex and the borders of East Hertfordshire. Our care helps patients, their families, and carers, to make the most of every moment together, no matter how long they have left to live.

We support them at home and in the Hospice. With limited NHS funding, we need to raise more than 70% of our annual costs to provide our vital services; in 2023/2024 the running costs of our charity is expected to be £7.3 million. We therefore rely on our local community to help us raise money each year so we can continue being there for local families facing one of the most difficult journeys in life.

### **Our care**

We offer a range of free, palliative and end of life care services to suit the needs of all local people who are facing death, dying and bereavement. We also offer community-based, volunteer-led support to help support local people in relation to living, and dying, well.

Hospice care at St Clare is varied, and aims to provide a holistic approach to a person's overall wellbeing.

### **Our support ranges from:**

Specialist, medical care, either on our Inpatient Unit or through our Hospice at Home and Community Palliative Care Team

Therapeutic support via our Outpatient services, to help people manage their illness and live well independently

Psychological, emotional, spiritual and practical support designed to help people navigate their journey

Bereavement support, tailored to a person's needs – whether their loss was recent or a long time ago

Community-based services to help support local people's overall wellbeing

If you are interested in Volunteering you can contact them at [stclarehospice.org.uk/volunteer](http://stclarehospice.org.uk/volunteer) or call them on 01279 773704

You may also be looking for something to do to past the time that is not so stressful, so why not check out the following: -

Arts & Craft or Men's Shed 01279 773700, Dementia Carers' Café 07534 031702, Café Clare 01279 773703. They also have a lottery to help raise funds. You can find out more on their website

<https://stclarehospice.org.uk>

## **Parliamentary General Election - North West Essex constituency - Thursday 4 July 2024**

A reminder that all is not what it was, some general information, Not all Uttlesford electors will vote for this new constituency due to parliamentary constituencies boundary changes.

Broad Oak and the Hallingburys and Hatfield Heath will come under the Harlow constituency

Felsted and Stebbing and The Sampfords will come under Braintree constituency.

The remaining parts of the district comprise the former Saffron Walden constituency and take in polling from outlying parts of Chelmsford City Council. Your polling cards will tell you the information you require to vote in the above Districts, including your polling station, this has probably not changed.

### **Voting by post**

From 31 October 2023, postal vote applications will only be valid for a maximum 3 year period. You then have to re-apply and the Uttlesford Elections Team will write to you about this prior to your period expiring.

Anyone whose name appears on the register of electors can apply to vote by post. No special qualifications or requirements are necessary. If you want to vote by post at any or all elections you can apply to do so.

### **You can vote in person at your local poll station**

Before every election (except for parish elections, unless the parish council chooses to have poll cards) your local authority will deliver poll cards to everyone registered and entitled to vote. These tell you the date of the election, what the election is, what the voting hours are and where your polling station is located. And from May 2023 this will list the suitable photo ID you must bring with you - this will be listed on the back of the new style poll card that will be posted to you in an envelope.

### **Voting by proxy**

You can request a proxy vote if you want someone else to vote on your behalf because you can't get to your polling station on polling day.

Proxy voting is where you appoint someone to go to the polling station and vote on your behalf. Your proxy is then intended to vote in the way you direct.

Unlike postal voting, proxy voting other than for one election is restricted to certain categories of people.

The law changed from 31 October 2023 under the Elections Act changes. There is now a limit to the amount of people someone can be a proxy for. You can act as a proxy for two people. If you vote on behalf of UK voters who live overseas, you can act as a proxy for up to four people (but only two of those can live in the UK).

You will also be able to apply online for a proxy vote, except if your application form needs attesting by someone or if applying for an emergency proxy.

Photo ID as a proxy, you will need to take and show at the polling station your photo voter ID before you are given a ballot paper for the elector.

You do NOT need to bring any photo ID for the elector.

More specific information can be obtained from the Uttlesford website or by calling 01799 510510 and asking for the election team.

<https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/general-election>

### **Ward surgeries**

Please note that these surgeries are for you to discuss issues that you may have with UDC, that we as your District Councillors can help with, or represent you where possible. Please do come along and have a chat, you do not need to arrange an appointment, they are walk in surgeries.

See below for location and timings:

The first Tuesday of each month at Great Hallingbury Village Hall, 2 – 4pm (02 July) and the third Friday of each month at the Dukes Head PH, Hatfield Broad Oak also between 2 – 4pm (19 July).

And the normal reminder. that should you need to contact us, you can email us on the following addresses.

[clldriscoll@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:clldriscoll@uttlesford.gov.uk) or [cllrreeve@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrreeve@uttlesford.gov.uk)

**Enjoy your summer**