

District News

Welcome to the October issue of District News

Uttlesford District Council

Local Plan update

The online consultation on the emerging Local Plan and the implementation of CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) will close on Monday 27th October 2025. As a resident in Uttlesford make sure you have had your say.

For more information go to the UDC website:

<https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk>

Local government reorganisation

Uttlesford District Councillors came together for an Extraordinary Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber in London Road, Saffron Walden on Tuesday 23rd September to discuss and vote on which of the four options available they thought would be in the best interest for residents in Uttlesford.

Councillor Lees (R4U), Leader of the Council, presented the report regarding the Submission of Proposals to Government regarding Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). She thanked the Chief Executive and officers for their work on LGR, which was in addition to their day-to-day duties.

She said it was important that the Council engaged with this process in order to shape the future of the area and referred to the guidance around population size for the new unitaries, which stated that the numbers proposed for Business Case A were in keeping with existing unitary authorities across the country.

She proposed her motion as set out in the report, which endorsed Business Case A, the case for 5 unitary authorities across Greater Essex. She said this model represented the best value in terms of true localism and democratic representation. Councillor Sell (Lib Dem) seconded the proposal.

The business reports for 1 x 5 Unitaries, 2 x 4 Unitaries and 1 x 3 Unitaries were on the table.

The Chairman said notice of an amendment had been received; he called on

Councillor Gooding (Conservative) to speak to the amendment, after which a recorded vote was called for by Councillor Gooding, at the end of the debate. The amendment was defeated with a cross-party vote of 5 For, 24 against and 4 abstentions, there were 6 councillors absent from the meeting.

The Chairman then called for debate on the substantive motion.

After the debate on the main motion the Chairman put the substantive motion to a vote.

The motion was approved with 24 votes for, 4 against and 5 abstentions.

The decision was ratified at Cabinet at a meeting following directly after the ECM and was submitted to Government by the due date of 26th September 2025. The council will be advised of the governments decision in March 2026.

You can also find out more by searching Local government reorganisation on the UDC website

<https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk>

Zero Carbon Communities Grant scheme

If you are a council or community group in Uttlesford you can apply for funding to tackle the climate crisis through our Zero Carbon Communities Grant Scheme.

The Zero Carbon Communities Grant Fund is open to community groups and parish and town councils, with grants of up to £10,000 available.

Projects might include:

Community buildings - for example, energy conservation or efficiency measures

Nature and biodiversity projects - this could include community allotment projects, or the restoration, creation or enhancement of a community nature area

Other projects - such as waste reduction projects or community initiatives that promote sustainable lifestyle choices

You are welcome to apply for more than one project.

However, we are aiming to allocate funding so that we can support as wide a range of projects as possible across the district.

<https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/zero-carbon-communities-grant>

Parking, Transport and Streets

With Christmas fast approaching find out about travelling within the Uttlesford District, where to park, our local footpaths and who looks after the streets.

Parking fine scam

Don't fall foul of a new text scam conning people into paying fake parking fines.

UDC are warning anyone using their car parks and on-street parking not to respond to a text message stating that they have received a parking ticket.

The text message is fake and is part of a national scam.

You can find out where to park and how much it will cost. Apply for season tickets, permits or pay a parking ticket (Penalty Charge Notice) when and how you need to pay using the following link.

<https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/where-to-park-in-uttlesford>

Safety, Crime and Emergencies

Hate Crime

Hate Crime is different to other types of crime because the offender is motivated by who the victim is or appears to be. Hate crime and incidents are acts that are motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's:

race

religion

sexual orientation

disability

transgender identity

This includes crimes where the victim is targeted because of who they are or who they appear to be. You don't need to personally believe an incident is hate-related. It's enough if someone else, like a witness or a police officer, thinks it is.

It's important to report both hate crimes and hate incidents to help agencies address and prevent these acts.

For more information about hate crime, visit the Essex Police website.

<https://www.essex.police.uk/search?q=Hate+Crime>

Safeguarding

Having mentioned Christmas earlier in the edition of District News, the cold weather is no doubt on it's way. Do you have neighbours that may need help during this period?

If your concern relates to:

Quality of care, read advice from the Care Quality Commission

Housing, contact the UDC housing team

Benefits or finances, contact the UDC benefits team

Access to health checks and emotional health and wellbeing support, read advice from the Essex Wellbeing Service

Ward Surgeries

Normal Ward surgeries will take place on the first Tuesday of the month at Great Hallingbury Village Hall, between 2 – 4pm (04 November 2025).

The Little Hallingbury Village Hall surgery has been changed to the third Thursday of the month between 2 – 4pm (20 November 2025).

The afternoon surgery on 21st November 2025 will be held at the normal location and time, the Dukes Head PH, Hatfield Broad Oak between 2 – 4pm.

And the normal reminder, that should you need to contact Neil or myself (Geof), you can email us on the following addresses.

cllrdiscoll@uttlesford.gov.uk or cllrreeve@uttlesford.gov.uk