

Please see ECC and CCC report

Highways

It has just been announced that the LHPs will be closed to new applications. There is an increased budget this year (£6M across Essex), but it will be used to clear the extensive backlog.

I asked about situations where Parish Councils wish to fund schemes, as the front end of the process is common to both – i.e., the validation process. I was reassured that this will be catered for. However, there is the intention to prioritise existing scheme designs, so access to design resource may be difficult. I asked if the design has to be done by Highways, and was told yes.

Self funding schemes that do not require extensive design are more likely to go ahead.

In terms of the Average Speed Cameras (ASC) on the RDR, the scheme is progressing. The camera supplier has quoted for the works and ECC are awaiting an order from the developer, Vistry. Once the order is received, there is a minimum 12-week lead-in time. Essex Highways are awaiting a set of drawings to technically review and to complete their safety audit, this will include matters such as the location of required signage. Your Clerk asked about the timescale as you are considering TruCam. Knowing how slow developers and Highways are, I would say that we would be still a year away, at least. My own Parish council are looking at employing TruCam.

Chelmsford Road leak

I was asked to look into this – surface water outside the Bakery on Chelmsford Road. Both Anglia Water and Essex & Suffolk, claimed it wasn't them.

The surface water appeared overnight and dried out during the day – the tarmac was in danger of collapsing!

The logical explanation is that the E&S water mains has higher pressure overnight!

I managed to persuade E&S to dig up the road, but they reported that their mains are intact, and the leak is from below their pipes. It is difficult to see how it could be ECC drains (as it occurs in dry spells), but they have it on their list to investigate. My best view is whether this is some sort of underground spring? Does anyone have any such memory of this? Anyway, E&S put some concrete over the leak, so it is unlikely to occur again!

SERP and Traffic Police Day in Broomfield 21st May 2025

I joined the Safer Essex Roads Partnership (SERP) in Broomfield for a focused Vision Zero Day, as part of the ongoing shared commitment to eliminate all road deaths and serious injuries by 2040.

Coinciding with Walk to School Week, our engagement team spent the morning speaking with parents on the school run about road safety and the everyday challenges they face.

Some voiced concerns about local speeding and driver behaviour, highlighting why community-level conversations are so important. Children received Vision Zero stickers as part of a continued effort to promote safer journeys from a young age, and a number of parents also pledged their support for the Vision Zero movement.

Meanwhile, the widescale enforcement team of 15 officers were joined by the local [Community Speed Watch](#) team and carried out proactive checks throughout the area.

Officers stopped 35 individuals, resulting in:

- 12 offences for mobile phone use while driving
- 3 for failing to wear a seatbelt.
- 2 for other traffic violations.
- 6 vehicle stop checks.

The team also ran TruCam speed enforcement across multiple sites, recording the following:

- Maldon Road, Great Baddow: 24 offences
- Ongar Road, Writtle: 7 offences
- Downham Road, Downham: 8 offences
- High Street, Stock: 3 offences
- Lordship Road, Writtle: 0 offences
- A138 Chelmer Road, Chelmsford: 25 offences
- A131 Beaulieu Parkway: 28 offences

Officers also seized four vehicles being driven without valid insurance- driving uninsured is illegal and irresponsible. Alarmingly, one of the vehicles was carrying a young family, including a baby incorrectly secured in an inappropriate seat, putting lives at considerable risk. This driver received a £300 fine and six points on their licence.

Additionally, during onsite conversations, one driver claimed to not be wearing a seatbelt due to claustrophobia; seatbelt use is not optional, it is the law and remains one of the simplest life-saving actions a driver or passenger can take. Another driver admitted to sending a picture to their partner, who was in hospital; regardless of

circumstances, using a hand-held mobile phone behind the wheel is illegal and dangerous- even a moment's distraction can lead to devastating consequences.

County Councillor Mike Steel, representing the Broomfield division, joined on-site and reflected on the importance of the day.

He said: "It has been great to attend the Chelmsford Vision Zero Day, to see the fantastic work of the SERP. Road safety is high on my agenda, and I am actively talking to Essex residents about their concerns."

He added: "There were six deaths on Chelmsford roads alone last year- which is six too many. It's vital that we all get on board with Vision Zero and all play our part in making our wonderful county safer for all."

The SERP will continue to patrol communities across Essex, bringing together education and enforcement to change behaviours, start conversations, and help people make better choices on our roads, with the objective of encouraging consistent, responsible driving, not just when enforcement is expected. By operating flexibly countywide, the team aims to support a culture of everyday road safety, where good decisions are made to protect everyone on the road.

And thanks to the VH (Donna and Les) for supplying tea and coffee for all of us.

Broomfield PC were invited to attend.

I must also add that the School Crossing Patrol (SCP) position is still vacant for School Lane. It surprises me that out of the 4,000 or so residents in Broomfield, no one wants to take the post, even though they complain about the traffic on School Lane.

Visit of MP Kemi Badenoch to Broomfield:

On 9th May I accompanied our MP, Kemi Badenoch, to a number of places in Broomfield.

We first went to Broomfield British Legion, in Saxon Way, to talk to veterans and committee during VE week. I am a member of the BL, in my own village, so I know about the wonderful work the BL do. The Broomfield branch has recently re-opened. Please do support them.

Then we went to Chelmer Valley High school (CVHS). The school put on some great displays of their GCSE courses, and other clubs – astronomy, electric car racing, Broomfield play area proposals, drama club, and more. CVHS has a wonderful reputation. Like many schools, it is suffering the impact of NI employer contribution increases and recruiting enough science/maths teachers. 2 of my children went to CVHS and are doing very well!

Our last visit was to Farleigh Hospice who told us about their 70 in-patients, but also about their 170 people they help in their own homes. They do an amazing job and most of their funds come from donations and fundraising – they have to raise £7.4M a year by these means which has not been helped by the employer NI increases which have added £250,000 to their costs! Please support them in any fundraising venture or donate <https://www.farleighhospice.org/>

Rural England Prosperity Fund Grant Scheme - now open to applications

Chelmsford City Council's Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) is now open to applications.

The Fund is to support capital projects that improve productivity and strengthen rural economies and communities. The Fund is aimed at both rural businesses and rural community groups.

Chelmsford City Council is inviting applications for funding of capital projects up to the value of £10,000.

Applications should have 20% of match funding in place. Full eligibility criteria and further details can be found on our website: www.chelmsford.gov.uk/repf. The webpage also contains a link and instructions for an eligibility map which details the areas within Chelmsford that are classed as 'rural' by DEFRA for the purpose of this fund. (GW is covered)

Applications should be received by 30th June 2025. If funding remains following this call for projects, we will then reopen the scheme to applications.

