

ECC Report

Beaulieu Park station

On 5th Sept, along with our MP Kemi Badenoch, I attended the final meeting of the Beaulieu Park station liaison committee. The station will open from 26th Oct with the first train at 7.20am.

Network Rail has built the new station for Chelmsford on behalf of Essex County Council; the first new railway station to be built on the Great Eastern Main Line in over 100 years.

The new station is part of a wider regeneration of the Beaulieu Park estate in Chelmsford with new road infrastructure and up to 14,000 homes

Essex County Council, in partnership with Chelmsford City Council, successfully secured £218m of funding from the Government's Housing and Infrastructure (HIF) fund together with £34m contributions from the South East Local Enterprise Partnership and the developers of Beaulieu, Countryside and L&Q.

The station comprises 3 platforms with a central loop line and new tracks to enable stopping services to call at the station while allowing fast trains to pass through unimpeded. It has 2 car parks totalling around 700 spaces, but it is located to encourage walking, cycling and use of public transport, with an on-site bus terminal and bike racks.

New classroom for Great Waltham School

On 5th September, I joined our MP, Kemi Badenoch, and ECC Education Cabinet Member Tony Ballto open the newly built classroom along with modifications to an existing classroom that had a limit of 23, which then applies to every year. This enables the school to move from 6 year classes to 7 classes of 30 pupils each, increasing the capacity of the school to 210. There is now a class for each of the 7 years a child spends at the school and removes the need for mixed age classes.

Before the arrival of Kemi, the children learnt about the role of an MP, so they were able to quiz Kemi on her experience as an MP and leader of the opposition. Justine Brooks, headteacher, welcomed Kemi, introduced her to pupils, teachers and governors, and then gave Kemi a pair of scissors to cut the ribbon. This was followed by a tour of the new classroom and a chat with children.

A414 Speed Limits

I have had a few queries about the speed limits on the A414.

So what is in place at the moment is a temporary traffic regulation order of 40mph for the whole length – these are all the A frame signs you will have seen out. This is only in place to protect the work force whilst we go about and install all the 'new signing' in relation to the new speed limit proposals as all the terminal signs need amending and all the side roads.

The installation works are planned for completion end of Sept – when new speed limits will be in place for the A414 from the Widford roundabout to the existing 30mph speed limit just east of the junction with the B181 at Tylers Green:

The following permanent speed limit changes will be taking place :

- The Existing 30 mph areas within this route are to be maintained unaffected by this proposal.
- Existing 50mph areas within this stretch of the A414 will be reduced to 40 mph and existing national speed limit sections will be reduced to 50 mph or 40 mph

There are plans for installation of average speed cameras – all the site locations have now been selected – the aim is to install these over a 4 week period Jan / Feb 2026.

Chelmsford City Council

Community Governance Review

Chelmsford City Council have initiated a Community Governance Review (CGR) to look again at whether there is a case for parishing the centre unparished area of Chelmsford. This is not directly connected to LGR, which can leave the centre unparished, although it would mean that parish council type services would need to be delivered by the Unitary Council rather than CCC, as is now. Because a full review was conducted in 2021/22, the Council intends to limit this review to the city centre, or the 'unparished' area – note that out of 33,000 households (52,000 electorate) in the unparished area, there were only around 300 responses in 21/22 and it was decided to leave the area unparished.

I am on the Connectivity and Governance committee which is performing this review. Personally, I think it is too soon to be doing this and will get confused with LGR as there will be 2 separate consultations going on at the same time. I think we should wait until we know the direction of travel for LGR, but the CCC ruling administration are determined to do this.

Whilst the review is limited to the subject of whether to parish the centre unparished areas, the consultation will invite comments from the parish tier council area that currently adjoins this. This includes: Broomfield, Chelmer, Chignal, Galleywood, Great Baddow, Margaretting, Springfield, Stock and Writtle. This is because any of these Prish Councils might wish to make a case for absorbing parts of the unparished area. The consultation will run 22nd Sept to 22nd Dec 20225

Mike

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