



**Resolution:**        **The payments were approved.**

2023/987 Allotment payments – Arrears

<b>Plots</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>		
10	£10.00	unpaid	
14	£10.00	unpaid	

**Resolution:**        **The two allotments holders in arrears to be chased for payment.**

2023/988 Review and agree the monthly bank reconciliation – Vice Chairman

**Resolution:**        **Approved with zero tolerance.**

2022/989 Review the Proposed budget for 2023 to 2024 of £13,250. - The Clerk

**Resolution:**        **The budget was approved.**

2022/990 Discuss and agree a precept demand for 2023-2024. Of £13,250 this is the equivalent of AN increase of approximately £3 per month on a band D.- The Clerk

**Resolution:**        **The precept was approved.**

### **Reports and Updates**

2023/991 Update on the Risk Matrix (non-financial or reputational).  
No changes.

2023/992 Discuss Drainage issue on Grange Road, Vicarage Road, Park Road

**Resolution:**        **The information received from the householder to be passed to Cllr Steel.**

2023/993 Woolmers Mead Drainage.  
Chelmer Housing Partnership will be contacted by Essex highways to work on a solution. An estimate of £500 has been received by the Parish Council to clear the drainage works of dead wood and general foliage.

2023/994 Consider supporting a speed watch team in the village.

**Resolution:**        **The Parish Council will place an advert in the parish news to enable volunteers to step forward.**

2023/995 Plans for the turrets in the playground.  
The archeological trust will support these works within the current report if the works are undertaken within 12 months of the initial report. Contact has been made with Chelmsford College to offer students an opportunity to create a design incorporating the turrets of the original wooden fort.

2023/996 Update on broadband services.  
The report taken on the night of our meeting last month was escalated internally with county broadband. Customers of county broadband have highlighted the continued poor service and a service rebate.

**Resolution:**        **Cllr Loudfoot will contact the service manager to highlight the concerns of the residents and request an update.**

2023/997 Playground item repairs.

The roundabout has been identified as in need of repair. A quote from Playdale needs to be reviewed.

**Resolution: The Council delegates power to the Clerk and Cllr Kenning to spend up to £2000 on repair works.**

2023/998 External authorities report

- **Highways:**

**Update on the Member Led pothole scheme** - I have submitted 38 of my 36 allowances – 24 have been completed, the 7 Pleshey ones are still awaiting planning dates, but I have only just submitted these.

**Speed/volume surveys**

Pleshey Rd – Avg 25mph, 85th percentile 31mph, avg weekday volume 151 in both directions  
Vicarage Rd – Avg 19mph, 85th percentile 24mph, avg weekday volume 1,120 in both directions

There are 3 Pleshey schemes on the LHP list – the surveys are part of the validation process.

- LCHE222027 Pleshey - 20mph
- LCHE222033 Vicarage Lane, 20mph
- LCHE222037 Pleshey Road, Signs Pedestrians in road warning

The first stage of any LHP scheme request is validation. This determines whether the solution is within policy.

If it gets through validation, it goes into the “unfunded scheme” list for consideration.

There are 12 ECC Cllrs covering all 12 divisions of Chelmsford, who determine which schemes go into the “funded” list.

All of this year’s budget, and next year’s, have already been allocated. Beyond this, by value, there are about 10 years’ worth of schemes sitting on the unfunded list.

Priority is jointly set by the 12 ECC Members of the LHP – according to policy, safety (as also informed by Traffweb collision data), recorded speeds/volumes from the surveys.

You can find the guidelines for all traffic matters on the LHP website.

[https://www.essexhighways.org/uploads/lhp/mg/02\\_ecclhpmembersguidespeedtma.pdf](https://www.essexhighways.org/uploads/lhp/mg/02_ecclhpmembersguidespeedtma.pdf)

- **Bus Survey**

A session was held with the Digigo team and the Local Bus Network Community Engagement Lead 4<sup>th</sup> Oct at Chignal VH.

The Pleshey No10 route fixed elements would be retained, but the flexible elements were under consideration. The fact that there was a flexible element was news to us. It turns out that passengers can phone up and get the bus to go off-route for a pickup!

- **Woolmers Mead Drainage.**

Last response from Highways was 2nd Oct following my request that they engage the enforcement process – “Essex Highway Officers have advised that it was understood that the local farmer had agreed to clear the ditch once the harvest was complete.”

I note the 4<sup>th</sup> of Oct response of Cllr Kenning saying that in fact the farmer had agreed to just quote. I have forwarded this to Highways.

- **Drainage issue on Grange Road, Vicarage Road, Park Road**

From 28<sup>th</sup> July – “*Essex Highways have looked at some old photos from January this year which show that the ditch next to the property was overflowing onto the road. They anticipate some culvert in that place which might have been buried or altered at some point. This site has been added to the ad hoc jetting list to be investigated further. Please be advised that these investigations will require a road closure which can take up to 16 weeks to finalise.*”

And from the 24<sup>th</sup> of Oct 23 – “*Officers have advised that In January, this year our Jetting crew emptied the water from the ditch in attempt to find a culvert, however there was no evidence of any headwall or pipe end. The Highways Authority doesn’t own any roadside ditches, it is the riparian landowner’s responsibility, so this matter has been left with the landowner for further action. This ditch appears to be*

*a stand-alone ditch without any out fall, hence if the ditch is getting filled from the adjacent lands or the adjacent property, it is believed it should be dealt with under Section- 50 license.”*

I don't know what that means – “Section- 50 license “ – or whether it means that ECC are dealing with it through enforcement. I have asked.

- **Recycling center vehicle bookings – Public Consultation**

Since January 2023, a pilot booking system has been in place at Essex County Council recycling centers. Following an evaluation of the trial, Essex County Council is proposing to retain a booking process permanently for all vehicles at their 21 recycling centers.

You can have your say on the proposal by completing the consultation survey before 19 November 2023. To read the evaluation, supporting documents and to complete the survey, visit [www.essex.gov.uk/recyclingcentrebookings](http://www.essex.gov.uk/recyclingcentrebookings)

The primary way to respond to the consultation is online via the ECC consultation portal, but you can request alternative options (such as a paper copy to fill in at home) by calling 0345 603 7625.

- **ECC Draft waste Strategy**

The draft Waste Strategy for Essex sets out the vision, targets and priorities of the Essex Waste Partnership (EWP). The strategy covers how we will manage waste from homes and businesses in the county for the next 30 years. Let us know what you think after completing our consultation. The consultation is open until Wednesday 22 November 2023.

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/wastestrategy>

- **General's Bridge**

With the bridge now in place, it will be interesting to get feedback on the traffic around the area.

Theoretically, there should be a reduction in quarry traffic using the ERW/White Hart Lane route as well as lighter vehicles accessing the A12 from ERW, with an expected increase in cars along the RDR.

Previous complaints to me have been mainly around the noise of HGVs along the RDR. This should get better, although the total amount of traffic along the RDR will increase.

- **Update on Schools impacted by Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)**

It's been 8 weeks since the DfE policy change on RAAC which resulted in significant impact to a number of school buildings across the county.

We have moved into a program management response phase to the situation rather than the crisis / emergency phases that we had been in throughout September.

Our priorities during September included:

- support schools to put immediate plans in place to enable face to face learning either on site or at alternative locations, or to support them put hybrid learning in place.
- work with schools to put mitigations in place – either structural mitigations or temporary accommodation in order to get pupils back on school sites as quickly as possible.
- ensure all maintained schools have had intrusive RAAC surveys.
- support academies with commissioning survey work if required.

All Essex schools are open and offering either face to face or hybrid learning. We record and publish [the list of schools impacted](#) weekly on the ECC website. As of this week all Essex schools are either open, are using alternative accommodation on site or are providing a hybrid learning offer while they wait for temporary accommodation to come on site. We are pleased to confirm that there are approved plans for all schools, with only five schools now having to provide a hybrid learning offer.

Our current focus is now:

- Continued focus on enabling those schools using alternative locations to move back on to the school site.
- Coordinating financial reimbursement requests to the DfE.
- Visits to schools to discuss progress on projects as well as assessing the impact on staff, pupils and families of remote learning and any temporary measures.

- Focus on progress of mitigation works to ensure that temporary accommodation is required for as short a time as possible, maintaining momentum to have pupils and staff back in their permanent buildings with access to all their usual facilities.
- **Launch of Saving the Day - Broomfield Road campaign**

Again, perhaps not wholly relevant to Writtle residents – but an example of ECC approach to active travel - Essex County Council has launched a new campaign to highlight the alternative travel options available in Chelmsford, with a particular focus on the Broomfield Road corridor.

Broomfield Road is one of the city's busiest road corridors. It is used by approximately 17,000 vehicles a day and suffers from significant traffic congestion and delays, particularly at peak times of the day.

The new [Saving the Day campaign](#), which is part of our ongoing Safer, Greener, Healthier initiative, aims to highlight the alternatives to driving and how people can avoid the traffic. The superhero-themed campaign promotes the benefits of walking, cycling and travelling by bus, highlighting how swapping even a few regular journeys can save people time, money and hassle.

There are a number of good bus services in the area and, following the government's recent announcement of an extension to the bus fare cap scheme, people can travel for £2 a single journey until December 2024. For longer journeys into Chelmsford from the north of the city, such as the Braintree area, the Chelmer Valley Park and Ride also offers an alternative to driving into the city center and is now just £3 a ticket. Alternatively, cycling can also offer a very cost-effective alternative to driving, especially for shorter journeys. At the busiest times of the day, it can also be quicker, with cycling along Broomfield Road up to three and a half minutes faster than driving at peak times. As part of the Chelmsford City Growth Package, the county council created a new flagship cycle route along Broomfield Road, providing hybrid cycle tracks between the city center and Patching Hall Lane.

The Saving the Day campaign will include various online, social media and outdoor advertising.

The council's sustainable travel team will also be working with local schools and promoting Bike ability cycling courses for schools and the support they can provide with travel planning.

For more information about the campaign, please visit the campaign webpage at: [www.essexhighways.org/saving-the-day](http://www.essexhighways.org/saving-the-day).

- **Proposed Army and Navy Sustainable Transport Package also includes walking, cycling, bus and Park and Ride improvements to encourage safer, greener and healthier travel.**

Plans to transform a vital gateway in Chelmsford have taken a step forward after Essex County Council was conditionally awarded £69 million of Government funding. This includes a hamburger roundabout (a new roundabout with a road through the center of it), bus priority measures and walking and cycling improvements at the junction itself and on the approaches to and from the roundabout. The package will also see a 350-space expansion of Sandon Park and Ride and a 500-space expansion of Chelmer Valley Park and Ride.

The £81 million project will also be part funded by Essex County Council and Chelmsford City Council. It can now move forward after the Department for Transport approved the outline business case and agreed to contribute £68.75million of Major Road Network (MRN) funding, subject to certain conditions. The funding is dependent on planning consent and other processes, as well as a full business case.

Work continued in developing the proposals further while the funding bid was being considered and planning applications are due to be submitted before the end of the year.

Based on the current program, construction is scheduled to start in Spring 2025 and be completed in 2028. This will be subject to planning approval and acquiring the required land.

Construction will be carefully sequenced to minimise disruption, with early expansion of Sandon Park and Ride to meet the anticipated increase in demand during works at the Army and Navy junction and provide an alternative means of travel into the city center.

For more information about the Army and Navy Sustainable Transport Package and to sign up for the project e-newsletter, please visit [www.essex.gov.uk/armyandnavy](http://www.essex.gov.uk/armyandnavy)

- Items to be e-mailed to the Clerk.

10.01.2024 Monthly Meeting @ 8PM  
14.02.2024 Monthly Meeting @ 8PM  
13.03.2024 Monthly Meeting @ 8PM  
10.04.2024 Monthly Meeting @ 8PM  
08.05.2024 AGM & Monthly Meetings @ 8PM

Meeting closed: 21:06

Will Adshead-Grant  
Clerk to the council.