

Election

Due to the death of Cllr Ian Grundy (both ECC and CCC), ECC have received a valid requisition for a by-election to be held for the Stock Division. The service of the requisition means that a by-election must be held. This is the case notwithstanding that we are now in the last six months before the ordinary elections.

Also, City Council, who have also received a requisition for a City Council by election, it has been determined that, if contested, polling day will be on Thursday 12 December, with the count being held the following day.

It is therefore anticipated that the notice of election will be published on Thursday, 7 November. Information about the election can be found here:

<https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/voting-and-elections/upcoming-elections/>

The pre-election period will commence on Thursday 12th November.

ECC Meeting 15th Oct:

Conservatives put through 2 motions:

1. One on opposing the removal of winter fuel allowance.
2. One on opposing green belt development and asking for Govt to better fund infrastructure to come with the increased NPPF targets (a 42% increase in Essex).

The second motion was mine – so if anyone more info on the numbers, effects, etc – I can supply.

Both motions passed.

Drainage issue on Grange Road

I previously reported “Following further enquiries with Officers this issue will now be followed up by the Enforcement team as the land responsibility would not fall to Essex County Council. The Enforcement Officer will review both the jetting history on Map 16 and a look on site to offer his advice on the matter. He has now met with the resident and walked through the site. The resident was very accommodating and the enforcement officer left his details, and I told her she can contact him if the flooding returns or gets worse. The case stays live.

Drainage issue at Woolmers Hay

I have no further update at the moment.

CCTV

Cllr Loudfoot asked me whether there was a scheme centrally that assists in providing CCTV or would the CCC perhaps be interested in add/extend their coverage to outlying areas ?

The following is the response I sent him 28th Oct:

As far as I know, only one place outside of the City Centre, has CCC monitored CCTV. This is the Melbourne estate/shops. The main purpose is to ensure safety, being able to get police on site quickly, should an incident occur.

CCTV in public places is fraught with legal issue.

I cannot see that they would sanction doing it in other areas such as villages.

I have been looking at enabling Parish Council's to use street furniture, such as street lights for their own CCTVs and have learnt the following:

If they are temporary CCTV's:-

- our street lighting team would need to give consent for the relevant street light column to be used
- the relevant Parish Council would need to have a MPAN agreement with the electric company in place (ECC would not pay their bill for use of electric)
- remember most street lights are turned off so this would stop the electric going to the CCTV
- if the Parish had their own electric supply installed they would need a Section 50 licence

if they are solar powered, the same applies except for the MPAN, however, what may be introduced if more weight (solar power units and/or batteries) are going to be used, each street light column may need to be assessed due to the additional weight involved.

If they are permanent CCTV's

- the street lighting team will not allow any of their street lighting columns to be used
- the Parish would need to install their own post, or use a building within their ownership
- the Parish would need to apply for a section 50 licence

So I asked what needs to be done to get this going.

The parish council need to contact Asset.Management@essexhighways.org with the locations of columns they want to use (the columns ID's can be found here <https://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us/lights-signals-and-signs/street-lights>), the camera dimensions (size, weight etc.) they want to deploy including any additional equipment like solar panels and the timescale for the deployment.

However, it is one thing to collect video of a crime, you then need to think what you do with it.

I assume that you can upload it to the on-line police reporting system.

You would also need to sort out all the legal issues.

Weed spraying

I received your question asking what chemicals are used by ECC.

The website at [Grass and vegetation | Essex County Council](#) states:

“We spray weeds in some urban areas to limit the damage they cause on the road and footway surfaces, it also improves the appearance and usability of the highway. We aim to spray the weeds twice in the growing season. The first spray usually starts in late April / early May but this depends on the weather and weed growth. We can only spray when the weeds are growing and in dry weather conditions. The second spray usually takes place in August.

Some local councils may fund additional weed spraying in their areas.

To kill the weeds we use systemic spray that once absorbed by a plant gradually kills it, including its roots. The sprays we use are safe to use on the highway with no lasting action.”

I asked the Cabinet member for the Environment if he had any more details on which systemic spray is used.

As this also involves the District Councils, who act on behalf of ECC in some cases, the suggestion is that you submit an FOI on the particular area where you have concerns.

MP

And congratulations to our MP, Kemi Badenoch, becoming Leader of the opposition in Parliament.

I am working with Kemi’s office to make sure that constituency issues still get addressed.

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