

ECC report

Highways Road Maintenance

In terms of the replacement to MHI, each Cllr was asked to submit 3 roads in their division. 2 of mine have been done:

- Road between Penden Hill and Pleshey
- End of Paradise Road in Writtle

The third one is planned – St Michaels Drive, Roxwell.

This is a more efficient approach where numerous holes are filled in one visit, one permit.

They have also done Breeds Road, Great Waltham

It seems they are sticking to roads, and pavements aren't included.

Drainage in Grange Road

A new culvert has been installed under a SWAS/mini-SWAS arrangement (Surface Water Alleviation Scheme).

RDR Average Speed Cameras

The cameras have been installed and are operational.

These are being funded by the developers through S106.

I am told that the developers designed the RDR to 40mph standards (e.g., curvature, roundabouts) but the width of the road, plus the adjacent service roads, gives it the feel of a higher speed limit. Hence the requirement for speed cameras. This was determined before the road was built but speed surveys confirmed the decision.

A12 Junction 19

This is now fully funded with £8M from ECC, £14M from Homes England, £8M from National Highways, and £8M from the Developers.

This is a cut down version to cover A12 access in order to allow the Beulieu developments to continue. It does not include A12 widening and footbridge from Boreham as central Govt withdrew funding.

LGR

The 3 District councils of mid-Essex continue to fund and resource the development work, but ECC are playing no part.

The ECC Judicial Review is still pending decision.

I am told that mid-Feb is the point of no return at which either:

- Shadow elections go ahead in May 27 and City Council elections are delayed by one year

OR

- LGR is cancelled/postponed and City council elections go ahead in May 27

Either way, it means there will be elections in May 27 which will coincide with Parish Council elections, thus avoiding the need for Parish Councils funding their elections.

There is also talk of Mayoral elections being brought forward to May 27

Fire at Highlands Farm, near East Hanningfield, 24th July

At its height, more than 100 firefighters were deployed to tackle the fire.

Firefighters arrived quickly and were faced with a large and rapidly developing fire involving several industrial units and surrounding farmland. At 5.46pm, following an explosion involving fertiliser within one of the industrial units, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service declared a major incident

The fire and explosion also destroyed three fire engines and two officer cars that were being used to respond to the incident. This underlines the scale and intensity of the conditions our crews faced.

20 firefighters were taken to hospital following the incident. Of the 20, four suffered minor injuries and the remainder were precautionary assessments, including checks for issues such as hearing loss following the explosion. All those firefighters have now been discharged from hospital.

Chelmsford City Council has made £300K grant funding available to support the businesses affected by the fire. There have been 42 applications with 18 granted so far totalling £273K

Some City Council Updates:

Local Plan

This has been submitted to the National inspector and examination is expected to last 3 weeks in November.

Fireworks etc

All City Council events, such as weddings at Hylands Park, have a fireworks ban.

City Council are also promoting a voluntary ban on portable BBQs

Community Governance Review (CGR)

The parishing of the centre of Chelmsford has hit a roadblock and has been stopped.

The Council has been advised that city status cannot be transferred to a parish council which has a different footprint to that stated in the letters patent (i.e., the whole of Chelmsford City Council area) Accordingly, the only mechanism to retain City status is through charter trustees. However, charter trustees are not available where an area is fully parished.