



## MALDON DIVISION MONTHLY UPDATE – COUNCILLOR JANE FLEMING

### MALDON TO JOIN ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY SUPERMARKET NETWORK

Essex County Council is expanding its network of community supermarkets across the county.

The new Maldon District Social Supermarket is run by Maldon and District CVS. It will run as a pop-up shop in the United Reformed Churches in both Burnham-on-Crouch and Southminster.

The shop will provide residents with affordable cupboard essentials, toiletries and fresh food. It will run every two weeks, alternating between both of the sites. Morning and afternoon times are available are listed below. More sessions across the Maldon district will be in place over the next six months.

Southminster United Reformed Church 10.30am to 12pm

- 13 February
- 10 April
- 8 May
- 5 June

Burnham United Reformed Church 1pm to 2.30pm

- 27 February
- 27 March
- 24 April
- 22 May
- 19 June

The Social Supermarket will also be coming the Maldon District Council Offices in the Foyer on Thursday 13 March, 1pm to 2.30pm.

The official opening comes after successful pilot sessions. Feedback from local customers informed what products are stocked and to build relationships with shoppers.

Prices at the Maldon Social Supermarket will start at just £5 for up to 10 items, with free refreshments available. Customers are encouraged to bring their own bags.

For further information or to find a community supermarket, visit <https://www.essex.gov.uk/help-cost-living/find-community-supermarket>

## CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S GREATER ESSEX DEVOLUTION CONSULTATION

The UK government launched the Greater Essex devolution consultation. The consultation seeks views on the proposal to form a Mayoral Combined County Authority for the local government areas in Essex, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock.

The consultation invites those who live and work across Greater Essex to share their views on:

- the proposed geography
- the effect of establishing a Mayoral Combined County Authority in Greater Essex
- how the Mayoral Combined County Authority will make decisions

[Have your say on the UK government's devolution consultation](#) before it closes on Sunday 13 April 2025.

You can [find more information on devolution](#) and what it could mean for Greater Essex on our website.

## KINDER ESSEX

Kinder Essex is an evolution of the United in Kind project. The community-led social movement is delivered by Essex Wellbeing Service. It involves 12 coaches who work across Essex to enable acts of kindness. They connect people to local groups and activities where they can meet others. The aim is to reduce social isolation and support people's wider health and wellbeing.

Marking the five-year anniversary of its launch, we have updated Essex's community project with a new name and fresh new look. The new look reflects how the project has grown over the last five years and celebrates the work of partners and Kinder Essex coaches. [Find out more about Kinder Essex.](#)

## FOSTER CARERS IN ESSEX

As more children arrive into care, there is more demand than ever for foster carers in Essex. This month, we have committed to updating the financial and wellbeing support available. This includes a 16% rise in professional fees, meaning more take-home pay for foster carers.

New fostering households will receive a £2,000 welcome bonus when they start fostering with us too. Find out [more about our increasing professional fostering fees](#). And learn more about our [award-winning training and support](#) when you foster with Essex County Council.

## HEALTHIER HABITS HUB

Healthier Habits Hubs is a place for you to see everything that Essex has to offer in your area. Enjoy taster exercise classes, get free advice from Barclays Bank or talk to our Kinder Essex or Essex Wellbeing Service coaches over a free cup of tea/coffee (offer subject to location).

Upcoming events in March:

- Saffron Walden on Wednesday 19 March
- Braintree on Wednesday 26 March
- Colchester on Thursday 27 March

[Find a Healthier Habits Hub near you.](#)

## SCRAP CAMPAIGN

Working with local councils we're tackling fly tipping with the SCRAP campaign. It's important to understand what is classed as fly tipping so you don't accidentally put yourself at risk of a fine.

The SCRAP campaign highlights types of fly tipping and alternative waste disposal methods. It encourages residents to follow the S.C.R.A.P. code when booking waste collectors. Find out more about the [Love Essex SCRAP fly tipping campaign.](#)

Work will then continue up to September to inform the final business cases which will be submitted to the Government.

The Government will decide what the final structure will be for Greater Essex councils.

Read the [interim plan for Local Government Reorganisation in Greater Essex.](#)

## MULTI-MILLION-POUND INVESTMENT AWARDED TO IMPROVE WALKING AND CYCLING IN ESSEX.

Essex County Council has secured £7.3 million from Active Travel England to improve walking and cycling across the county.

The county council has worked with city and district councils since 2020 to design a network of over 400 walking and cycling routes.

The funding announced today (12 February) will be used to deliver new walking and cycling schemes, maintain existing active travel provision and offer more community training, such as [Bikeability for school children.](#)

The council will now review the detail of the funding and decide how to best allocate it to achieve the biggest impact and value for money.

## **MICROORGANISMS ARE BEING DEPLOYED ON ESSEX ROADS TO TRANSFORM THE WAY FUEL SPILLAGES ARE CLEARED**

Essex Highways is using microbiology to clean up fuel spills as one of the first authorities to deploy microorganisms on a road network.

Traditional methods of clearing fuel spills rely on sand and other absorbent materials. This can require road closures for up to three to six hours, depending on the size, as well as costly clean-ups.

The Fuel Spill Digester is an eco-friendly alternative which uses natural bacteria and enzymes to quickly 'eat' fuel, oils and solvents spilled on roads.

As soon as the microorganism is sprayed onto a spill, the enzymes break down the fuel's harmful components while bacteria digest them.

Dangerous and slippery fuel is transformed into water within minutes and lanes can be reopened to traffic within an hour, depending on the size of the spillage.

Fuel Spill Digester is already used in some petrol stations but Essex County Council is one of the first local authorities to roll it out for use on a road network.

Some of the benefits include:

- quickly restoring roads back to safety within minutes, reducing closure delays
- only leaving behind water, reducing the costly and harmful need to dispose of contaminated absorbents via landfill
- works on tarmac, concrete and soil