

MALDON DIVISION MONTHLY UPDATE– COUNCILLOR JANE FLEMING

COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVES FUND

We've launched a new grant scheme that aims to improve public safety in Essex and address violence and vulnerability. [Local groups can apply to the Community Safety Initiatives Fund](#) before Sunday 12 May 2024. These groups have the community links and knowledge to ensure the funding is used in the best way to benefit communities.

FORD RIDELONDON ROAD CLOSURES

Ford RideLondon-Essex takes place in London and Essex from Friday 24 May to Sunday 26 May. No road closures will span more than one day, however residents should expect travel disruptions in parts of Essex. All local hospitals remain accessible, and care providers will be able to make planned visits.

Areas affected include:

- Friday 24 May: Braintree, Colchester, Epping Forest, Saffron Walden, Tendring and Uttlesford
- Saturday 25 May: Chelmsford, Colchester and Maldon
- Sunday 26 May: Chelmsford, Epping Forest and Uttlesford

More [information on Ford RideLondon-Essex road closures](#) is available online.

INCREASE IN FOOD RECYCLING

Over 375,000 households in Essex received three items including caddy liners, bin stickers and an information leaflet. Results show that food waste tonnage has significantly increased in the first three districts that participated compared to previous months and years.

Remember, no amount is too small! Every banana peel, coffee ground and plate scraping diverted from landfill goes towards making green energy to power homes and fertiliser to grow more food.

It is making a real and positive impact. To find out more about food recycling or how you can get involved, visit the [Love Essex web page](#).

NEW POPPINS BURSARY FOR EARLY YEARS

The Poppins bursary provides funded development opportunities and training for those looking to enter or currently working in the early years sector. The bursary aims to enhance the range and quality of services offered in communities. This will directly support training initiatives for early years settings across the county. [More information about the Poppins Bursary](#) is available online.

LAUNCH OF STEP INTO SPRING

The Safer, Greener, Healthier walking challenge has launched. This year's challenge is called Step into Spring and will end on Sunday 12 May. Sign up and challenge yourself to walk 35,000 steps a week or 5,000 steps a day. One participant each week will be selected to win an annual Go Jauntly (walking app) premium membership. [Sign up for the Step into Spring walking challenge](#) today.

ROBOT PETS

Our Adult Social Care team in mid Essex are demonstrating the therapeutic effect robotic pets can have. During a pilot the pets are being used to support people with learning difficulties and dementia. Families and staff have already noticed benefits and seen the positive impact the robot pets are having. Read about the [benefits of the robot pets among residents](#). Make a positive difference to people's lives and [apply for a job in Adult Social Care](#).

IMPROVE YOUR GARDEN WITH COMPOSTING

If you're getting out in the garden, then think composting! Composting your food and garden waste is a great way to add nutrients to the soil and improve soil structure. It can also attract wildlife such as insects, birds and hedgehogs. [Get started with home composting](#), with a discounted compost bin and a free online course from Love Essex.

APPRENTICESHIP HUB

Do you run a business? Have you considered hiring an apprentice? Now is the time to prepare to hire a school leaver for an apprenticeship. The Apprenticeship Hub can help you through the process and help promote your apprenticeship vacancy. Find out more about the [support available through the Essex Opportunities team](#) online.

IS YOUR HOME READY TO GO DIGITAL

A digital landline service will soon replace traditional phone lines and the switch is already happening in Essex. If you have broadband, the change should be straightforward – you'll also get to keep your phone number.

Individuals without broadband who depend on landlines may need to take extra steps. Make sure you contact your telephone provider to make them aware. [More information on the digital landline switch](#) is available online.

MAKE YOUR BUSINESS SEND INCLUSIVE

There are many Essex businesses that support children and young people aged 0 to 25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Being more inclusive can open up your business to more customers.

Making your business SEND inclusive means being aware of people's needs and being able to offer support where possible. This could include supporting sensory needs, communication needs or providing specialist equipment for disabilities.

[Find out how you can become SEND inclusive](#) and reach a wider community.

ROADSIDE DISTRIBUTION CONTRACT CONTINUES FOR ANOTHER TWO YEARS

Essex County Council produces and prints multi-operator stop specific timetables for over 3,000 bus stops in Essex. Over the last two years, these artworks have been posted countywide by First Essex Buses Ltd. This arrangement will now continue for a further two years, until Summer 2026.

Bus stops are updated approximately every six weeks in line with bus route/timetable changes (if updates are required). The next set of agreed change dates are:

- Sunday 02 June 2024
- Sunday 28 July 2024
- Sunday 01 September 2024
- Sunday 27 October 2024

If you see any timetables that are damaged, or out of date, please contact us: public.transport@essex.gov.uk.

SAVE WATER WITH THE CARBON CUTTING APP

Following the launch of the [Water Strategy for Essex](#) and the [Essex Water: Your Future online tool](#), this April the theme of [Carbon Cutting Essex](#) was 'Saving Water and River Health.'

The app suggests water saving tips from taking shorter showers, using a bowl when washing up, to only using your washing machine or dishwasher. Small daily changes such as these can have a big impact on reducing our water usage which can also help us save money on our water bill!

Essex is home to 91 water bodies including rivers, lakes, reservoirs, streams and more. Only 5 out of these waterways are considered ecologically 'good', meaning the remainder have issues relating to pollution and wildlife. Learn about the top issues facing the rivers in our county and pledge to protect them with [Carbon Cutting Essex](#).

This month, the theme changes to 'Embracing Your Carbon Footprint'. Discover what your carbon footprint refers to and what daily activities affect it (spoiler – it's all of them!).

Join our county's fight against climate change and download the free app today on [Google Play](#) or the [App Store](#).

CLIMATE ACTION ADVICE PACKS

Essex County Council is excited to be relaunching its Climate Action Advice Packs. Originally released in 2022, the new updated versions will build on the existing important content and include updated information on available support to reduce our carbon footprints.

There are four advice packs in the collection: for residents, businesses, schools and early years settings. Each pack presents specific advice to each group including what community and financial support is available. A new Easy Read version of the residents' pack will also be available for the first time.

Reaching net-zero will require a collective effort from us all and these packs are a great source of information and inspiration for us all to reduce our carbon footprints.

The new climate advice packs for residents, businesses, schools and early years settings relaunch on 22 May 2024.

[Register for the virtual launch event](#) and hear all about the new packs and Essex residents who are already taking action on climate change.

ENERGY SAVING SCHEME

More than 15,000 homes in Essex could qualify for free home improvements to save money on their energy bills. Properties which meet a certain criteria could receive government-funded improvements from insulation to solar panels, low carbon heating systems and more. It's part of the Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2 (HUG2) scheme, which is available in participating local authority areas in Essex.

The measures are available for households who live in hard-to-heat homes and have a combined annual income of less than £36,000, whose homes are not heated by mains gas (includes oil, coal, LPG or electric heating).

As the summer months approach, now is the perfect time to plan ahead and ensure your home is heated efficiently this winter.

[Find out if you're eligible and apply now.](#)