



Essex County Council

MALDON DIVISION MONTHLY UPDATE – COUNCILLOR JANE FLEMING

ROAD SURFACING UPDATE

Essex Highways has started rolling out its annual programme of road resurfacing to repair damage caused by the wet and cold winter conditions. To see if a road near you is scheduled for repairs over the coming months use the [interactive map](#) on the Essex Highways website to search.

WIN £60 TOWARDS YOUR FOOD SHOP EVERY MONTH

[Sign the Essex Food Waste Pledge](#) and join the fight against food waste. Complete monthly challenges such as writing a shopping list for your chance to win £60 in supermarket vouchers.

COUNCIL SERVICES IN ESSEX

Residents in Essex have services provided by Essex County Council and depending on where you live, your local district, borough or city council.

So, what [councils offer what services](#)? We provide county-wide services like schools, roads, children's social care and adult social care. We don't offer services like bins, housing, local planning and collecting council tax. These services are provided by one of the 12 district, borough or city councils in Essex. [Find your local council](#) online.

THE ESSEX BOOK FESTIVAL IS BACK!

The annual Essex Book Festival will be running from Thursday 1 June to Saturday 1 July. This year's festival will mark the 70th Anniversary of the 1953 floods.

There's something for everyone, from writing workshops to question and answer sessions. View the [full list of Essex Book Festival events](#) online.

VOLUNTEER FOR THE SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Want to do something fun this summer and give back to your community? Why not volunteer with us in Essex Libraries.

We're looking for volunteers to help with the Summer Reading Challenge. You'll be chatting to children about books they've read, helping them complete their booklets, while working as part of the library team.

Anyone over the age of 14 can [apply to become a Summer Reading Challenge volunteer](#). The deadline for applications is 30 June 2023.

FREE WETLAND WONDER TRAILS AT ESSEX COUNTRY PARKS

Head to Belhus Woods, Cudmore Grove, Danbury, or Marsh Farm Country Parks and turn your kids into mini explorers.

Pick up a free activity booklet, before 11 June, while stocks last to learn about wetlands and hunt the trail markers to find the mystery word. Enter our competition to [win an Essex Explorer Pass](#) and 5 minibeast explorer kits.

GO TO SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Join us in the library for our new challenge for pre-schoolers this summer. Ready... Steady... Go to School is a fun challenge full of activities focused on developing skills that will prepare your child for school.

The challenge covers a range of activities in seven different areas important to children's development. It will also provide top tips for parents and carers. Find out more about the [Ready... Steady... Go To School challenge and Big School Meetups](#) online.

CELEBRATING THE ESSEX YEAR OF READING

After a year of events and programmes, we celebrated the Essex Year of Reading at a special event. During the event, local storytellers were presented with a new book, filled with competition entries from the campaign. The book includes inspiring words, showcasing Essex's creativity and the campaign's legacy.

Find out more about [what happened during the Essex Year of Reading.](#)

COMING SOON - THE ESSEX YEAR OF NUMBERS

Picking up where the Essex Year of Reading left off, the Essex Year of Numbers is coming soon and will continue to inspire a love of learning in Essex.

Numeracy is just as important as literacy. The campaign will support children, young people, parents and carers to further develop valuable skills. [Watch the Essex Year of Numbers launch event.](#)

FREE MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING AND WORKPLACE HEALTH SUPPORT FOR ESSEX BUSINESSES

Working Well offers free Mental Health First Aid England training and workplace health accreditation schemes for Essex organisations.

Businesses can access a range of resources, training, and guest speaker sessions. Resources focus on financial wellbeing, menopause, and stress awareness, plus NHS Health Checks. To find out more [visit the Working Well website.](#)

RECOGNISING CARERS ACROSS ESSEX

Next week is Carers Week, an opportunity to say thank you to everyone in the county who helps improve the lives of those they care for. Data shows that there are around 124,000 unpaid carers in the county, but the number may be much greater.

We're committed to supporting carers of all ages live happy and fulfilling lives. Discover available [support for carers](#) online.

Throughout the week, we will be shining a light on carers in Essex and the people and organisations that support them on our social media channels.

RETURN TO SOCIAL CARE PROGRAMME

If you're a social worker or occupational therapist looking to return to practice, we want to hear from you!

With various paid roles with flexible working patterns available throughout Essex. Now could be the time to return to the profession you love. Register your interest by contacting work.placements@essex.gov.uk

CHANGES TO RECYCLING CENTRE BOOKING SYSTEM

Since introducing the vehicle booking process earlier this year, there have already been over 240,000 bookings. The project team have been working hard to respond to your feedback.

We have made several changes to the booking process to enhance the customer experience.

Changes include:

- if visiting in a car, you can now book up to 15 minutes in advance of your booking
- increased capacity for bookings at several sites
- trailing 30-minute slots to give residents more flexibility to arrive within their allocated time

Don't forget to [watch a how to book tutorial](#) video to make the process easier to follow.

WRAP-AROUND SUPPORT FOR APPRENTICESHIPS

The Essex Apprenticeship Hub provides businesses with wrap-around support for apprenticeships. This includes a matching service to help fill vacancies and support applicants and employers to find training providers. The Hub also acts as a useful link to the Essex Apprenticeship Levy Transfer Service, helping SMEs to fund apprenticeships for new and existing employees. Drop us an [email](#) to get started.

FREE MATHS SUPPORT FOR YOUR EMPLOYEES



From employee retention and increased confidence to enhanced business growth and fewer mistakes, there are so many reasons to invest in numeracy skills for your workforce. With Multiply, you can find free maths courses across the county to suit your employees' preferences and commitments. From short modules to longer courses, there's something [Find a provider near you.](#)

NEW CARBON CUTTING APP LAUNCHED

A pioneering new app is being launched which will help to cut carbon footprints and mitigate the effects of climate change.

The Carbon Cutting Essex App, developed for Essex County Council by Greenredeem, will provide many practical and cost-effective suggestions on how everyone can all make small changes to reduce their carbon footprint.

Each month, the app will focus on a variation of themes around climate action, such as food, waste, transport and energy. Positive environmental actions which mitigate our carbon footprint will be rewarded with 'carbon credits.'

You can find out more [here](#).

INNOVATION IN DIGITECH EVENT ANNOUNCED



Following the success of April's 'Innovation In... Sustainability' event held in Colchester, Ambitious Essex and [Ambitious Women in Essex](#) are again joining forces to bring you the next in the series.

This free event on Friday 7 July at The Launchpad in Southend will see a mixture of networking and guest speakers all around the theme of Innovation in Digitech.

First guest speaker to be confirmed is Tim Robinson from Tech East who will be sharing his thoughts on the future of digital innovation.

[Sign up](#) for your space now.

LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR THE ESSEX GREEN SKILLS SUMMIT



Want to learn more about the skills we need for a net-zero Essex? Don't miss out on this free event on Friday 9 June! In-person tickets are sold out, but we hope to see you online for an exciting morning, featuring speakers like Freeport East, Colchester Institute and more.

[View the agenda and sign up now](#) to become part of our transition to net-zero.

USING DESIGN TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

Essex County Council and the Design Council are working together to develop a Climate Ambassador Network for young people, as part of the Design Council's 'Design, differently' initiative.

The 'Design, differently' project is currently run by the Design Council and supported by the Bringing People Together Fund - part of the National Lottery Community Fund. It aims to support communities and councils to use design skills to create innovative solutions to climate related issues.

The Design Council will share design tools and methods to help Essex County Council facilitate the Ambassador Network, which will bring together passionate students from across Essex who will act as stewards for the environment.

The programme recognises what an important part design plays when it comes to solving local challenges and issues and it aims to use design skills to create sustainable solutions to establish more regenerative communities across the UK.

NEW ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS AWARDED TO THE COUNCIL



The [Carbon Literacy Project](#) has awarded Essex County Council with Bronze accreditation, recognising the Council as a Carbon Literate Organisation. News of the award comes as over 250 employees have achieved Carbon Literacy accreditation.

Carbon Literacy is an awareness of the carbon costs and impacts of everyday activities and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions, on an individual, community and organisational basis.

Representatives from the County Council will be attending the Carbon Literacy Awards in Manchester this month to officially receive the award.

More information about the Council's efforts to reach net zero can be found in the County Council's first [Climate Action Annual Report](#).

CHECK OUT OUR BRAND-NEW TREE COUNTER



The [Essex Climate Action website](#) is now host to a new tree counter to keep track of and share how many trees have been planted by Essex County Council's [Essex Forest Initiative](#). In 2019, Essex County Council committed to plant £1 million worth of trees.

Since then, the Initiative has gone from strength to strength, continuing to beat planting targets. Over the most recent tree planting season the Initiative was responsible for the planting of over 100,000 trees.

Visit [the Commission's website](#) now to see the latest figures!

£2 DIGIGO SINGLE FARES EXTENDED



We are delighted to announce that Essex County Council's DigiGo will be participating in the [Government's Bus Fare Cap Grant \(BFCP\)](#) until 30 June.

DigiGo is one of the first public transport services which offers on-demand and pre-bookable travel. As there is no fixed route or timetable, customers are in control of their journey route. The service operates seven days a week, from 7am until 10pm everyday (excluding bank holidays). Passengers can book their journeys by using [the TravelEssex Journey Planning app](#).

Due to the success of the service, it has been expanded to further areas including Great Dunmow, Stebbing, Great Saling and Great Canfield. Further, since [the Travel Essex Journey Planning App](#) launched in April 2022, it has generated 25,966 downloads.

The app helps us all to search for the most sustainable forms of transport across the county. From walking to cycling and public transport, swapping our cars for more sustainable forms of transport can play a significant role in helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

RECORD NUMBER OF ESSEX RESIDENTS SIGN UP FOR SOLAR PANEL GROUP BUYING SCHEME



A record number of Essex residents have registered for Solar Together Essex, a group buying scheme for solar panels and battery storage.

In the latest round, over 7,100 residents registered for a personalised quote and of these over 1,200 households decided to proceed with the installation.

This is the fourth time that Essex County Council has run the Solar Together Essex scheme. Suppliers are pre-vetted in order to guarantee high-quality products and, by using the buying power of the group, the scheme can offer competitive prices. This year's applicants have received a discount of 32% based on the average installation of 12 panels per household. Solar panels can be highly effective at helping homes become more sustainable, using less carbon while also helping households to cut their future energy bills.

Installations from the 2023 scheme are already well underway with customers able to start saving on energy bills straightaway.

ESSEX CONTINUES TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN TRANSITIONING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY



We are delighted with the progress Essex County Council has made in delivering its commitment to transition to renewable energy as highlighted in its [Climate Action Plan](#).

In October 2022, [ECC submitted two bids in to Innovate UK's Net Zero Living Programme Fund](#), both of which were successful and received £150,000. EssNet, which Essex leads, in partnership with UK Power Networks, the University of Essex, Power Circle and UK Community Works has so far received £77,000. ECC is also a delivery partner of

Shift to Net Zero, along with Energy Pro Ltd, Surrey County Council, Kent County Council and Brighton and Hove City Council, and it has been awarded £86,000.

The funding will help to support up to thirty areas to develop a plan with local authorities and play a key role in driving forward their transition to net zero. To receive the funding, ECC had to demonstrate an in depth understanding of how to deliver net zero projects, whilst taking into consideration potential opportunities and barriers.

As both bids were successful, ECC will be entering phase two of the competition, with an opportunity of earning a further £5 million to put the plans into action. The phase two activities will commence at the beginning of 2024.

ESSEX PARTICIPATES IN EU FUNDED SOUTH EAST NEW ENERGY PROJECT



An exciting new community energy project has resulted from Essex County Council's participation in the EU-funded [South East New Energy Project \(SENE\)](#).

The primary goal of SENE is to accelerate the transition to low carbon energy, with Essex County Council's activities sitting within the project's community energy work package. As a result of delivering SENE, ECC has developed close and productive relationships with a number of parish councils in Essex.

Whilst SENE draws to a close at the end of June 2023, the relationships which the project has initiated continue to flourish.

One notable follow on activity from the project has been the development of the Colne Valley Community Energy Project. The project focuses on six parishes and their ambitions to develop cost effective, sustainable, local energy generation for the benefit of the entire community.

