

## MALDON DIVISION MONTHLY UPDATE – COUNCILLOR JANE FLEMING

### RESIDENTS CAN APPLY ONLINE FOR THEIR CHILDREN'S YEAR 7 PLACES FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

Parents and carers of Year 6 pupils are being encouraged to apply for their children's secondary school places for September 2026.

The window for secondary school applications opens today (Friday 12 September) and runs until the national **closing date of 31 October 2025**.

Parents and carers can submit their applications at [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions)

The website includes information on different schools and their admissions criteria.

The 31 October deadline for applications is a national deadline. Applications made after this date will be considered once all on-time applications have been determined.

This means applying late could reduce the chance of a child being offered a place at their preferred school.

When submitting their applications, parents are encouraged to:

- visit their preferred school
- carefully consider each school's admissions criteria
- consider how their child will get to and from school
- use all six preferences on their application

### ESSEX HIGHWAYS

A cost-effective and sustainable new technology is helping to keep Essex roads free from potholes.

Over the past year, Essex Highways has been using a system called Roadmender. This uses a highly durable and flexible material, partially made from recycled lorry tyres, to repair shallow potholes quickly and effectively.

The material, known as Elastomac, can be applied up to four times faster than traditional repair methods. Unlike conventional approaches, it requires no excavation and cools rapidly, allowing crews to move swiftly from one site to the next. This increases efficiency, minimises road closures and therefore reduces disruption for road users.

In addition to being faster and more cost-effective, the process is also greener. As there's no digging or need to transport waste material off-site, and also thanks to the recycled content of Elastomac, the carbon footprint of each repair is reduced by up to 85% compared to traditional methods.

Once applied, the adhesive, flexible compound bonds seamlessly with the existing road surface. This prevents water ingress and significantly extends the road's lifespan.

After being trialled by Essex Highways in early 2024, the process was adopted in August last year to support road repairs. In this time, Roadmender has been used to treat nearly 14,000 square metres (13,827 m<sup>2</sup>) of damaged road surface across Essex. This is roughly the size of two Wembley Stadium football pitches.

The innovative process has run alongside conventional pothole repair methods during a period of record investment by Essex County Council in the local road network. That investment has already led to a significant decline in pothole-related complaints.

Key initiatives include the intensive £25 million Priority One programme. They also include the £8 million Member Highways Initiative (MHI), which gives each Essex County Councillor access to a dedicated Essex Highways crew to tackle the road issues that matter most to their communities.

The Priority One programme has delivered:

- 128 additional road resurfacings
- 824 drainage clearances
- 582 vegetation clearances
- 446 signage and bollard repairs
- 30 drainage system repairs

Meanwhile, the MHI has resulted in:

- 8,000 carriageway defect repairs
- 6,000 footway repairs, including kerbs and paving
- replacement of signs, bollards, pedestrian guardrails, and surface covers

## RECYCLING BATTERIES

From batteries to disposable barbecues that haven't fully cooled down, there are a number of ways fires can start in bin lorries or at recycling centres.

In fact, batteries alone were the cause of over 1,200 fires at recycling centres and in waste vehicles in the UK in 2023.

Batteries can be recycled at specific battery recycling points. These can be found at all [Essex County Council recycling centres](#), as well as most [Essex libraries](#) and supermarkets.

By removing and properly recycling your batteries, you're not only saving precious resources from being wasted but also helping to prevent fires.

The Department for Transport (DfT) has confirmed funding to improve a key gateway to Chelmsford.

## CHELMSFORD ARMY & NAVY ROUNDABOUT PROJECT

Essex County Council's [Army and Navy Sustainable Transport Package](#) was among 50 road and rail projects across the country approved by the government last month, following its [spending review settlement](#).

The £81 million project is also being part funded by Essex County Council and Chelmsford City Council.

## LOCAL BUS SERVICES CONSULTATION

Essex County Council (ECC) is reviewing its support for 41 local bus services and is asking residents to share their views.

The consultation runs from Monday 4 August 2025 to Monday 27 October 2025 and focuses on services that are currently funded by Essex taxpayers. These supported services mainly operate in rural areas, evenings, and Sundays—times when buses are less commercially viable. Around 85% of the Essex bus network is run by transport operators, but the remaining 15% is supported by the Council, costing around £11 million each year.

ECC wants to make sure the bus network continues to provide good value for money while meeting passenger needs. Options being consulted on include:

- Continuing services as they are now
- Redesigning services to reflect how they are used (e.g. routes, times, frequency)
- Returning some services to commercial operation

The consultation covers all 12 districts in Essex and includes services that have grown in use, those with lower usage, and those that were supported temporarily after the pandemic.

Resident's views will play an important role in shaping the future of local bus services. Feedback will be analysed and included in a report to help inform final decisions. An announcement on the outcomes will be made later this year.

To take part, and view the full list of services under review, please visit the [TravelEssex website](#).

## CONSULTATION ON FIRST ESSEX BUS SERVICE 73/73A/73B

Essex County Council (ECC) is also consulting on proposed changes to the timetable and route for bus services 73/73A/73B, operated by First Essex. The consultation runs from Wednesday 20 August to Tuesday 2 September 2025, with changes planned to take effect from Monday 27 October 2025 (subject to change).

Resident's views on the proposed changes, which include adjustments to the route in Chelmsford and Maldon, as well as a revised timetable are sought.

## **LANDOWNERS ARE REMINDED THAT OVERGROWN TREES, HEDGES AND DITCHES CAN QUICKLY TURN INTO SAFETY CONCERNS**

Landowners are being reminded that trees, hedges, ditches and other vegetation close to highways needs to be maintained with summer drawing to a close.

Overgrown vegetation can prevent roads and paths from being safe when wetter weather and shorter days draw near, blocking paths and restricting clear view of the highway.

Grass cut in wet conditions can also lead to clumps being deposited by lawnmowers onto highways. Therefore, grass cutting is ideally carried out when the weather is drier.

Landowners are responsible for maintaining foliage on their land, even if it is close to a road or pavement. They have a duty of care to take reasonable steps to prevent risk.

Overgrown vegetation can restrict paths, reduce sight, and cause floods when ditches and drains become clogged.

Now bird nesting season is over, landowners should carry out work such as:

- removing overhanging branches that obscure the view of the road
- removing overhanging branches that lower the road's clearance for tall vehicles, such as double-decker school buses
- trimming or removing trees that are in danger of falling onto the pavement or road
- removing overgrown shrubs that block lighting or traffic signs
- removing trenches on private property to prevent flooding when it rains

Most trees and hedges by roads are on privately owned land. Owners can include district councils, parish councils, housing associations, farmers and homeowners.

Essex Highways' £25 million Priority One programme of highways maintenance included 582 vegetation clearances during the summer.

## **NATIONAL GRID - NORWICH TO TILBURY PYLONS**

Essex County Council's concerns remain as it now considers the proposal in detail.

A proposal to install over 100 miles of pylons between Norwich and Tilbury by National Grid has been submitted to Government.

Essex County Council, along with Suffolk County Council, Norfolk County Council and city, borough and district councils, have always maintained concerns around elements of the proposals put forward. Councils will now begin to review the submitted detail of the application.

Responses to the consultations during the pre-application period have attempted to influence the final scheme. There will be a series of opportunities for Essex County Council and others to submit responses and further evidence. Residents, community groups and district councils can also register their views while the Planning Inspectorate considers the application.

It is expected a final decision will be made by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government in late 2026.

The full planning application and details of how it will be considered by the Planning Inspectorate will be available at <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020027>

## **ESSEX ENERGY SWITCH**

Join thousands of Essex households to get a better price for your gas and electric bills.

Households are being invited to cut their energy bills by joining the Essex Energy Switch (EES).

The EES is an Essex-wide collective energy switching campaign. The scheme helps people in the county come together to save on their gas and electricity bills.

Since the scheme started, thousands of people in Essex have joined and saved with the scheme. Registration is free and only takes five minutes.

The scheme helps residents find the best deals by doing all the hard work for them. Once registration has closed, energy companies compete at an auction to offer the lowest fixed price. As they want to secure the bulk business, they can offer a great deal.

Everyone who registers for the Essex Energy Switch will receive a personal offer. They can choose to accept or decline the offer and there is no obligation to switch suppliers.

Some Essex residents are finding it hard to pay for their energy costs, with the EES scheme one way of addressing the issue. In the last scheme, households saved an average of £200 on their energy bills.

The EES also offers 100% renewable electricity, helping households reduce their carbon footprint.

Once registered, there is no obligation to switch providers. Residents can register for the Essex Energy Switch until Friday 29 September.

For further information about the scheme and to register, visit [www.essex.gov.uk/energyswitch](http://www.essex.gov.uk/energyswitch).

Residents can also call the Big Community Switch registration line on 0800 048 8439 to register and receive correspondence by post. Lines are open Monday to Friday from 8am to 5.30pm (excluding bank holidays). Please have a recent energy bill to hand.

## RECYCLING BATTERIES

From batteries to disposable barbecues that haven't fully cooled down, there are a number of ways fires can start in bin lorries or at recycling centres.

In fact, batteries alone were the cause of over 1,200 fires at recycling centres and in waste vehicles in the UK in 2023.

Batteries can be recycled at specific battery recycling points. These can be found at all [Essex County Council recycling centres](#), as well as most [Essex libraries](#) and supermarkets.

By removing and properly recycling your batteries, you're not only saving precious resources from being wasted but also helping to prevent fires.

The Department for Transport (DfT) has confirmed funding to improve a key gateway to Chelmsford.

*Cllr Jane Fleming*

Member for the Maldon Division

(Maldon Town and Parishes of Woodham Walter, Woodham Mortimer with Hazeleigh, Purleigh including Cock Clarks, Cold Norton, Stow Maries, North Fambridge)

[cllr.jane.fleming@essex.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.jane.fleming@essex.gov.uk)