

MALDON DIVISION MONTHLY UPDATE– COUNCILLOR JANE FLEMING

NEW GRANT FUND FOR UNPAID CARERS

A new grant programme has launched in Essex that will see £1.75million allocated to support unpaid carers of all ages, through local projects.

There are an estimated 124,000 unpaid carers in Essex, but we estimate this number is far greater. Unpaid carers play a vital role in helping family and friends live independently. It also means those they care for can remain in their own homes and communities. The Carers Community Fund, funded by the Councils' Better Care Fund Allocation, aims to build localised community-based support for these carers. The £1.75million fund will be split for allocation across North-East, Mid, West, South-West and South-East Essex.

Eligible groups and organisations will be able to apply for a grant between £1,000 and £30,000.

Applications open 28 November and close 30 January 2024.

To apply and for more information visit www.essex.gov.uk and search 'Carers Community Fund' or email essex.carers@essex.gov.uk.

If you are an unpaid carer, support is available. Find out more at www.essex.gov.uk/carers

NEXT STEPS FOR RECYCLING CENTRE BOOKINGS

A six-week consultation on the future of booking slots to visit Essex County Council recycling centres came to a close on 19 November. The consultation saw a huge level of response, with over 18,000 residents having their say.

Responses will be independently analysed and a summary report of the consultation feedback will be published in due course. The feedback, alongside other relevant factors, will be used to inform a future decision on whether to keep the booking process at all Essex County Council recycling centres. Please note, bookings will remain in place until a decision is made in early 2024.

[Read the relevant documents and find out more information on next steps.](#)

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL SECURES GRANT TO HELP SCHOOL CHILDREN LEARN TO CYCLE

Essex County Council has secured a grant of £800,000 to provide cycle training to primary school children across the county.

The Council has received funding from [the Bikeability Trust UK](#) , which administers the national Bikeability programmes on behalf of Active Travel England. Bikeability is the government's national

cycling programme which supports young people with developing practical skills and confidence to safely cycle on the roads.

The programme is part of the Council's commitment to ensure that children who leave primary school in Essex have the confidence, knowledge and opportunity to be able to learn how to ride a bike. It also coincides with Essex County Council's objective to ensure that we all make safer, greener and healthier travel choices.

This summer, there were over 200 young people who took part in the 42 different Bikeability courses in Essex. Swapping our cars for sustainable forms of transport such as walking or cycling to work or school is a fantastic way for us all to reduce our carbon footprint. Check out [the Essex Climate Action Advice Pack](#) for more top tips on how we can make greener travel choices.

FUTURE OF RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT IN ESSEX

The 10-week consultation on the draft [Waste Strategy for Essex](#) closed on 22 November. Roughly 4,500 residents had their say on the Essex Waste Partnership's plans to reduce waste, protect the environment and save resources.

The consultation responses will be independently analysed over the next few months. The responses will be used to help develop a final version of the Waste Strategy for Essex, and a full report will be published in the new year.

To keep up to date with the latest news about the Waste Strategy for Essex, [follow Love Essex on Facebook](#).

LOVE TO RIDE WINTER WHEELERS

Essex County Council need Essex residents to help us show that biking is a year-round activity. Every day you ride your bike in December, you'll be supporting the cycling community and have the chance to win great prizes. [Register for Love to Ride](#) and get ready to wheel into winter!

NEW TRAVEL ESSEX WEBSITE

Working alongside Transport Providers, Essex County Council is pleased to introduce a new website: www.TravelEssex.co.uk. The website allows users to discover Essex buses, offering journey planning tools and features a live bus map! Key features include:

Discover buses

[Find your bus options](#) via address/postcode search, showing local area maps available stops and the services nearby. Ability to favourite bus stops, view route and timetable information.

Plan your journey

The TravelEssex multi-modal [journey planner](#) is embedded on the site, making it easy to plan your journey from your computer.

Live bus map

Gives you the ability to pan-and-zoom around Essex where you can see live [tracked buses on a map](#). The live vehicle tracking data makes use of the Department for Transport's Bus Open Data Service (BODS).

Elsewhere on the site, you will be able to discover useful information on Essex's diverse range of services – from Demand Responsive routes, Park & Ride services, and information on applying for your concessionary bus pass.

ESSEX FOREST INITIATIVE

The Essex Forest Initiative is pleased to announce more success with funding bids for the Local Authority Treescape Fund and Urban Tree Challenge Fund.

This will support the County Council with the planting of over 2000 new trees in the urban landscape across Essex. The Council will be able to replace lots of trees on Highway verges that have been lost recently as well as bringing trees to areas where they are needed.

The funding supports the watering and maintenance of each tree for three years after planting to aid establishment and ensure that ecosystem services such as cleaner air, surface flood mitigation, reduced heat stress, carbon sequestration and mental health benefits are delivered for Essex residents.

These trees will make up part of the Essex Forest Initiative's target of planting 375,000 trees by winter 2025/26 and we hope to continue with the urban planting for many years to come.

FINANCIAL WELLBEING COURSE BY MULTIPLY

Whether its buying presents for your loved ones or the temptations of Boxing Day sales, many face financial pressures and worries during the holiday season.

A [Multiply course on financial wellbeing](#) , delivered through Enable East, explores the important link between finances and wellbeing. Find out more about [Essex Multiply](#).

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL ENERGY TEAM GAIN NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Community Energy England has awarded Essex County Council with the 'Supportive Local Authority Award.'

The award is in recognition of the Council's exceptional support and commitment to the community energy sector. The Authority has been a strong advocate for community energy growth in the County for the past four years.

The pioneering mentoring program helped to create four community energy organisations in Essex, with more groups receiving support to launch. [Tollesbury Climate Partnership](#) , one of the groups supported by the programme, was also shortlisted as a finalist for the "Advancing Innovation Award." This work aligns with Essex County Council's commitment of inspiring local climate action and working towards achieving net zero emissions in the County by 2050.

CAMPAIGN TO HELP HOUSEHOLDS SAVE MONEY ON YOUR ENERGY BILLS

The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero has relaunched the 'It All Adds Up' campaign. The campaign provides simple tips for households to save energy and reduce their bills. The 'It All Adds Up' website provides simple [tips for households to save energy](#) , reduce their bills and get ready for winter.

It will allow families to access simple energy tips that can ultimately save them at least £100 a year. If you have an Amazon Echo device or by simply using the free Alexa app on your phone, you can access the tips with simple phrases such as "Alexa, give me some energy saving tips", "Alexa, give me tips to conserve energy" and "Alexa, give me tips to get ready for winter".

The free energy tips are also available online via the [Help for Households website](#) . For those most in need, the government also offers an £150 discount, through the [Warm Home Discount](#).

LED STREETLIGHT UPGRADE

The [streetlight upgrade programme](#) is continuing to roll out across Essex. The last remaining districts are now scheduled to get many of their current streetlights replaced with new LED lights. The LED lights are energy efficient and money saving. The crews will be in Rochford, Maldon and Uttlesford between now and the end of March.

WINTER ON THE ROADS

The temperatures are dropping and the Essex Highways gritters have started [gritting the roads to keep them safe](#) . Motorists also need to be prepared for driving in colder and icy conditions. View the Safer Essex Roads Partnership's [winter driving advice](#).

ESSEX YEAR OF NUMBERS ADVENT COMPETITION

Children can countdown to Christmas with a sprinkling of maths magic this December. Through the Essex Year of Numbers app, we'll be sharing daily maths puzzles. If you can answer the daily question correctly, you have a chance to win an exciting prize.

The [Essex Year of Numbers Advent competition](#) will run throughout the Advent period from Friday 1 December to Sunday 24 December 2023.

SECURING CHILDREN'S NEW TECHNOLOGY DEVICES

With many young people sure to receive new technology this Christmas, parents and carers are reminded to make sure they know how to set the device up safely.

It's important to talk to children and young people about online safety as well as using parental controls. Find out more about [online safety](#).

ESSEX OPPORTUNITIES NEWSLETTER

Ready to receive the best local vacancies straight to your inbox? Kickstart the new year with advice on key sectors, training, and employment events.

You'll be the first to hear about opportunities and apprenticeships across Essex. [Subscribe to the Essex Opportunities newsletter](#) today.

BOOST OF YOUR BUSINESS IN 2024

Thinking of launching a start-up or growing your business next year? We're here to help with free business support, access to finance, exciting events and more.

[Discover a wide range of business support](#) for all sectors, sizes and locations. [Follow Ambitious Essex on LinkedIn](#) for the latest opportunities.

LAPTOP DONATIONS NEEDED!

Do you have any old or unused laptops that are gathering dust? We can help, we're looking for laptop donations from the business community. These will be broken down into parts and used to buy new devices for residents in need of digital support.

If you have any unused laptops that are less than seven years old and already wiped, please email digital@essex.gov.uk

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