

MALDON DIVISION MONTHLY UPDATE – COUNCILLOR JANE FLEMING

HAVE YOUR SAY ON RECYCLING CENTRE BOOKINGS!

Since March 2023, residents have had to book to visit Essex County Council recycling centres. Following an evaluation of the trial, we are now proposing to keep the booking process permanently.

The evaluation has shown the booking process has been working well, and congestion has decreased since the trial was introduced. Have your say and [complete the recycling centre bookings survey](#) by Wednesday 22 November 2023.

FREE SUPPORT TO START OR GROW YOUR BUSINESS

Backing Essex Business can provide the guidance and support you need to grow your business.

Receive 12 hours of free, bespoke and impartial advice regardless of your business size or sector. You can also access training, group coaching and exciting events. [Find out more about Backing Essex Business.](#)

CALLING ESSEX SCHOOLS: ACCESS FUNDED DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Essex County Council are inviting schools to access our unspent apprenticeship levy, which can cover training costs for teaching and non-teaching staff. Level 2 to 5 apprenticeships cover a range of subjects from IT and Facilities Management to Early Years and Management. [Get in touch with our team to find out more.](#)

ECC CONDITIONALLY AWARDED £69M FOR ARMY AND NAVY TRANSPORT PACKAGE

Plans to transform the Army and Navy junction in Chelmsford and improve sustainable travel options in the city have taken a huge step forward after Essex County Council was conditionally awarded £69million of Government funding.

The proposed [Army and Navy Sustainable Transport Package](#) includes a hamburger roundabout (a new roundabout with a road through the centre of it) at the Army and Navy junction in Chelmsford, bus priority measures and walking and cycling improvements at the junction itself and on the approaches to and from the roundabout. The package also includes a 350-space expansion of Sandon Park and Ride, and a 500-space expansion of Chelmer Valley Park and Ride.

Having worked closely with partners and the local community to develop the proposed package of improvements, the council submitted an outline business case for the project in October 2022.

The £81million project, which will also be part funded by Essex County Council and Chelmsford City Council, can now move forward after the Department for Transport approved the outline business case and agreed to contribute £68.75million of Major Road Network (MRN) funding, subject to certain conditions.

The funding is dependent on planning consent and other processes, as well as a full business case. It will enable designs to be finalised and fund the construction of all elements of the package.

HELP DEFINE OUR NATURAL SPACES

All Essex residents can have their say to define the future of Essex's natural spaces between now and March 2024. [Join the online webinar](#) on Thursday 23 November, 7pm to 8pm. There will be an open forum for residents to present questions and provide feedback.

HIGHWAYS – NEW WAY OF FIXING POT HOLES

A new, quicker way to fix potholes has been trialled in Colchester and Tendring. The method uses recycled materials and involves pouring the material straight into the pothole rather than digging up the road.

The results will be monitored over the winter, before Essex Highways decides whether to roll it out across the county. Find out more about the [recycling approach to fixing potholes](#).

TAKE ACTION TO PREVENT FLOODING

Landowners are being urged to clear any ditches and trim back trees and hedges to help prevent flooding over the autumn and winter months. [Essex Highways has been maintaining the land it](#)

[owns](#) in preparation.

Legally private landowners, including farmers, property developers and homeowners have a duty to keep on top of vegetation near roads and pavements.

Tips to prevent flooding

We've provided five actions you can take to prepare for and reduce the impact of flooding:

1. Install (and empty) a [water butt](#) to capture rainfall from your roof.
2. Minimize use of materials, like tarmac, [in your front garden](#) that rain cannot soak into.
3. Plant trees and shrubs to improve water absorption and create a [rain garden](#) to allow water to slowly soak into the soil
4. Minimize use of materials, like tarmac, [in your front garden](#) that rain cannot soak into.
5. Plant trees and shrubs to improve water absorption and create a [rain garden](#) to allow water to slowly soak into the soil.

ESSEX FOREST INITIATIVE

The Essex Forest Initiative is now in its penultimate year and has already planted 241,560 trees. Planting more trees across the county has a vital role in combating climate change.

[Volunteers are needed](#) to support the initiative. Ariel previously volunteered and summarised the joys of seeing the results of her work. She said, "It felt rewarding to see a whole field planted in one day, it's great what you can achieve when you have a large group working together."

[Sign up to volunteer at a local tree planting event](#) from November to late January 2024.

DISCOVER A REWARDING CAREER IN EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE

We've launched a recruitment campaign 'Make a change. Build a future.' to boost the number of early year practitioners in the county's preschools, nurseries and childminding settings.

With a career in early years you can benefit from formal qualifications and career development opportunities while shaping the lives of young children. [Discover early years and childcare opportunities](#) now.

ADVICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND)

The Essex Local Offer can help young people with SEND find the right type of training and work. It can also help with finding the right support to learn new skills and become independent. Find out more at the [Essex Local Offer website](#).

There's still time to help us improve the Essex Local Offer website. If you know of any services, activities or support groups that are inclusive please [complete this short form](#).

STAY SAFE WHEN ONLINE SHOPPING

When buying toys be sure to buy from reputable retailers, especially if you're buying online. Just because you can buy a toy does not automatically mean it is safe.

Be mindful of the following when buying online:

- Is the online store a high street chain?
- Is the website a big-name toy brand?
- Do you know the manufacturer of the branded toy?
- Have you ever heard of the company?
- Does the company have a UK or EU address?

Find out more from the [Child Accident Prevention Trust](#).

SIGN UP TO THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD THIS NOVEMBER

The Duke of Edinburgh's award is a life changing adventure for young people aged 14 to 24-years-old (bronze can start in year 9).

It helps young people develop skills for their future, while meeting new people, helping their local community and experiencing a challenging expedition. Find out more and [register for the Duke of Edinburgh Awards](#).

GET AHEAD THIS NATIONAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT MONTH

The third Essex Careers Magazine has just landed. The latest edition features opportunities in engineering, with plenty of local employer showcases.

You can also learn more about green jobs, digital careers and different employment support services near you. [Read the third edition of the Essex Careers Magazine](#) today.

AUTUMN COVID BOOSTER VACCINES OFFERED TO ESSEX RESIDENTS

The covid-19 booster offers protection against the new strains of the virus. Frontline staff and those at high risk in Essex can now [get their covid-19 booster](#). Those eligible should receive an invite for their Covid booster and flu vaccination.

BEAT THE WINTER BLUES

The clocks going back is a clear signal that winter is drawing closer, and the days are growing shorter. Darker nights and winter months can impact on your mood and frame of mind.

Exercise, eating well and getting a good night's sleep can all help if you are feeling depressed or tired. There is a range of [mental health support online](#).

THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE, SO HAVE YOUR SAY

There is still time to share your views on the draft Waste Strategy for Essex. This is an important document that sets out why we need to reduce the amount of waste we produce as a county. It also outlines our ambitious targets around waste and recycling.

Learn more about the strategy by watching the video above and [have your say on the draft strategy](#).

HIRE A SPACE IN ONE OF OUR LIBRARIES

Did you know that several of our libraries have rooms for hire? Organisations are using our spaces to provide a range of services in a community setting - so why not get in touch? To understand what's available to you locally pop into your local library for a chat, or for a general idea [take a look at our website](#).

Cllr Jane Fleming cllr.jane.fleming@essex.gov.uk