

Cllr Karl Jarvis – Report from Maldon District Council, for Woodham Mortimer and Hazeleigh Parish meeting of 21st July 2020

1. **Accounts** – on track; a big improvement on last year.
2. **Budget** – MDC will need to use its reserves to manage the additional expenses and loss of income, as a consequence of Covid-19; Medium Term Financial Strategy was noted at MDC last Thursday 16th July . There may be government support for Council in this respect – in the order of 90%, of 75% of the costs, but this is not confirmed.
3. **Bradwell B Consultation** – Council voted against the testing based on the preservation of historical sites, serious concerns about harm to nature issues and the prospect of 5 years of noise at volumes that exceed MDC's own guidelines; there were no Cllrs at MDC in favour. This vote will not necessarily stop the construction of the power station, which is government policy and ultimately their decision, but it illustrates that there are broad concerns, mainly about the size of the project and Cllrs are keen that authorities register these concerns.
4. **High Street social distancing** - still in place and lots of new initiatives which are being considered to get businesses operational again.
5. **Green Bins 'capacity issue'** – MDC have contracted a 4th lorry to increase collection capacity. There were delays due to Covid. From 4th August all residents on the waiting lists should be having bins collected – all those on waiting lists have just been written to.
6. **Leisure Centres (Blackwater and Dengie 100 sports centres, run by Places Leisure)** – following careful consideration the Council is supporting the reopening of the Leisure Centres. There are material cost considerations and contractual obligations, which have determined the decision to support reopening in early August. Matters will be kept under review and ongoing support beyond October will be considered over the coming months.
7. **MDC Committees:**
 - a. Performance Governance and Audit (PGA) – nothing material to report.
 - b. Strategy and Resources (S&R) – nothing material to report.
8. **MDC Planning:**
 - a. Applications
 - i. Land East of Bradwell (as above) **20/00157/FUL –refused.**
 - ii. Land North and West of Knowles Farm, Wycke Hill **15/01327/OUT – refused.**
9. **Community Initiative fun Essex/ Micro grants.** As well as the Locality fund (being offered by C/Cllrs) there are other sources for project funding that the Clerk might wish to pursue.