

ESSEX ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS



COUNTY UPDATE

No. 51

January 2008

**NEW YEAR
NEW CHAIRMAN
NEW PREMISES**

NEW INITIATIVE

EALC 'SURGERY' & RESOURCE OPEN DAYS

Without the need to book you are invited, one day a month, to visit the EALC Office.

- See how we work to serve our member Councils
- Meet the Staff
- Have your general queries answered
- Use our resource area to carry out your research

WHO CAN ATTEND?

- Any Clerk
- Any member with the councils authorisation

For more information and dates please refer to the leaflet included in the mailing.

Please see page 3 for our new Chairman's Opening Address.

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This update is available free to all members of the Essex Association of Local Councils.

Membership of the EALC is open to all Parish Councils, Parish Meetings & Town Councils.

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Office Opening Hours

Monday to Thursday:	9.00am to 5.00pm
Friday:	9.00am to 4.00pm

Visits to the office of the EALC are available by prior appointment, this will ensure that the correct person is available to assist with your enquiry.

All communications by letter or email to the EALC will be acknowledged within 5 working days.

NEW CHAIRMAN'S OPENING ADDRESS

At the Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee, the Chairman of the last six years, Cllr. Peter Baggott stood down, as required to do so by the Constitution, which in fact allows for just four years of service, but had been introduced at a time when Cllr. Baggott had already been Chairman for 2 years. Cllr. Baggott has served the Association very well and will continue to do so as our representative to the National Association (NALC), and to the regional association (EEAPTC).

It was a great honour for me to be elected as the new Chairman of the Association, having only been the Vice-Chairman for one year. I have been a member of Billericay Town Council for 10 years, which is ever since Billericay has had a Town Council, and have been involved with the Basildon Association for as long as it has existed, just under 10 years, and I currently act as its Secretary. (If anyone out there would like to take that over from me for a suitable remuneration, please let me know.) I have also been a member of Ramsden Bellhouse Parish Council.

Prior to the establishment of the Billericay Town Council I have been actively involved in local issues through the Billericay District Residents' Association, of which I am still the Chairman.

With the Royal Assent to the new Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act, the next few years will present many opportunities for Town and Parish Councils in Essex. Essex County Council has a strong localism agenda and sees the parish tier of local government as important to the delivery of services which meet the needs of local people. The question for every town and parish council in the county is – Will we take the new opportunities?

As Chairman of the EALC I will work with the CEO at County, Regional and if necessary National, level to make sure that all possible doors are open for town & parish councils to walk through, but it's up to you to walk through them.

Cllr. John Buchanan

ESSEX TRAINING PARTNERSHIP

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE ESSEX TRAINING PARTNERSHIP.

Let's make this the year when we have the pleasure of meeting even more of you wishing to learn and develop your skills in the parish and town council world.

Training is a valuable investment for the future, increasing the effectiveness and awareness of the council, but equally giving a quick return on your money.

WELL DONE, WELL DONE, WELL DONE!!!

Congratulations go to three more clerks who have achieved the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA).

David Thurlow, Clerk, Lawford Parish Council
Jacqui Cousins, Clerk, Asheldham & Dengie; Stow Maries; Shotgate Parish Councils
Stuart Mennell, Clerk, Hawkwell Parish Council

Jacqui is the 50th person to have achieved CiLCA in Essex, and with a Distinction no less! We now have 51 people qualified in Essex. Hooray!

Both David, Jacqui and Stuart have attended Essex Equals the fast track mentoring course to help achieve CiLCA and for those councils wishing to, progress through to Quality Council Status.

Essex Equals Eight – the next in the series starts on the **20th February 2008** and is being held in **Springfield**. For further information or to book a place please telephone me.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

Here we are with money on offer to Councils in the Maldon District to help with training and the uptake has been, quite honestly, appalling.

If you are in the Maldon District and thinking of booking a place on an ETP Course, don't forget to complete the Pro Forma to obtain half the cost of the place back, and return it to me. **Two people could come for the price of one!**

Reminders of forthcoming courses.

Places are still available on the following courses:-

Planning for the Future of your Village - 19th February 2008

Chairmans Day 1 - 28th February 2008

Roles & Responsibilities - 11th March 2008 (flyer with this mailing)

TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT ANNUAL REPORTS

No doubt you are currently thinking of how you can liven up or change the format of your **Annual Report** this year, to draw peoples attention to the great work that you have achieved in the past year, and to let them know what you hope to achieve in the coming year.

More and more Councils are now producing an **Annual Report**, it doesn't need to be a vastly expensive affair. It could be just a couple of pages that are photocopied! It does need to let the electorate know what you are doing; it needs to reflect the work of the Council.

Just stop and think, you know what you do, but do the electorate?

With this in mind and the desire you have to achieve Quality Status, why not adopt the basic elements required for the Quality Parish Status.

To qualify for Quality Status what information would my Parish need to include?

Easy!

- Include a list of council members and officers with contact details
- A summary of Accounts of the Parish Council
- Chairman's overview of Council achievements

What else?

Well, just ensure that it is completed and published by the 30th June the following financial year, i.e. **a Council whose financial year ends on 1st April 2008, would need to have its annual report published by 30th June 2008.**

Make sure it is available for inspection by any elector in the Parish Council area.

We are always pleased to receive copies of your **Annual Reports**, we keep a file of these which are always available for people to come and see should they want inspiration.

And finally, don't forget to enter it in the **Annual Report** Competition later in the year!



PANEL MAKES CARAVAN PITCH RECOMMENDATIONS TO REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Proposals to provide more Gypsy and Traveller caravan pitches in all local authorities in the region by 2011 were recommended on 12th December 2007 by the East of England Regional Assembly's Regional Planning Panel at their meeting in Cambridge.

The Panel recommended that every local authority in the region should provide a minimum of 15 new pitches by 2011 with more where there is a high level of need.

The Planning Panel's recommendations will now be considered by the 105 members of the full Regional Assembly at their next meeting on 25th January 2008 in Norwich. All 54 local authorities in the region are represented on the Assembly.

Regional Planning Panel Chairman Cllr Derrick Ashley said: "Too many Gypsies and Travellers are on land without planning permission and without access to basic facilities and public services.

The Panel's recommendations to provide more legal pitches for Gypsy and Traveller families living in the region is a step forward in improving their quality of life and tackling the problem of unauthorised sites.

It is now the responsibility of the full Regional Assembly to consider our recommendations in January. There will also be further opportunity for members of the public and others to make their views known in the spring of next year during a formal 12 week period of public consultation."

In February 2006, the Government issued its national planning policy on the provision of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation. The planning policy requires all Regional Assemblies to review their regional planning policy to provide planning guidance to local authorities on the number of additional caravan pitches that are required. The planning guidance is not location specific, local authorities will determine the locations of additional pitches in the development of district plans, which will be subject to consultation. Government will determine the final number of pitches required in 2009 following further public consultation in 2008.

Local authorities are responsible for making decisions on suitable locations for Gypsy and Traveller pitches following public consultation.

The Assembly received 2027 responses to the Issues and Options public consultation which was undertaken between 8th May and 31st July 2007.

For more information visit:

<http://www.eera.gov.uk/category.asp?cat=583&id=5XF1DF-A77FAA69>

East of England

Table showing a comparison between:

- Number of local authority and private owned authorised pitches existing in 2006.
- Proposed policy recommended by the Regional Planning Panel meeting on 12th December 2007.

LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA	AUTHORISED PITCHES 2006	RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL
ESSEX & UNITARIES	472	371
BASILDON	116	81
BRAINTREE	25	16
BRENTWOOD	10	15
CASTLE POINT	0	15
CHELMSFORD	35	46
COLCHESTER	7	15
EPPING FOREST	94	49
HARLOW	34	15
MALDON	39	15
ROCHFORD	3	15
TENDRING	2	15
UTTLESFORD	37	15
SOUTHEND-on-SEA	0	15
THURROCK	70	44

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## CODE OF CONDUCT

### Failure to Adopt

The new Code of Conduct applies to all councils (except section 12) automatically, but the law still requires them to formally adopt it as soon as possible after 30 September 2007. Failure to do so leaves them failing to carry out a legal duty.

The Standards Board may start chasing any council that has not adopted the code, possibly through the Electoral or Monitoring Officer.

If your council has adopted the code including section 12(2), do not forget to look at the advice sent in October 2007. Please note the change in status of the Public Forum.

## BILLERICAY YOUTH COUNCIL

Billericay Youth Council obtained funding to enable the completion of the extension to the Skatepark at Lake Meadows. Money was raised by organising Battle of the Bands competitions and they received £25,000 grant funding to install new equipment in the skate park.

The park was officially opened on 17th November 2007. Demonstrations and workshops were provided throughout the day by King Ramps Ltd.

The Youth Council also organised Litter Competition involving both primary schools and senior schools. They also took part in the Litter Picks organised by the Town Council and were an integral part of the Christmas Decorations Switching-on Ceremony.

Another highlight of their year was being nominated for the Young Persons of the Year Award (YOPE) and although they were not overall winners they were presented with a cheque for £100, £50 of which will be forward to their chosen charity BOSP - Brighter Opportunies for Supported Play.



## GRANTNET

### **Are you looking for funding for a specific project?**

Essex County Council subscribes to Grantnet, a user-friendly service that helps local organisations identify funding streams that may be available to specific projects for voluntary and community groups, parish councils, social enterprises, and small to medium sized businesses.

Grantnet is a service linked to Grantfinder which is a comprehensive database of over 4,000 UK and EU funding sources.

For more information visit:

[www.essexcc.gov.uk/vip8/ecc/ECCWebsite/dis/guc.jsp?channelOid=27961&guideOid=32946&guideContentOid=102415](http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/vip8/ecc/ECCWebsite/dis/guc.jsp?channelOid=27961&guideOid=32946&guideContentOid=102415)

You can register as a parish council or community group and do your own searches to find the information you need.

## CONSULTATION ON ORDERS AND REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE CONDUCT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS IN ENGLAND

The Government has published a consultation paper which seeks views on the detailed arrangements for putting into effect the orders and regulations to provide a revised more locally-based ethical regime for the conduct of local councillors in England.

Part 10 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 amends the Local Government Act 2000 to provide for a revised ethical conduct regime for local government based on the principle of proportionate decision-making on conduct issues by local authorities. In order to implement the revised regime, we now need to put in place detailed arrangements to allow standards committees and the Standards Board to undertake their new roles. These arrangements need to cover:

- The operation of standards committees' powers to make initial assessments of misconduct allegations.
- The operation of other functions by standards committees and the Adjudication Panel in issuing penalties and sanctions.
- The operation of the Standards Board's revised strategic role to provide supervision, support and guidance for the regime.
- Other matters, such as the rules on the granting of dispensations, the granting of exemptions of posts from political restrictions and the pay of local authority political assistants.

For more information visit:

[www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/laconduct](http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/laconduct)

### **Have your say**

Respond by email: [William.Tandoh@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:William.Tandoh@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

or write to: **William Tandoh, Communities and Local Government, Local Democracy and Empowerment Directorate, 5/G10 Eland House, Bressenden Place, London SW1 5DU.**

**Closing date Friday 15 February 2008**

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ESSEX RAIL SEMINAR

Friday 3rd October 2008

To provide an interesting and informative day, the organisers are seeking your views on the issues that are important to you. These will then be collated into a number of topic areas.

At this stage would you send your discussion items to Vera Wrenn, email vwrenn@essexcc.gov.uk or by post to County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1QH. by **Friday 29th February 2008.**



The following are articles from the National Association's Direct Information Service. This is a fortnightly newsletter containing a round up of all the news and special sections on health & safety, documents & publications and legal issues.

For more information about the **Direct Information Service** please visit:
www.nalc.gov.uk/publications/dis/index

Information from NALC DIS.

672/8 – New alliance to build culture and sport into communities

Living Places, a new partnership of cultural bodies and Government departments, has launched an eight-point action plan to bring the benefits of culture and sport to communities.

Culture and sport are key elements in creating communities which people are proud to call their home. Living Places will help realise people's aspirations by helping house builders, planners and all those helping to shape communities build in culture and sport from the start.

Gerry Sutcliffe MP, minister for sport, said: "Culture and sport are engaging and powerful instruments for building places that are vibrant and exciting - where people will choose to live. Good design that builds on local history creates character. Playing football in the park, joining a library and watching a local play reinforce our sense of community. Living Places shows how these sporting and cultural elements can be combined to build desirable communities in the Thames Gateway and beyond."

Sarah Weir, executive director, Arts Council England, London said: "The millions of homes built over the next fifteen years will be our legacy to future generations. Planners, local authorities and house builders tell us that culture and sport are important for creating interesting new communities. But people are confused about putting these tools into practice. To help them, Living Places will provide a wealth of experience and guidance from across the cultural sector through one single gateway."

The Living Places eight-point action plan is as follows:

Living Places will create a single portal for evidence and best practice. A new website at www.living-places.org.uk will include an archive of research, evidence and case studies to encourage wider adoption of culture and sport as tools to meet sustainable communities goals.

1. Living Places will create a Culture Planning Toolkit, a step-by-step online guide to help sustainable community practitioners integrate culture and sport into their work.
2. Living Places will produce guidance for communities, to help people bring appropriate cultural and sporting infrastructure and activities into their own areas.
3. Living Places will commission new research to improve the base of evidence that shows culture and sport have widespread benefits beyond their intrinsic values.
4. Living Places members will back the efforts of local and regional practitioners with

expertise and resources and will ensure investments are better aligned towards common goals.

5. Living Places will explore ways to provide training and skills to sustainable communities practitioners who want to use culture and sport in their work.

6. Living Places will focus first on five priority places that will help members understand the role of culture within communities of varying scales. The places identified are: Thames Gateway, The South West region, Corby, Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH), and Pennine Lancashire.

Living Places will encourage greater and wider participation in culture through a range of programmes across the country.

For more information please visit:

www.sportengland.org/index/news_and_media/news_pr/new_alliance_to_build_culture_and_sport_into_communities__.htm

672/9 – Government powers help local authorities get tough on litter

Local authorities are issuing more fixed penalty notices for littering than ever before – and more people are paying up when they get caught, according to published figures. The total number of fixed penalty notices (FPNs) issued for litter has risen by 32 per cent from 33,033 in 2005/6 to 43,624 in 2006/07. Minister for local environment quality Jonathan Shaw MP said: "Ask communities what concerns them most about the area they live in and litter is near the top of list. Residents are right to expect their council to take a tough stance.

"I'm encouraged to see that more local authorities are using the powers Government has provided to penalise people who are ruining our streets with thoughtless offences like littering.

"But fixed penalty notices are only effective if local authorities take steps to ensure that they are paid - and, if they're not, that effective action is taken at local level. I'm pleased to see that this has followed through in the results with an increase in payment rates, although there is still more to do."

The figures show that the number of payments arising from FPNs for littering has risen by 49 per cent over the period from 18,002 in 2005/06 to 26,818 in 2006/07.

For more information please visit:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localenv/legislation/fpn/index.htm

672/10 – More neighbourhoods to get a 'community kitty'

The number of areas where people are given a direct say in how council money is spent is to more than double.

The communities secretary Hazel Blears MP said that residents in a further 12 areas of the country would get the chance to access their own 'community kitty' to spend on tackling the issues they think are most important in their own neighbourhood.

Ms Blears said this radical new way of working would revive local democracy and participation by giving people a say in local decisions. She wants all local authorities to employ this practice within five years and the new areas mark important progress towards that goal.

Ten pilots for the scheme, heralded by Ms Blears as a real shift in power or 'devolution to the doorstep', are already underway across the country ranging from Sunderland to Lewisham. Residents in these areas are already getting a chance to have their say on funding priorities for their neighbourhood ranging from community wardens to tackle anti-social behaviour, new play areas for local children or better transport solutions.

They will now be joined by Thanet, Wiltshire, Dartford, Sefton, Cornwall, Lancaster, Mansfield, Suffolk, Leicester, Wirral, Reigate & Banstead and Buckinghamshire.

All these councils have volunteered to work with residents so local people can take decisions on spending priorities for part of the council's budget.

First pioneered in Brazil, 'participatory budgeting' gives communities the ability to take control of budgets through community-led debates, neighbourhood votes and public meetings. It includes training for local people on how local council budgets work and how priorities are set.

Ms Blears said: "Local people know their area better than anyone and want a direct say over how to tackle the issues that matter most to them from improving playgrounds, to dealing with litter, better standards of housing or taking action against anti-social behaviour.

"Too few people feel able to make a difference in their local area. Giving them more power over decisions on issues that affect them directly is a practical and modern way to get people involved with local democracy.

The new pilots will not only expand and accelerate the move towards participatory budgeting ('community kitty'), but will also contribute to efforts at both central and local government level to deliver on the vision of shifting power from the centre, involving more people in the decision making process and bringing about what the prime minister has called 'a reinvention of the way we govern'.

For more information please visit:

www.communities.gov.uk.

673/3 – Public to set local priorities

Local people will have the opportunity to give their views on their priority concerns for their local councils and agencies to tackle, under new plans published by local government minister John Healey MP.

Under the new Place Survey, councils will ask local residents their views on a wide variety of issues, ranging from their use of local services to their general health and well-being, from support for older people to tackling crime, as well as information on levels of participation in the local community.

Respondents will also be able to say how concerned they are about the problems affecting their communities, from littering, graffiti or noisy neighbours, to whether

they feel the police and local authorities are tackling anti-social behaviour effectively.

The results of the Place Survey will be used to assess how local areas are performing against 20 Citizen Perception Indicators, included in the new National Indicator Set: it follows a reduction in indicators for local authorities from around 1,200 to just 198.

The new system will replace the Best Value User Satisfaction Survey, which every council in England has been conducting every three years since 2000, and will focus less on customer satisfaction with local services, and more with residents' quality of life.

Mr Healey said: "In handing greater powers to councils, we in central government have made clear to those in local government that local people should be actively encouraged to have their say on the key concerns in their communities, both at the ballot box and between elections.

"The new Place Survey will be a significant tool for councils and local agencies not only to measure their performance in important policy areas, but also to gauge people's views on things that should be given top priority. The survey has also been designed to take into account local variations, giving councils and partners the opportunity to set their own questions.

"I am confident that this new survey scheme will bring benefits all round, for local authorities, other agencies and local people."

The deadline for submissions to The New Place Survey Consultation is **8 February 2008**.

Details can be found at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/newplacesurvey

673/4 – Ordnance Survey to consult councils on GIS data for heavy goods vehicle satnavs

Ordnance Survey has announced plans designed to help keep heavy goods vehicles (HGV) on the appropriate roads in support of citizens, hauliers and local authorities across Great Britain.

Every local authority creates freight route maps, which highlight the council recommended roads for hauliers. Ordnance Survey, which provides the underlying road network data to the satellite navigation industry, wants to consult with local government organisations on how it can help get these maps into satnav devices.

By using the recommended routes, hauliers can be sure that they are being directed along the most suitable roads. This will in turn help reduce congestion on local roads and help ensure hauliers can make their journeys safely and efficiently.

According to figures from the Department for Transport, goods vehicle traffic in Great Britain accounted for 29 billion vehicle kilometers in 2006 – a rise of 11% in a decade – while overall vehicle traffic broke the 500 billion kilometer barrier for the first time in 2006.

Tom Satterthwaite, senior product manager for transport at Ordnance Survey, says, “With more HGVs on our roads than ever before, we recognise that having lorries and trucks routed down unsuitable roads is a problem for the hauliers, residents and the local authorities.

“I believe that as the national mapping agency, Ordnance Survey is best placed to help facilitate a solution that will benefit everyone. Over the coming months we’ll be talking with local authorities across the country to see how we can help encourage commercial vehicles to use these routes and hopefully get them into satnavs.”

Further support of road hauliers is coming from Ordnance Survey’s business partners through the use of its HGV attribute data.

Ordnance Survey made available information on the weight, width and height restrictions on Britain’s roads in October 2006. This information can further support HGV drivers by highlighting the roads that should be avoided due to low bridges or narrow lanes, for example.

It is hoped that the uptake of this information within Ordnance Survey’s partner community will result in the first satnavs designed specifically for hauliers.

Mr Satterthwaite comments, “Alongside our plans with local authorities we have also been working with our partners to get road restriction information to the market. In combination, we hope to give hauliers the full picture of Britain’s roads – highlighting the best recommended routes from local authorities as well as the roads to avoid”.

Donald Armour of the Freight Transport Association welcomes the developments: “HGV drivers becoming stuck up unsuitable roads creates a bad image for our industry, disrupts delivery schedules and causes inconvenience to local residents. The ability to select routes for heavy lorries, bearing in mind vehicle width, height and length restrictions, will be a huge benefit to all parties concerned.”

673/12 – Councils match Tesco.com for web hits

Local authority websites attract nearly as many hits as major retailer Tesco.com, following a recent award-winning publicity campaign 'Connect to Your Council'.

Research published on 20 December by the Central Office of Information also reveals that in-person visits to council offices have dropped by a quarter since the beginning of the advertising. In the same period, telephone queries are down by 16 per cent and letters by 15 per cent.

People can now access a wide range of council services online, from finding information on rubbish collection, to applying for school places, or paying bills.

Parmjit Dhanda MP, minister for local e-government said: “It is clear that residents welcome the chance to put themselves in charge of how, when and where they access their local council services. Our independent survey shows that, in a dramatically growing market, local authority websites are maintaining a consistent share of traffic. This is a marked achievement that confirms the potential of local e-government for delivering an efficient and responsive service culture that is centred on the needs of customers.”

The 'Connect to your Council' campaign was launched in May 2006 and runs until March 2008. People visiting the Campaign website at www.direct.gov.uk/mycouncil

(external link) just enter a post code, town or street name, to be directed to the relevant service page of their council's website.

A copy of the COI's review of the 'Connect to your Council' Campaign can be downloaded at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/connecttocouncil.

673/13 – Pension credit take-up: rural pensioners left out in the cold

As part of its series of State of the Countryside updates, the Commission for Rural Communities (CRC) has published new information about the take-up of pension credit in rural England. Overall the take-up of pension credit is lower in rural areas: 42% of eligible rural pensioners are non-recipients of pension credit compared with 35% in urban areas. In villages and hamlets and isolated dwellings the difference is even more pronounced: 54% of eligible pensioners are non-recipients of pension credit. It is estimated that more than 250,000 pensioners in rural areas are eligible to receive pension credit but are not claiming their entitlement.

Commenting on the findings, Graham Russell director of practice at the Commission for Rural Communities said: “The situation with pensioners living in hamlets and isolated dwellings being much less likely to claim their entitlement to pension credit is extremely concerning, especially as the rural population is ageing faster than the urban population. Because of where they live pensioners in rural areas can be more isolated from sources of information and advice. Also our research shows that they tend to be more independent or more anxious about any stigma associated with receiving pension credit.

“I hope the findings we are publishing today will encourage organisations in rural communities, such as GP surgeries, carers and pub landlords, to work with us to ensure that people in rural areas who are eligible to claim pension credit are aware of their entitlement. Increased take-up of benefits could reduce pensioner poverty dramatically, since the additional spending would, by definition, go almost exclusively to the poorest pensioners. Pensioners are entitled to claim this allowance; it is imperative that no one who is in genuine need misses out, no matter where they live.”

The findings are part of ongoing work by the CRC to tackle specific aspects of rural disadvantage. Early in the new year we will be producing new information which shows how positive steps can be taken to promote financial inclusion in rural areas working alongside the financial services sector.

Please note

Accuracy: Whilst every effort is made to ensure accuracy, NALC & EALC cannot in any circumstances accept responsibility for errors, omissions or advice given in this publication.

Web sites: We do not endorse them or guarantee their authenticity or accuracy.

Useful Telephone Numbers

Action for Market Towns 0845 6446202	ACAS London 0845 7474747
Action with Communities Rural in Rural England (ACRE) 01285 653477	Association of Councillors 0191 433 3000
Byways & Bridleways Trust 01256 702133	British Trust for Conservation Volunteers 01302 388820
Campaign to Protect Rural England 020 7981 2800	Civic Trust 020 7539 7900
Clerks & Councils Direct 01784 483281	Countryside Agency 01242 533222
Data Protection Act Infoline 01625 545745	DEFRA 0845 9335577
English Heritage 0870 333 1181	Essex County Council Helpline 0845 7430430
Essex Disabled Peoples Association 01245 253400	Essex Heritage Trust 01376 585794
Heritage Lottery Fund 020 7591 6000	Health & Safety Executive Infoline 0845 3450055
Health & Safety Executive Publications 01787 881165	Information Commissioner 01625 545745
Land Registry 020 7917 8888	Local Government Ombudsman Tony Redmond Local Government Ombudsman Millbank Tower Millbank London SW1 4QP Tel: 020 72174620 Fax: 020 72174621 Email: inquiries.london@lgo.aug.uk
National Playing Fields Association 020 7833 5360	
Public Works Loan Board 0845 3576610	
Ramblers Association 020 7339 8500	
Rural Community Council of Essex 0844 4773938	
Standards Board for England 0845 078 8181	

Useful Websites

Association of Play Industries	www.playindustries.org
Awards for All Lottery Grants	www.awardsforall.org.uk
BAA Stansted	www.stanstedgrowing@baa.com
Council to Protect Rural England (CPREssex)	www.cpressx.org.uk
Data Protection Act	www.dataprotection.gov.uk
Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG)	www.communities.gov.uk
Details of Rurally Based Enterprises	www.ruralheart.com
Essex County Council Information Service	www.seamless.org.uk
Flood Warning	www.environmentagency.gov.uk/floodwarning
General Government Sites	www.direct.gov.uk
Grants 4: Essex	www.grants4.info/essex
Health & Safety Executive	www.hse.gov.uk
Information Commissioner	www.dataprotection.gov.uk
Information for Local Government	www.info4local.gov.uk
InspireEast	www.inspire-east.org.uk
National Association of Farmers Markets	www.farmersmarkets.net
Department for Communities and Local Government	www.communities.gov.uk
Public and Community Transport	www.essexcc.gov.uk
Public Works Loan Board	www.pwlb.gov.uk
RoSPA Play Safety	www.rospace.com/playsafety
Rural Community Council	www.essexrcc.org.uk
Standards Board	www.standardsboard.co.uk
The Countryside Agency	www.countryside.gov.uk
The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA)	www.defra.gov.uk
The Department of Transport & Local Government	www.dtlr.gov.uk
Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd	www.wren.org.uk

EALC/ETP Diary Dates

2008

19th Feb	Planning for the Future	ETP
28th Feb	Chairman's Day 1	EALC
11th March	Roles & Responsibilities	ETP
15th April	Law & Procedures	ETP
23rd April	Burials	ETP
30th April	Employment Issues	ETP
8th May	Minutes & Agenda	ETP
14th May	Risk Management	ETP
3rd June	Chairman's Day 2	EALC
12th June	Planning for the Future	ETP
!0th June	Maldon District Annual Meeting Parish Room Southminster 19.30 –21.30	MDA
20th June	<i>New Course</i> Food Hygiene	ETP
24th June	Conference	
4th July	Health & Safety	ETP