

News for Parishes Early June 2018

Compiled by Cllr Penny Channer - Essex County Council

Early June 2018

[Essex Developers and Planning Authorities Agree Planning Protocol](#)

Planning departments and developers across Greater Essex have signed up to a new Essex Planning Protocol. The Protocol is an agreement committing parties to working together constructively to facilitate the growth needed across Greater Essex.

It was prompted by a significant predicted growth in the Greater Essex population of almost 300,000 from 2016 to 2036, fuelling demand for housing and the supporting infrastructure.

The Protocol has been signed by the Chairman of the Essex Planning Officers' Association on behalf of twelve Essex district authorities and the unitary authority of Southend-on-Sea, and the Essex Developers' Group representing developers, agents and the legal teams involved in development.

It was prepared by Essex County Council's Place Services and includes commitments under four broad headings - communication, certainty and consistency, resources and training. Key features include support for the use of Planning Performance Agreements which set agreed expectations at the various stages of a project and firm deadlines for making a decision.

In Essex we are committed to delivering high quality and sustainable growth across the county. The implementation of the Essex Planning Protocol is a significant step towards enabling us to meet the county's future housing and employment needs."

[Essex County Council will announce its favoured route option for the A120 on Friday 8 June.](#)

Cllr Kevin Bentley, Deputy Leader of Essex County Council and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure will make the announcement at an event at Earls Colne Golf Club. Four routes are currently being considered as

potential options; Friday's announcement will include background information on all routes and rationale for the favoured route.

The announcement follows a public consultation in which more than four out of five (82%) respondents agreed that this section of the A120 needed to be completely upgraded to a dual carriageway.

Maldon District Council will be represented at the event by the Vice Chairman of Planning and Licensing.

Reading Well for Mental Health

Essex residents can learn how to better understand and manage their mental health by reading books endorsed by medical experts and people with mental health needs.

Today Essex Libraries, working in partnership with the Reading Agency and Society of Chief Librarians, has launched a new and revamped version of the acclaimed Reading Well Books on Prescription programme.

Now named Reading Well for Mental Health, the new booklist contains 37 titles, ranging from popular memoirs and self-help books to tried and tested classics that health professionals turn to every day.

Backed by Public Health England, the Royal College of General Practitioners and NHS England, the titles covers a variety of common mental health conditions, such as anger, bereavement, low self-esteem, social anxiety and shyness, sleep problems, stress depression, panic, obsessions and compulsions.

Binge eating, bulimia nervosa, body image and body dysmorphic disorder, mood swings, post-natal depression and support for carers are also covered.

Libraries as a space are often considered great welcoming places, sources of solace for people with mental health conditions. It's important that not only can people find refuge in libraries but that they can also find the tools to help themselves.

Reading any book can have a positive impact on mental health, and these books are chosen by health experts, or people coping with the conditions on a day-to-day basis and are endorsed by national health organisations, so they really can help people better understand and confidently self-manage their mental health.”

Have a look at Essex Libraries website for a full list of the books or drop in and ask a member of staff.

[The Queen's Awards for Enterprise](#)

The Queen's Awards for Enterprise offer awards for businesses that excel in the following categories:

- Innovation
- International trade
- Sustainable development
- Promoting opportunity through social mobility

Applications are free to enter and close 12 September 2018.

[Sign up for Essex for Communities](#)

[Are you struggling to attract funding for your organisation?](#)

Why not visit, [Essex for Communities](#), a funding database which can help you to find suitable grant funding opportunities that could help enable delivery of your projects; make you more resilient; or better help you to support your service users.

You can sign up for FREE with just an email registration and you can search as many times as you like.

[Small Charity week 2018](#)

Small charity week takes place from the 18 to 23 June 2018

A range of events will be held during the week, including:

- Big advice day
- Policy day

- Fundraising day

To attend any of these events, your organisation must be a member of the FSI. The FSI offers free memberships for organisations with a turnover under £1.5 million.

Scams Awareness Month

Scams Awareness Month 2018 will be taking place in June. The campaign aims to create a network of confident, alert consumers who 'don't miss a trick' when it comes to scams.

Essex Trading Standards will be supporting the campaign throughout June by providing useful information about scams via their social media channels. Please follow them on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/EssexTS> and twitter

<https://twitter.com/EssexTS>

In addition, Essex Trading Standards will be holding a Scams Awareness Event in the Atrium at County Hall on Tuesday 26th June between 10am-12pm.

If you would like to know more about the work Essex Trading Standards are doing to support scam victims in Essex, then you can watch a short Video :

To become a Friend Against Scams visit

<https://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/>

Allergen Consumer Awareness Event

Essex Trading Standards are holding a consumer Allergen Awareness Event on Monday 18th June at Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford. Please come along and visit the stand in the main atrium from 9.30 am, for a chance to discuss food allergies with experienced food officers. Tell them your concerns about local businesses and report good practice too.

Officers will be there to talk about the 14 officially recognised food allergens and pass on their knowledge and experience around food labelling and making allergen requests in catering establishments

Experienced Food Officers will be on hand to answer any questions you have. They will also be running an allergen quiz so come along and test your knowledge, they have some great prizes to give away!

The event is being supported by Allergy UK and the Anaphylaxis Campaign.