

PARISH UPDATE FOR OCTOBER 2021 – COUNCILLOR FLEMING

ESSEX HIGHWAYS USER SURVEY

Essex Highways invite all Parish & Town Councils, and individual District, City and Borough Councillors and County Members within Essex County Council's area, plus a range of other private and public organisations, to offer their view on the priorities and satisfaction levels associated with the specific services provided by Essex Highways. The responses provided will feed in to the planning cycle and help to consider best use of limited resources to meet current and future demands.

This years' survey is open from Monday 27th September 2021 to Friday 31st December 2021.

To access the survey please click on the following link [Essex Highways User Survey](#)

The deadline for this survey to be returned is Friday 31st December 2021.

If you have any further questions about the survey process or the questionnaire itself then please contact us via email to: EssexHighways.UserSurveys@essexhighways.org

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT SURVEY

Essex County Council we want to find out more about the experiences of people who have a mental health condition and those who are caring for someone with a mental health condition. You can find out more via this link <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/rci/mental-health-support/>

BECOME A LOVE ESSEX CHAMPION

Love Essex is looking for enthusiastic individuals to help Essex residents waste less and recycle more. As a [Love Essex Champion](#), you'll have access to a range of fun and impactful challenges:

- creating short films
- supporting your friends and neighbours to make changes
- attending talks and events
- sharing our social media posts

The idea is to commit to take part in a minimum of 10 monthly challenges with Love Essex over the course of a year. However, Love Essex do also offer a flexible volunteering approach which allows you to commit as much or as little time as you feel able to. If this is something you'd be interested in, visit <https://www.lovesessex.org/news-and-ideas/love-essex-champions/>

ESSEX LOTTERY

The Essex Lottery is an online lottery created by Essex County Council to support local causes across the county. More than 300 good causes are now receiving funding from the Essex Lottery and more are invited to join.

Since the Essex Lottery launched in 2017 over £321,888 has been donated to good causes in the county. This is thanks to the thousands of players who buy a weekly £1 ticket – with 60p of every ticket they purchase going to good causes.

A common misconception is that you need to be a charity to benefit from the lottery. If your organisation has a formal constitution and provides community activities or services within Essex, which are of benefit to local residents, then you can join.

Your group could be a charity or a not-for-profit organisation based around local arts, sports clubs, scouts and brownie groups, education and school PTA's, animal welfare, children and elderly groups. All are welcome.

It's free for all causes to join, it's quick and easy to register and once the good cause is approved on the platform you get:

- Your own webpage on the Essex Lottery website
- Marketing materials and support to help you get started
- A steady monthly income for your good cause paid into your bank account

If your supporters buy:

- 10 tickets a week you will raise £260 a year
- 25 tickets a week you will raise £650 a year
- 50 tickets a week you will raise £1,300 a year

Plus if you are registered and approved before the 30 October, you will gain access to the additional bonus offer to promote to potential new supporters - £1,000 in John Lewis vouchers!

Each ticket costs players £1 a week and you receive 50p from every ticket your supporters buy via your dedicated page on the Essex Lottery website and a further 10p from the ticket sale is donated to other good causes in Essex. The draw takes place every Saturday at 8 pm.

Prize draws take place every Saturday night when a 6-digit winning combination is picked. Prizes will be given to players with tickets that match the first or last 2-6 numbers from the winning combination. Match all 6 and you win the £25,000 JACKPOT. Every week there are prizes to be won of free tickets and cash prizes of £25, £250, £2,000 and £25,000 - to players whose numbers match the winning number combination.

To play the Essex Lottery, or apply for Essex Lottery funding visit: essex.lottery.co.uk or call the Essex Lottery support team on 0300 302 32 32.

BUSINESS ADAPTATION GRANT SCHEME

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) can now apply or reapply for up to £5,000 through our Business Adaptation Grant scheme.

The grant is open to SMEs from all sectors and must be used to help make your business more Covid-safe. You could use it to set up e-commerce facilities, develop remote or virtual operations or help your employees work from home.

GRANTS FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING

The OZEV grant is funding provided by the UK government, to support businesses and local authorities in the purchase of electric vehicle charging hardware.

The grant supports the wider governmental efforts, to aid widespread adoption of electric vehicles.

The Workplace Charging Scheme (WCS) is a voucher-based programme, offering up to £350 off the purchase and installation of an electric vehicle charge point, for a total of 40 sockets. After receipt of grant approval, businesses will be supplied with a voucher that can be redeemed, via OZEV-approved installers.

To apply for the OZEV grant, or for further information, please visit: [2021 OZEV Grant For Businesses & Local Authorities | Mer](#)

ESSEX FOREST INITIATIVE

The Local Authority Treescape Fund is grant funding from the Forestry Commission to support tree planting outside of woodlands. It focusses on settings such as hedgerows, parklands, urban areas, riverbanks, roads and footpaths.

The fund will target areas with trees that have been neglected or suffered damage in the past, including disused and vacant community spaces and those affected by tree diseases.

As the lead local authority, Essex County Council was eligible to apply and then distribute funding to district and borough council partners, Colchester, Harlow and Epping Forest, to deliver the planting and maintenance of 5595 trees, with more planned.

The maximum payment of £300,000 was granted - now set to support the Essex Forest Initiative's aim of planting 375,000 trees by 2024.

The concentration will be on trees on the riverside, in urban areas and along roads, as well as the infilling of old hedgerows and creation of wood pasture across the county. Maintenance costs will also be covered by the funding, in order to look after the trees in their initial growing years.

This marks another step forward by the Essex Forest Initiative for Essex's overall net-zero targets, as each tree planted will have a significant effect on reducing carbon emissions and increasing resilience in the environment.

The funding will also help provide new habitats for wildlife and richer biodiversity, as well as building upon the acres of green spaces to enjoy and nurture across Essex.

BLUE PRINT TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY PROJECT

Essex County Council is the lead partner on the Blueprint to a Circular Economy Project. This innovative work will help local authorities across the country to reduce, reuse, repair and recycle, as well as promote a circular economy in both England and France.

For more information on how you, as a business, can help promote project BLUEPRINT, please visit: <https://projectblueprint.eu>

ESSEX LIBRARY OF THINGS

The BLUEPRINT to a Circular Economy Project and the Essex Library Services have come together to launch the Essex Library of Things. This borrowing service will give Essex residents the chance to borrow items such as DIY and gardening tools, musical instruments and outdoor games free of charge.

Soon the Essex Library of Things will be piloted at Chelmsford, Witham, Great Parndon, Laindon and Clacton libraries, as well as the [mobile library service](#). All adult Essex library members will be able to reserve and borrow items free of charge in the specific libraries using the existing Library Catalogue. Visit [the Love Essex website](#) to find out more.

STARTING & SUCCEEDING IN BUSINESS

WSX Enterprise is offering two courses for those that have recently started a new business, been made redundant, or have become unemployed, as a result of COVID-19

The courses will cover a variety of subjects including:

- Researching, planning, setting up and marketing your business
- Developing your brand
- Growing your business

Once registered, you will have access to a free online only series of business start-up courses, 1-2-1's and a specialist week-long event, supplemented by a 24/7 Start-up App and a range of wider learning materials.

Grants

Grants from between £500 - £2000 will go live from 18 October 2021, closing on 28 March 2022.

Grants should help provide a solution to your business from the impact of COVID 19, which will assist in one of the following: business set up, safeguarding of your business or job creation, and to bring about operational change.

Additionally, the spend must have been identified through 1-2-1 support from a WSX Business Advisor

For more information on courses or grants, please visit: www.wsxenterprise.co.uk

WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Essex County Council (ECC) are launching a series of videos, to support and celebrate its local women in business.

Ambitious Women Wednesdays is a new initiative, and will be hosted on the [Ambitious Women in Essex Linked In](#) page. The first video features an interview with Cllr Louise McKinlay, Essex County Council's current deputy leader, and the first woman to hold this position.

Women from around the county are encouraged to promote their businesses, discuss their career ambitions/paths, and any inequalities that they might have faced on the way.

If you would be interested in submitting a video for inclusion, then please email eve.calderbank@essex.gov.uk

SUPERFAST ESSEX

Mobile network operators are rolling out 5G commercially across Essex – and we want to know what you think about it!

Superfast Essex, the council's broadband improvement programme, has launched a survey to collect a range of views on 5G.

The survey takes less than five minutes to complete and could help shape our future work around 5G, bettering services for the county.

For more information, or to take part, please visit: [Superfast Essex 5G Survey](#)

GREEN SKILLS INFRASTRUCTURE

Essex County Council (ECC) and the Essex Climate Action Commission (ECAC) are delighted to announce the appointment of Mace Group to carry out a review of Essex's green skills infrastructure.

The 'green economy' is a vital and growing sector, and Essex is well positioned to attract many more businesses over the next few years. Therefore, it is crucial that Essex residents are offered the opportunity to gain the right skills, in order to take advantage of these jobs. As a key first step, the review will identify skills gaps and business needs, as well as existing skills provision, along with good practice and potential development.

For further information, or to contribute towards this review, please contact: jennifer.pugh@macegroup.com

For more information about the Essex Climate Action Commission, please visit: [Essex Climate Commission](#)

FIVER FEST

Fiver Fest will be returning to Maldon High Street this month and is an excellent opportunity to support our independent businesses, especially after the impact Covid 19 has had on the local economy. Many local businesses will be offering £5 deals over the next two weeks between Saturday 9th October and Saturday 23rd October. Our local independent businesses play a pivotal role in our community and this will be an excellent opportunity to support them and perhaps discover some new places locally.

CHANGES TO GARDEN WASTE COLLECTIONS

Due to the current HGV driver shortage there will be changes to the Council's garden waste collection subscription service. From 10 October there will be a two week suspension to the garden waste collections followed by a move to the winter collection schedule. This allows for drivers to be diverted to prevent disruption to refuse and recycling collections. To find out more go to the [Maldon District Council website](#)

BAGS OF TASTE RETURN TO THE DISTRICT

Bags of Taste support vulnerable people who live in food poverty. The mentorship course teaches participants the skills to cook healthy meals on a budget to feed themselves and their families for below £1 a portion. Residents from the Maldon District can express their interest by contacting maldon@bagsoftaste.org

LIMEBROOK WALK LAUNCHES LATE 2021 – PEABODY HOMES

Peabody are offering a collection of 1 bed apartments and 2 bed semi-detached homes for shared ownership at Limebrook Walk in Maldon, approximately 1 mile from Promenade Park and the High Street. The properties have private outdoor space and allocated parking and the development also includes a communal green area. Find out more at the Peabody website <https://www.peabodysales.co.uk/developments/limebrook-walk/>

MALDON CITIZENS ADVICE – ENERGY ISSUES

Citizens Advice has information on their website if anyone is facing issues with their current supplier going bust. Please see their website [Your energy supplier has gone bust - Citizens Advice](#)

SUEZ JOB VACANCIES

Due to a shortage of drivers and loaders, Suez, Maldon District Council's refuse and recycling contractor is currently recruiting staff, help in sharing the job link would be appreciated - <https://uk.indeed.com/jobs?q=suez&l=co5%209ja&vjk=92288caf3f61cf6a>