



District Councillor Monthly Report

Lawford, Manningtree & Mistley

June 2021

This report can be circulated as you wish, but if Parish Clerks upload to their websites the amendment of any text style to ensure Digital Inclusion Compliance is their responsibility.

Election – 6th May

The results of the County Council elections are as below. Congratulations to Carlo, who continues to represent this District Ward and the 10 other parishes in the Essex County Council Ward of Tendring Rural West.

Candidate	Votes Gained
Carlo Guglielmi	2,891
Terry Barrett	1,289
Maria Fowler	577
Beverley Maltby	373
CARUANA, Ian	94

Coronavirus Roadmap & Council Services

As the country moves along the Roadmap schedule some services at Tendring District Council (TDC) will be changing too.

From Monday, 17 May, council-run leisure centres resumed indoor activity such as spin and fitness classes, along with indoor seating at Clacton Leisure Centre's café. The flume at Walton-on-the-Naze Lifestyles is also running again.

Some restrictions on class sizes and bubbles apply, and leisure centre users are reminded that sessions must be booked in advance to ensure that numbers are managed. Users should also check in upon arrival, wear a mask unless they are doing an activity or are exempt, wash their hands regularly and follow one-way systems and social distancing markers.

The Princes Theatre also opened its doors to the public. There is a programme of shows available for the public to book. Capacity is reduced to comply with Covid-19 restrictions and ensure social distancing.

Theatre-goers can continue to book online at www.princestheatre.co.uk or by calling the Box Office on 01255 686633.

The reception area at TDC's offices in Pier Avenue also re-opened to the public from 17 May, as did the reception at Clacton Town Hall, which includes the Visitor Information Centre and Princes Theatre Box Office. The opening hours are as before, 10am-1pm Monday-Wednesday.

As many TDC staff are still working remotely, in line with government guidance, residents should make an appointment before visiting. Many services can be accessed by residents from home using My Tendring, available at <https://tendring-self.achieveservice.com/>.

At both Pier Avenue and Clacton Town Hall members of the public must wear a face mask when in the building, unless exempt from doing so, and check in using the NHS Covid-19 App, or provide alternative track and trace details.

District Council Meetings

Council meetings have also resumed physically, after emergency legislation allowing virtual meetings expired.

Although members of the public will be able to attend TDC meetings, the council is encouraging people to continue following meetings via the live stream provided on its Facebook page, to reduce the number of people in the building.

Most meetings will be held in the Princes Theatre at Clacton Town Hall, where those who do attend will be able to observe proceedings from the balcony unless they cannot access the gallery or are registered to speak on an item.

Remote Meetings – Request for Evidence

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has issued a call for evidence and seeks to understand the recent experience of local authorities in the whole of the UK regarding remote meetings. This includes authorities in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland. The deadline for the submission of responses to this call for evidence is **11.45 p.m. on Thursday 17 June 2021**.

I include below the link to the relevant webpage on the Government's website which will take to the place where you can read the MHCLG's introductory document which also contains the questions that will be part of the survey. There is also a link to the online survey through which you can make your submissions.

[Local authority remote meetings: call for evidence - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/calls-for-evidence/local-authority-remote-meetings-call-for-evidence)

District Tree Planting Initiative

An important milestone has been reached in a tree planting initiative in Tendring with the last of 30,000 saplings bedded into the ground.

The Tendring Woodland Initiative Group (TWIG) set out to plant 30,000 trees to mark the 30th anniversary of the Tree Council – which Tendring District Council (TDC) has been part of since it was founded.

Volunteer tree warden Mike Wadham came up with the idea and agreed with local farmers across the district to plant on their land. Funding for the trees came from the Tree Council and Network Rail, with support from Essex County Council and local contractors Environmental Design Ltd and Silverton Aggregates.

Farmer Alan Gosling planted the 30,000th tree.

With support from Essex County Council's Essex Forest Initiative, TDC has now planted more than 40,000 trees.

Mike Wadham is now actively seeking sponsorship and funding for the next phase of tree planting to take place later in the year. Landowners or sponsors wishing to get involved should email Clive Dawson, TDC's Tree and Landscape officer, at cdawson@tendringdc.gov.uk.

Follow TWIG's work on Twitter @TWIG30000

Additional Funds for Cliff Repairs

Proposals to spend an additional £1.5million to repair unstable cliffs in Holland-on-Sea have been approved by councillors. Councillors backed plans to fund the works using the beach recharge reserve, by topping up the project budget by £1.5m.

Tendring District Council (TDC) had already set aside £631,000 to assess the damage to the cliff face and explore options for the ongoing stabilisation of the 200 metre section of cliffs.

Following a tender process seeking prices for the repairs the total budget estimate for the repairs is £2.1m – lower than the original estimation of £4m.

Council officers have also been instructed to also seek external funding to support the works, and to make representations to Government about the wider issue of helping coastal local authorities with such problems in the long-term.

Due to the urgency of the current situation, though, TDC will fund these works.

Carlo Guglielmi, TDC's Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, said: "Doing nothing is not an option here, while maintaining and improving our seafronts is a key part of our emerging Tourism Strategy and vital for our local economy.

"This is a considerable sum of money, and not a decision we take lightly, but acting now will save us much higher costs in the long-term and so it is prudent to act now.

Around 200 metres of cliff face across three sections of the Holland-on-Sea seafront have slipped since February 2020, with 13 beach huts moved for their protection. It is a different section of cliffs to the stretch that was stabilised under a £5m scheme in 2018-9.

If left unchecked the cliffs risk further collapse which could, in time, lead to the loss of both the upper and lower promenades as well as sewer systems and the seafront road.

Under the plans, as well as stabilising the cliffs and protecting those amenities for the next 50 to 100 years, provision could be made for 30 new beach huts. Stabilisation work includes amending the gradient of the cliffs and installing drainage to reduce the build-up of ground water, which is the primary cause of slippage.

Sale of Pets – Licencing Requirements

People selling animals for profit are reminded that they need to hold the appropriate licence.

Anyone selling pets with the intention of making a profit requires a licence, issued by Tendring District Council. Due to the high sale prices of pets, many individuals would now fall within the scope for needing a licence.

The huge increase in demand for pets during Covid Lockdown has fuelled substantial price rises, which has led to many people in the district setting up small businesses at home.

It is in the interests of animal welfare that all purchasers should seek out licensed breeders and sellers, as those businesses have to meet certain criteria which includes good animal welfare.

Buyers need to be made aware that buying from unlicensed individuals can often result in owning poorly bred, unhealthy animals which have been kept in poor conditions. This is cruel to the animals and will potentially leave the buyer paying for expensive veterinary care.

A public register of licensed animal sellers can be found on the TDC website at www.tendringdc.gov.uk/business/licensing-legislation/public-registers, while the website also contains a full list of animal activities which require a licence and how to apply at www.tendringdc.gov.uk/business/licensing-legislation/animal-licensing.

Beaches keep three Blue Flags

Seven beaches in Tendring have been handed prestigious awards by Keep Britain Tidy – including three of the top Blue Flags.

Beaches at Brightlingsea, Dovercourt Bay, Harwich, Frinton, Walton-on-the-Naze and the town's Albion beach, and Martello Bay in Clacton have all been given Seaside Awards in recognition of their quality.

In addition the beaches at Dovercourt Bay, Brightlingsea and Walton's Albion beach kept their Blue Flag status, which Walton was awarded for the first time last year.

It means all Tendring seafronts have kept their accreditation from 2020.

TDC Planning Enforcement

Your District Councillors have expressed their dismay regarding the apparent ineffectiveness of TDC Planning Enforcement.

There have been several instances recently concerning the Hopkins Homes development and the Carla Homes Development in Mistley which were reported to the District Council Planning Enforcement Section.

Although the potential breaches of Planning Conditions were reported without delay there were further unacceptable incidents.

We have requested a review of the effectiveness of TDC Planning Enforcement, as a matter of urgency.

Local Planning Applications

(1) ***Land South of Harwich Road, Lawford*** – (20/01608/FUL) Erection of a Flexible Electricity Generation Facility with associated ancillary infrastructure, access and boundary treatment. This application has been “called-in” by Carlo and is awaiting the Planning Committee Agenda Date.

Carlo and I have been invited by the applicant to view a similar facility elsewhere in the south of England. We will consider this invitation when COVID restrictions are eased further.

(2) ***Mistley Place Park*** – (21/00453/FUL) McCarthy & Stone have submitted a Planning Application to construct 42 apartments and 11 bungalows to provide “Retirement Living”. I have ‘Called-In’ the application, so that if recommended for approval by Planning Officers the decision would have to be made by the Planning Committee, to which the public could make representations.

We are aware that there is some divergent opinion regarding this application. It is important that members of the public should enter their views on the TDC Planning Portal, or otherwise communicate with the Planning Department.

On the 26th May Mistley Parish Council held an Extraordinary Parish Meeting to discuss this application. Many members of the public attended and there was a good debate. After the public participation, Parish Councillors voted unanimously to oppose the application in its present form.

McCarthy & Stone have requested a meeting with Carlo and me in June.

(3) ***Tops’l House, High Street, Mistley*** – (21/00040/FUL & 21/00046/FUL) Two applications for change of use. The first floor to a dwelling and the ground floor to a restaurant. I have “Called-in” this application and it is awaiting the Planning Committee Agenda Date, if not refused under delegated authority.

(4) ***Land South of Long Road / West of Clacton Road, Mistley*** – (21/00197/DETAIL) The Reserved Matters application for 485 dwellings, two hectares

of Employment Land, Public Open Space and Infrastructure. I have 'called-in' this application and it is awaiting the Planning Committee Agenda date.

At this time the application contains no detail regarding the Employment Land, the provisions for Renewable Energy or Affordable Housing.

(5) **Replacement of Benches – Manningtree** – (21/00166/FUL) Although Essex County council Heritage department raised an objection regarding the proposed material for these benches, the application has now been approved under 'Permitted Development Rights'.

(6) **31 Harwich Road, Lawford** – Appeal against refusal to build 4 Houses. – Appeal dismissed on the basis that Part One of the Local Plan is in place and there is a 6.5 year land supply.

(7) **59 Harwich Road, Lawford** - Application to build one new dwelling on adjacent land.

(8) **58 Harwich Road, Lawford** - Application to build two new dwellings on adjacent land.

Kind Regards

Alan Coley – District Councillor

District Report on Behalf of:

Alan Coley, Carlo Guglielmi & Val Guglielmi

1st June 2021

In an emergency which requires TDC's assistance residents can contact the council's Control Centre on 01255 222022, available 24/7.

Fly Tipping - If anyone witnesses any fly tipping occurring, please contact TDC's Waste Management Team on 01255 686768.

To report a missed bin collection visit <https://tendring-self.achieveservice.com/>.