



# District Councillor Monthly Report

## Lawford, Manningtree & Mistley

### November / December 2020

#### Coronavirus – Covid-19

As you are all aware Essex County (excluding Southend and Thurrock) was placed into Tier 2, in terms of our infection rate. This further restricted the degree of personal contact we can all engage in.

However the announcement yesterday that the country will enter a more restrictive lockdown from the 5<sup>th</sup> November will further restrict what we can do, where we can go and who we can mix with.

I won't try and give you a comprehensive summary of the conditions resulting from this latest Government announcement, as there is the potential that things will have changed again before you read this. However I do urge you all to give your attention to the media updates and please, please observe the sensible requirements concerning, Social Distancing, Mask Wearing, Hand Washing and the use of Sanitiser, whenever you leave your home for essential purposes.

The below table shows the latest relevant published infection rates per 100,000 head of population, in our local area.

Date	Tendring %	Colchester %	Essex %
03.09.2020	3.4	6.7	10.1
01.10.2020	21.1	20.0	36.2
22.10.2020	102.3	117.1	107.2

Extract from Public Health England Report

#### Some Tier 2 updates on support for Business:

- Before the announcement on the 31<sup>st</sup> October, a new grant scheme for businesses which have been impacted by Tier 2 restrictions, even if they have not been forced to close, was announced. Local authorities will be funded so that they can provide cash grants. Details will be announced in a couple of weeks (although this may be superseded by further details released this week).

- **The Job Support Scheme, whereby employees now have to work 20 per cent of normal hours, as opposed to 33 per cent previously. The revised scheme was to see employer contributions for the hours not worked reduce significantly from 33 per cent as originally planned, to 5 per cent. This scheme was to apply to all eligible businesses in all alert levels. However it appears now that the furlough scheme is likely to be extended until the 2<sup>nd</sup> December.**

**Essex was also to receive £4.5m from the Government as a result of moving into Tier 2. This funding was specifically earmarked for supporting vulnerable groups and workplaces.**

**In addition, Essex will receive a £11.8m grant from the government as part of emergency funding for the winter period. This is to support the costs of providing core services and to meet direct additional costs of Covid-19.**

**For updates on TDC service impacts due to Covid-19 visit [www.tendringdc.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/coronavirus)**

#### **Free Devices given to residents**

**The North East Essex Digital Access Support Team, which is funded and managed by Colchester Borough Council, Tendring District Council and North East Essex Clinical Commission Group, has been awarded 40 smartphones and 10 tablets (with 24 gigabytes each) to give to residents to help them stay connected during COVID-19.**

**The devices were awarded to the team in August and October by the Good Things Foundation and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, as part of an emergency campaign. The campaign, Everyone Connected, aims to reach 1.9 million UK households who don't have access to the internet and are digitally excluded.**

**The North East Essex Digital Access Support Team has been helping vulnerable residents get online since 2018, offering free support across Colchester and Tendring. Since coronavirus first reached the area the team has been helping residents download and use apps to ensure they can stay connected with their loved ones, access medical appointments remotely, order groceries online, and much more.**

**The new devices will help residents not to become excluded as they face a socially distanced world. Before devices are donated the team will install essential apps for customers, whilst updating paperwork to aide them to use the device and how to access online information. Residents are given one-to-one support to provide knowledge, understanding and confidence to use their new device; as well as contact details to ensure they can call the team for further assistance.**

**The devices awarded in October will be given to residents already identified in November, in time for Christmas.**

## Planning

**(1) Mistley Parish Council's request to have the Anchor Public House registered as an Asset of Community Value, was approved by the TDC Cabinet on the 9<sup>th</sup> October.**

The registration lasts for five years. If within this period the Anchor is listed for sale, then the Parish Council will be informed which gives them a period of six weeks in which to enact "The Right to Bid" this then gives the Parish Council a moratorium period of six months in which to raise the finances to purchase the property on the open market. During the moratorium the sale could not be concluded between other parties.

The owner of the Anchor does have the right of appeal against the registration.

**(2) Land East of New Road, Mistley (20/01234/OUT). This application seeks the variation of condition 13 of the approved application 19/01956/OUT. The applicant wishes to reduce the visibility splay to 2.25m x 43m.**

I have called-in the application, which will now be heard by the Planning Committee and I will speak against the application.

Contrary to the misinformed opinions on Facebook, the District Council refused this original planning application and several others connected to it. I have addressed the Planning Committee in opposition on these occasions. The approval was only granted on appeal, by an independent Planning Inspector unconnected with our community.

Therefore I can confirm that the District Council need not on this occasion, "Hang its head in shame" and if the authors of the Facebook entries care to provide evidence that "brown envelopes have changed hands" I will be pleased to see it. I presume that none of the authors of these comments will be joining me to speak at the committee hearing.

**(3) High Street, Mistley – Groundworks for the construction of 48 apartments.**

We are still awaiting an update from the Essex County Council Strategic Development Engineer, regarding the temporary footpath in the High Street, connected with the demolition of the old buildings and the groundworks. As soon as we have further information this will be passed to Parish Councils.

## Mile-Stone & Mile Marker

As you may be aware an ancient Mile-Stone was discovered when the old buildings on Mistley Quay were demolished. The stone has been recovered and is currently in storage, curtesy of Rose Builders.

A locally initiated project, driven by Bob Horlock, is now underway to have the Mile-Stone reinstated as near to its original position as possible.

There were also a series of cast iron Mile Markers made at the old Bendalls Foundry (the site now occupied by Bendalls Court) in Manningtree. The

original Mistley marker stood in front of the EDME Factory since 1853, but was lost, presumably when the entrance to the factory site was widened.

It is planned to have an exact replica made of the Mile Marker to stand near to the Mile-Stone.

Various site meetings have taken place with representatives from Mistley Parish Council, the Manningtree Museum, District Councillors, local residents etc. The Parish Council has given permission for the stone and the marker to be located inside the Swan Basin enclosure, at the rear.

This is a great locally initiated and driven project. Your District Councillors have committed a financial contribution from our personal allowances towards its progress.

### Mistley Kids Club

Carlo and I have been pleased to assist regarding the recent 'difficulty' between the Village Hall Management Committee and the Mistley Kids Club. There has been a resolution and we are confident that both parties will move forward in a spirit of cooperation and good faith.

I now hope that the flood of e-mails and telephone calls received, many of which were seriously misinformed and offensive, will now desist.

### Lunchtime Meals – Half Term

Like most of you we were saddened to see that direct support from Government to provide food to families in need during this period was not made available. However the below is a press release from Essex County Council, which does go some way to addressing the problem.

*“Essex County Council are committed to supporting the Communities most in need, which have been adversely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Given the immediate need around holiday hunger, Essex County Council have committed an initial £165,000 which will be made available immediately to food banks and Community Organisation that support families and individuals with food and essentials.*

*You can apply for a maximum of £2,500. Please ensure that the amount you request in your application reflects the need and the number of individuals/ families you will be supporting.*

*This funding is primarily for the provision of food and essentials; however, we recognise that we also need to support the costs to you as an organisation in terms of storage, volunteer expenses and PPE. Therefore, we will cover these costs as part of this grant, for up to 20% of the application costs.”*

*The application forms can be found on the ECC website*

However, Carlo, Val and I have found that the community efforts, from local volunteers, to provide the immediate local need and support, have been exceptional. The coordinated support provided by the staff and volunteers of the Red Lion in Manningtree has been inspiring.

In a small way we are pleased to support the efforts of the Red Lion and their fantastic group of volunteers, in providing meals to local children who during term time would receive free school meals. We have committed a financial contribution from our personal allowances towards the Red Lion's fantastic initiative.

### **Mistley Norman School**

On the 28<sup>th</sup> October Carlo and I met with the school's new Head teacher, Mr Carter-Tufnell. We were immensely impressed with the considerable improvements already made and the inspiring plans the school has for the future.

A new Deputy Head teacher, Mr Holton, has been appointed and starts work at the school in January.

We are confident that new and existing pupils at the school will benefit from the dynamic educational, sporting and cultural plans the new Head and staff have. We look forward to working in partnership with the school.

### **Cycle Facilities**

It appears that the 'Cycle Trigger Point' of sold and occupied homes on the Hopkins Homes Development (River Reach) in Mistley has been reached. Plans will now be progressed to provide new cycle facilities at Mistley Norman School, paid for by Hopkins Homes.

### **Lawford Primary School**

Lawford residents at least, will be aware of the structural changes in progress and the planning proposal to enlarge Lawford Primary School. These improvements are vital in order to meet the challenges of a rising local population.

Carlo, Val and I were instrumental in the original negotiations, as part of the Lawford Green housing development, to provide a new car park, linking with a revised entrance at the school.

The car park has been built and is owned by the Parish Council. Access to 40 places in the car park will be available to parents delivering and collecting children from the school.

Carlo, Val and I are very keen that the car park is made available without delay, in order to improve safety and reduce the inconvenience experienced by neighbours to the school. We have been engaged in meetings with the school management and hope their concerns will not further delay access and the required legal agreement being finalised.

### **Riverview Lawford**

Our congratulations go to Lawford Parish Council which has now concluded the purchase of the Riverview Recreation Ground from TDC. This area directly links with the conservation area of Owls Flight Dell. We look forward to working with the Parish Council as it progresses its plans for this fantastic area with great views of the river.

### Better facilities for Parents

Parents collecting their children from the Riverview entrance of Highfields School will welcome the Parish Council's plans to provide a hard standing area, inside the school gates. This will be a great benefit during inclement weather, during the winter months.

### Media Recycling Banks

I now understand that there is a new contractor responsible for these recycling bins (for Books & DVDs) and they are in the process of removing the bins from private land, where the owners have requested removal (this includes some Parish Council land).

As a 'one-off' Veolia has been requested by TDC to clear the waste from around these sites.

### Reception to re-open at TDC Office – Pier Avenue

The reception area at Tendring District Council's (TDC) offices in Pier Avenue will re-open to the public next month.

Safety measures have been put in place to protect staff and the public, such as hand sanitiser stations, queuing spots, and screens to shield receptionists.

As many TDC staff are still working remotely to minimise the risk of Coronavirus transmitting – in line with government guidance – initially residents must make an appointment before visiting to ensure the person or department they need to see is on site.

However, general services such as picking up recycling containers will be available on a drop-in basis, and reception staff will be able to signpost people to other support. A single self-service kiosk will also be available, with wipes on hand for people to use before and after they touch the screen.

Members of the public must wear a face mask when in the building, unless they are exempt from doing so, and it is a legal requirement for people to check in using the NHS Covid-19 App – or provide alternative track and trace details.

The reception will be **open from Monday, 2 November, from 10am until 1pm Mondays to Wednesdays**. Many services can be accessed by residents from home using My Tendring, available at <https://tendring-self.achieveservice.com/>.

District Report on Behalf of:  
Alan Coley, Carlo Guglielmi & Val Guglielmi

01<sup>st</sup> November 2020

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

**General Information: If anyone witnesses any fly tipping occurring, please contact TDC's Waste Management Team on 01255 686768.**