



# District Councillor Monthly Report

## Lawford, Manningtree & Mistley

### June / July 2020

#### COVID Testing

A pop-up COVID testing unit is being established at Clacton Leisure Centre from 2<sup>nd</sup> June. It is testing for people with symptoms. To check eligibility and book an appointment, go to: <https://gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

#### Discretionary Rate Relief

The Council has put together its discretionary business grants policy and an application form will be available on our website from the 1<sup>st</sup> June. The scheme broadly reflects Government guidance, as it sets out national criteria as well as prioritising 4 key business sectors. £1.7m has been made available to TDC by the Government to fund the scheme.

The Council is keen to support as many businesses as possible, so it is opening up a **two week 'window' within which to submit on-line applications, with the closing date being midnight on 14<sup>th</sup> June.** The scheme will be extensively advertised within the district to make sure as many eligible businesses are given the opportunity to access the funding.

Contact has already been made with some eligible businesses who can now positively reflect the support they will receive when making decisions about their own futures.

To be able to support as many businesses as possible within the limited funding that has been made available, it is expected that the majority of grants will be between £2k and £10k, but in exceptional circumstances they could be £25k. The payment of grants are expected to be made in the week commencing the 15<sup>th</sup> June.

**Although the District Council will be advertising the grant scheme as widely as possible, it would be helpful if you could support this by spreading the word as much as possible within your own parish.**

## **Business Support**

The full range of Government support for businesses, and that provided by other agencies, is detailed on the Support for Businesses tab of the Council's dedicated COVID-19 webpage: <https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/coronavirus>

This provides business/employer information in the following categories:

- Latest Government Announcements
- Financial Support Packages
  - o Small Business Grant Fund/Retail Hospitality and Leisure Grant
  - o Local Authority Discretionary Grant Fund
  - o Employers
  - o Self-Employed & Freelancers
  - o Creative and Cultural Businesses
  - o Charities & 3rd Sector Organisations
  - o Heritage
  - o Other Financial Support
- Guidance for Businesses that are Operating
- Guidance, Support, Advice and Webinars
- DWP Job Centre Sites & Universal Credit

For more information contact Tom Gardiner, Head of Regeneration on [tgardiner@tendringdc.gov.uk](mailto:tgardiner@tendringdc.gov.uk) or a member of the Economic Growth Team via [business.support@tendringdc.gov.uk](mailto:business.support@tendringdc.gov.uk)

## **Shoppers and Businesses urged to prepare for re-opening**

As non-essential retail looks set to recommence later this month, businesses are being urged to make sure they are ready to open in a Covid-secure way.

Tendring District Council (TDC) will install signs across town centres to remind shoppers about social distancing guidelines, while businesses are being reminded that they have a responsibility to ensure staff and public safety in their stores, and to manage queues effectively.

Mary Newton, TDC Cabinet Member for Business and Economic Growth, encouraged traders to check up on the rules and make sure they were ready.

“There is a lot of useful advice available from the Government on practical measures retailers can put in place, and I would urge business owners to read about and implement them,” Cllr Newton said.

“It’s also vital that you work with your neighbours so that your plans can be co-ordinated with theirs, such as putting queues along your shop front or one-way systems.

“We want to see Tendring get back to business, but only when stores have appropriate measures in place – do not feel pressured to open your doors if you are not ready to do so.”

Shoppers are also being reminded that as town centres re-open for more than essential services, the way we use high streets will change.

People may well have to queue outside as limited numbers of shoppers can enter at any time, with parts of pavements blocked off to allow social distance queuing.

Shoppers should check before they travel that the outlets they wish to visit are open, and also whether facilities such as public toilets are available. When parking, motorists are advised to use pay by phone or MiPermit options where possible, to reduce contact with parking machines.

Face coverings are encouraged, you should also regularly wash or sanitise your hands and always maintain social distancing.

Lynda McWilliams, TDC Cabinet Member for Partnerships, said shoppers should be physically and mentally prepared when they return to town centres.

“How we shop and use town centres will be radically different, certainly while we still have some lockdown measures,” Cllr McWilliams said.

“Please remember you may have to wait outside outlets so be prepared for the weather, and what may previously have been a five-minute dash into a store may be considerably longer now.

“We’d also ask people to follow government guidance on face coverings, regular hand washing, and staying apart. Avoid crowded places and follow instructions for queues and the like – following these rules will help keep us safe.

“TDC is continuing to look at what other measures may be needed and will monitor the situation across our town centres.”

For more information for businesses and shoppers visit [www.tendringdc.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/coronavirus)

*The money for signage and other measures implemented by TDC comes from the Government’s Reopening High Streets Safely Fund, which in turn is from the European Regional Development Fund.*

### Essex Libraries

Essex County Council is now preparing a phased approach to re-open libraries in line with government guidelines.

From Monday 6 July 2020, sixteen sites will re-open; Basildon, Billericay, Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Clacton, Colchester, Dunmow, Epping, Harlow, Harwich, Maldon, Rayleigh, Rochford, South Benfleet and Witham. EXX explain that the initial sixteen sites re-opening were selected as they also provide Registration Services, and therefore allow this important service to be more easily delivered too.

Further library sites will re-open in tranches with as many as possible opening by Mid-August 2020.

### **Tendring residents encouraged to Stay At Home and Grow Your Own**

Residents all over Tendring are being urged to reach for their garden forks and spades to take part in a new community initiative to 'Stay at Home, Grow Your Own'.

Tendring District Council (TDC) has been working in partnership with Colchester Borough Council, Abberton Rural Training and the Community Voluntary Service Tendring (CVST) to help bring this initiative to life, which launches in Tendring on Thursday, 4 June 2020 and in Colchester on Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> June.

The Grow Your Own aims to introduce how growing your own fruit and vegetables can help bring a more nutritious, diverse and healthy diet to many.

Not only does the initiative aim to help people's diets, but physical and mental well-being too. Working in the garden provides a light form of physical activity, which brings a range of benefits to physical and mental health. Along with boosting vitamin D levels, growing your own can offer stress relief and support for emotional wellbeing.

Everyone can take part, visit <http://abbertonruraltraining.org/tendringgyo.html> to see how easy it is to get yourself started and order one of the 200 starter packs available. Tendring Community Hub 01255 686 700 is available for residents unable to complete the online registration form.

This initiative supports the Livewell Campaign, designed to improve health and wellbeing across Essex. For more information on this campaign go to [www.livewellcampaign.co.uk](http://www.livewellcampaign.co.uk).

Lynda McWilliams, TDC Portfolio Holder for Partnerships is encouraging everyone to get behind this project.

"Thank you to all the groups who worked together to get this project off the ground, especially CVST, whose support has been outstanding," Cllr McWilliams said.

"Anyone can grow their own, the satisfaction and rewarding feeling you get from growing your own is unlike anything else, and of course the produce tastes much better too!"

### **Visitors requested to take their rubbish home**

Visitors to the Essex Sunshine Coast and Tendring's open spaces are being reminded to take their rubbish home with them.

Tendring District Council (TDC) has already deployed its seasonal seafront cleaning regime, with 130 extra bins put out along the coastline and contractors carrying out regular emptying and tidying – though not during the day as it is unsafe to drive along the promenades when busy.

**Beach Patrol also carry out litter picks as part of their duties but cannot cover the whole coastline and must prioritise safety tasks.**

**But the combined impact of recent warm weather and an increase in visitors outside of school holidays has led to an increase in rubbish being left on beaches and seafronts, an issue being reported in coastal resorts around the country.**

**Alex Porter, TDC Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism, said everyone had to play their part.**

**“We put significant additional resources in every year to counter this problem, but ultimately responsibility lies with people, whether you live locally or come to visit our beautiful district,” Cllr Porter said.**

**“If a bin is full use another one or take your rubbish home with you. Please don’t place rubbish next to bins, as however neatly you leave it, it will get spread around by the wind or wildlife.**

**“At the end of the day, littering is caused by people. If you see someone littering, and feel safe and confident to do so, politely challenge them to pick up their rubbish: ‘Sorry, I think you dropped something’ works more often than you might think.”**

**To promote the take your rubbish home message, TDC is supporting a national campaign by Keep Britain Tidy and will be sharing posts on social media.**

### **Plea to beachgoers to act responsibly after Sea Rescue**

**A drunk man trying to win a bet had to be rescued by Tendring District Council’s Beach Patrol after his inflatable began drifting out to sea on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Coastguard deployed the council seafront rescuers after receiving three 999 calls with concern for the man.**

**A Beach Patrol Jet Ski travelled 500 metres off Clacton beach to rescue the man, who was battling in vain against the waves.**

**On reaching him the Beach Patrol realised the man was intoxicated and learned he had been attempting to row out to a marker buoy after a bet.**

**He was part of a group of Londoners who had all been drinking at a beach hut.**

**Beach Patrol returned the man safely to shore as he would have been unable to paddle back.**

**Alex Porter, TDC Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism, praised the efforts of Beach Patrol.**

**“Our Beach Patrol teams do sterling work every summer season, responding to all sorts of incidents along our coastline,” Cllr Porter said.**

**“Sadly rescuing inebriated people who foolishly think they are stronger than the tide is nothing new for the team. However, this misadventure – nearly a third of a mile out to sea on an inflatable – was particularly dangerous, and at a time when public and emergency services are stretched dealing with Covid-19.”**

**“I hope this serves as a warning to everyone to take the sea seriously; and that alcohol and the sea do not mix well.”**

**Nick Ayers, RNLI Water Safety Lead for the North and East, said: “The recent easing of lockdown restrictions has brought with it a huge rise in coastal activity, and increased the onus on everyone to take responsibility for their own safety.**

**“That’s why we’re repeating our message to please leave inflatables at home, look out for your family at all times and have a plan that includes checking the weather forecast, tide times and beach safety signs.**

**“And most importantly, if you or someone you see is in difficulty, call 999 and ask for the Coastguard.”**

***People who do decide to use inflatables at the coastline – which is not recommended by Coastguard, the RNLI or TDC – should use a line to anchor them to the shore, should not go too far out, and should be mindful of the tides.***

***If people do find themselves being swept out to sea, they should stay with the inflatable and shout for help, waving arms if possible. Do not attempt to swim for shore if out of depth. Ideally make sure that someone ashore is keeping an eye on you.***

***The sea and alcohol do not mix. It is not advisable to set to sea if you have been or are drinking alcohol as it will impair your judgement and you will be more likely to make mistakes, which at sea could be life threatening. Alcohol is a contributory factor in a significant number of coastal drownings every year.***

**Alan Coley – District Councillor**

**04 June 2020**

**District Report on Behalf of:**

**Alan Coley, Carlo Guglielmi & Val Guglielmi**

**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.**