



District Councillor Monthly Report

Lawford, Manningtree & Mistley

March / April 2020

Coronavirus

The situation regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic is charging daily if not hourly. The up-to-date government advice is contained in the below link. Advice has also been regularly broadcast on television.

There is clearly no reason to panic and no incentive to stockpile goods. However, we must all take personal responsibility to be sensible regarding our hygiene and personal contacts.

The activities of the District Council and contact with councillors and officers is under constant review.

www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public

Planning

(1) There exists a planning application to build a second storey on the GP Surgery in Edgefield Avenue, Lawford. This is currently a converted domestic bungalow sitting amongst other bungalows. When the new dwellings were built in Summers Park it was agreed that only bungalows would be built on land backing onto Edgefield Avenue. These bungalows were completed in accordance with that arrangement.

Although any potential increase in GP facilities in our area is to be welcomed, the planning application appears to only require the additional floor for domestic and administration space. It is our view that its construction would be out of character and potentially impinge on the privacy of the new bungalows.

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

(2) As I have previously reported I have called-in the latest application to amend the agreed layout of the approval to build 67 homes on land to the rear of New Road, Mistley. We still await the inclusion of this application in a Planning Committee agenda.

(3) The decision of the Planning Inspector regarding the Hopkins Homes appeal to build a further 100 homes on the River Reach site has been determined. The appeal has been allowed.

This is a depressing decision after what I believe were full and detailed presentations delivered to the Planning Appeal, by those of us who spoke against.

It is now our intention to seek a meeting with Hopkins Homes to discuss any potential community benefits, carbon limiting design aspects and carbon capture plans which can be included in this extended scheme.

(4) At the time of writing we still await the results of the Planning Inspector's review of Part One of the Local Plan. This is crucial in determining the agreed house building figure and if Part one is agreed, the District Land Supply figure should be more secure and leave us less vulnerable to (yet even more) speculative planning applications.

Council Tax bills due

Residents and businesses across Tendring will soon be receiving a letter containing details of their council tax or business rates bill for the coming year.

The annual letter details the precept for 2020/21 set by Tendring District Council (TDC), along with that set by Essex County Council, and the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, and Lawford Parish Council, Manningtree Town Council and Mistley Parish Council.

TDC collects council tax on behalf of all the authorities, but only keeps its share – which is less than 10% of the total bill not including town or parish precepts.

The 78,000 plus bills will be **issued on 13 March, and people can expect them within a few days of this date. Residents are urged to check their bill, and if their circumstances have changed or if they have a query to contact TDC by using the online form found here: www.tendringdc.gov.uk/council-tax/changes-you-need-tell-us-about**

Any queries about other organisations' elements of the council tax bill should be addressed to that authority directly.

Also included within the letter are details of the Tendring Free Householders' Permit, which will automatically renew on April 1 without residents having to do anything.

However, if you are applying for a permit for the first time go to www.tendringdc.gov.uk/travel-and-parking/parking/season-tickets-and-permits - or, to change your address or your vehicle call 01255 686969.

Carlo Guglielmi, TDC Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Resources, said, "The annual bill is a routine letter, and this does not contain any surprises over previously published council tax rates," he added.

"However, it is a good opportunity to check that the details are correct, and I urge you to contact TDC via the online form if there is anything that needs changing. I would also remind you to amend your standing order if need be, to avoid falling into arrears.

"We often see a spike in scam calls, texts and emails around this time of year as fraudsters target this process which is carried out across the country. If you have any doubts please contact TDC directly."

Pride of Tendring Awards 2020

Stalwarts of the community from right across Tendring were recognised at a ceremony for the Pride of Tendring awards 2020.

Those receiving accolades came from a broad range of charities and organisations, as well as some individuals, from throughout the district, and received their awards before more than 200 people at the ceremony at the Princes Theatre, Clacton, on Friday, 28 February.

Organised by Tendring District Council (TDC) for the ninth time, the annual awards shine a light on some of those who do so much in the local community.

The award recipients were all nominated by Tendring District Councillors and the evening was hosted by county councillor Alan Goggin.

The event raised £1,400 for the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Trust, one of Cllr Land's chosen charities for his term in office as Chairman.

It was an excellent evening thoroughly enjoyed by all our recipients from the Three Parishes. As a reminder our awards winners are:

- ❖ Richard and Bob Horlock
- ❖ Trevor and Donna Mills
- ❖ John Hall

Tree Planting (Carbon Capture)

On Friday 28th February I assisted TDC Staff and members of PACE to plant trees on an area of Owl's flight Dell, Lawford, a conservation area in the parish. We were joined for a short while by pupils from schools in Lawford.

In the worst weather imaginable we planted around 160 broad-leafed trees, until defeated by the rain and strong winds. We hope to return soon to complete the planting, which will amount to approximately 250 trees in total.

Proposed Zebra Crossing – Long Road, Lawford

Essex County Council is proposing to install a new crossing in order to provide safer access for children and parents to the Lawford Primary School.

Full details can be obtained on the ECC website

www.essexhighways.org/Transport-and-Roads/Highways-Schemes-and-Developments/Traffic-Regulation-Orders.

Any objections or representations should quote TRAF/7199 and be received by the 23rd March 2020.

Alan Coley – District Councillor

12 February 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.