

# ECC Report January 2017

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## **New Park and Ride**

A new Park and Ride bus service for staff, patients and visitors to Colchester General Hospital was launched on Monday 9th January.

Colchester Park and Ride buses heading from the site off Junction 28 of the A12 will now serve the new stop along Northern Approach Road.

A day ticket to use the new stop, which forms part of the route into the town centre, will cost just £3 for an adult ticket and will be free for concessionary pass holders after 9am from Monday – Friday and all day Saturday.

Detailed ticket and timetable information is available online at [www.essex.gov.uk/parkandride](http://www.essex.gov.uk/parkandride)

Colchester General Hospital offers a vital service for residents across north Essex and ECC has been able to work with them to offer this quick, clean and convenient transport link to the hospital.

The Park and Ride is only in its infancy in Colchester but it is growing daily and there is a growing confidence this new move will open the bus service to a whole new market.

Discounted rates are available for children while concessionary pass holders can travel for free after 9am.

Chris Howlett, Director of Estates and Facilities at Colchester Hospital University NHS Foundation Trust, said: “I am delighted that through working in partnership with Essex County Council, the Park and Ride service is now available for our patients, visitors and staff at Colchester General Hospital.

“The service will help to ease site congestion and provide a convenient alternative to all those who need to travel to and from the hospital site and to the Primary Care Centre located on Turner Road.”

Access to and from the Colchester General Hospital site by people using the Park and Ride facility will be via a public right of way that is linked directly to the Northern Approach Road.

ECC funded and installed two bus stops either side of the road at the end of last year (2016), linked by a pre-existing signalled crossing.

In preparation for the new Park and Ride stops, Colchester Hospital University NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Colchester General Hospital, has installed signage and also raised the height of the section of the right of way that in the past was prone to flooding and resurfaced it.

In addition, trees and hedges adjoining the right of way have been trimmed back to maximise the impact of lighting.

### **Public Consultation on Replacement Waste Local Plan**

A six week public consultation on the proposed changes to Essex's Replacement Waste Local Plan has begun.

The consultation started on Thursday 5th January until Thursday 16 February 2017 and will give residents the opportunity to feedback on key aspects of the plan.

The Plan is a joint document between Essex County Council and Southend-On-Sea Borough Council and proposes 19 possible sites in Essex for future development.

The sites, once developed, would help divert waste away from landfill and help manage commercial waste produced in Essex and Southend.

Around 80% of the waste material produced and disposed of across Essex annually comes from building sites, businesses, restaurants and hospitals and it is this waste which is catered for by the proposed sites. Approximately 20% of Essex and Southend's waste is generated by households. No new sites are proposed for household waste.

The allocation of sites across Essex is very important as it provides communities and the waste industry with certainty about where waste will go and how it can be treated.

As this is a focused consultation, only comments made on the potential modifications and the two supporting addendum reports will be taken into account in the Inspector's report.

Information on how to contribute to the public consultation and where to view the consultation documents is available online at [www.essex.gov.uk/wlp](http://www.essex.gov.uk/wlp)

The Replacement Waste Local Plan is a planning policy document, containing site allocations, covering the administrative areas of Essex County Council and Southend-on-Sea Borough Council. Once adopted, all waste-related planning applications will be determined in accordance with this new Local Plan. It will replace

the existing Essex and Southend Waste Local Plan (adopted September 2001) and enable both Councils to assess waste management-related planning applications using an up to date, locally derived, document.

The website [www.essex.gov.uk/wlp](http://www.essex.gov.uk/wlp) will be updated regularly throughout the process. Paper copies of the proposed main modifications and related addendum reports are available at County Hall, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council offices and at all Essex and Southend libraries and district/borough/city council offices.

A six week public consultation on the proposed changes to the Replacement Waste Local Plan runs from Thursday 5 January to Thursday 16 February 2017. In summary, the proposed modifications are:

- Modifications to policies and supporting text for clarification purposes;
- Amendments to allocated sites and Area of Search designations to reflect on-going communications with local planning authorities and site promoters;
- Boundary accuracy amendments;
- Inclusion of additional 'Development Principles' to further address local concerns;
- Factual updates to reflect up-to-date site phasing and capacity information;
- Insertion of a previously unallocated site (Dollyman's Farm, Basildon/Rochford) to further satisfy the waste needs of the Plan area, at the Inspector's request.

### **Nominations now open for Who Will Care? Awards 2017**

The prestigious Who Will Care? Awards will make a much anticipated return in 2017 and nominations are now open.

The date of this year's awards has now been confirmed as Wednesday 24 May 2017 and will see a celebration of volunteering across the county.

The awards bring together communities and individuals across Essex who are working to make Essex an even greater place to live, work and visit.

This is the second year these awards will be given and they will recognise the unsung heroes in Essex, from young to old, and from individuals to voluntary groups and businesses.

By entering someone that has made an impact on their community and improved the lives of others residents will be helping recognise their dedication and hard work as well as highlighting the importance these volunteers make to their communities.

This year there are seven categories:

**The Business Award** – For commercial organisations who have made an impact in their community.

**The Voluntary Community Service Award** – Reflecting innovation or outstanding service delivery by a third sector organisation.

**Individual Volunteer Award (Young Person)** – For volunteers aged under 18 who have demonstrated outstanding commitment within their community. This may be something they have done independently or in connection with a charity/community group or employer.

**Individual Volunteer Award (Adult)** – For volunteers aged 18+ who have demonstrated outstanding commitment within their community. This may be something they have done independently or in connection with a charity/community group or employer.

**Individual Volunteer Award** – For volunteers who have overcome adversity to contribute to a group or community despite the challenges they have faced.

**Volunteer Team Award** - A group of two or more volunteers of any age who have made an outstanding contribution to their community either independently or with a charity, community group or their employer.

**Innovation Award** - For social enterprises, commercial organisations and individuals who have demonstrated innovation to support the community.

If there is a business, charity or individual that you feel deserves recognition for their volunteering efforts in Essex then nominate them now by filling in an online form on the link below. Nominations close Friday 3rd March 2017 at midnight.

<http://www.essex.gov.uk/Business-Partners/Partners/Adult-Social-Care-providers/Pages/Who-Will-Care-Awards-2017.aspx>

### **Residents urged to re-think the drink in January after the excess of Christmas**

With the festive season now behind us Essex County Council is urging people to get their 2017 off to a positive and healthy start by signing up for Dry January.

Dry January is a national initiative run by charity Alcohol concern, which encourages people to sign up to go alcohol free for 31 days.

The plea comes following the findings of a new survey which shows nearly 1 in 10 of people believe it's acceptable for a child aged 10 or under to drink alcohol at Christmas.

The survey, conducted by Alcohol Concern, also shows 1 in 4 adults have been drunk in front of a child at Christmas.

For many, alcohol is a big part of the festivities, but often this can lead to excessive consumption and negative consequences, studies show that having a break from alcohol gives people the opportunity to think about what they're drinking, break those bad habits and in the long term cut down and improve their health.

The survey also found that during the festive period, people are most likely to be drunk in front of our partners or work colleagues. Around two fifths of people have been drunk in front of a colleague and over a fifth in front of a boss.

To sign up for Dry January visit [www.dryjanuary.org.uk](http://www.dryjanuary.org.uk)

If you are concerned about your drinking, Essex County Council has also designed an online tool which can tell you if your drinking is risky. DBIU is an innovative alcohol screening, advice, intervention and referral website, leading the field of online alcohol interventions in the UK. Visit <https://dontbottleitup.org.uk/> for information and to take the alcohol test.

For tips to help you cut down on your alcohol intake, head to:

<https://dontbottleitup.org.uk/worried-about-alcohol/tips-for-cutting-down>

#### FROM ALCOHOL CONCERN

All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 2141 adults. Fieldwork was undertaken on 24th and 25th November 2016. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all GB adults (aged 18+).

For more information please contact [cbarrett@alcoholconcern.org.uk](mailto:cbarrett@alcoholconcern.org.uk) or call 0203 815 8923.

Findings of the survey:

- Nearly 1 in 10 (9%) of us believe it's acceptable for a child aged 10 or under to drink alcohol at Christmas
- More than 1 in 5 (21%) of us think it's acceptable for a child aged 12 or under to drink alcohol at Christmas
- 1 in 4 adults have been drunk in front of a child at Christmas
- Half of adults think it's acceptable to give a child alcohol under the age of 15
- Charity urges drinkers to take a break with annual Dry January campaign
- Around two fifths of us (39%) have been drunk in front of a colleague and over a fifth (22%) in front of a boss

- Half of us have been drunk in front of a partner
- A fifth of us have been drunk in front of a partner's parents
- Over a third of us (36%) have been drunk in front of our own parents
- Over a quarter of GB adults (26%) have been drunk in front of their child and/or a family member or friends child during the Christmas period, with 17% doing this in front of a child under the age of 12.

#### Alcohol and health harms

- Alcohol is a causal factor in more than 60 medical conditions, including cancers; high blood pressure, cirrhosis of the liver, stroke and depression.
- Alcohol can cause seven types of cancer – breast, liver, bowel, pharyngeal (upper throat), laryngeal (voice box) and oesophageal (food pipe). Research shows having just one or two standard alcoholic drinks per day increases your risk of several cancers. Each drink per day increases the risk in women of developing breast cancer by between 7% - 12%.

#### Dry January

- Dry January is Alcohol Concern's annual campaign (since 2012) challenging people to go booze free for 31 days
- It is aimed at the social drinker, encouraging them to give up alcohol for a month - it is not a medical detox programme
- This year we saw over 50,000 people sign up to the campaign
- It's estimated that 1 in 6 people in Britain attempted a Dry January in 2016

#### **A120 consultation begun on 17 January 2017**

A map detailing nine possible options for a new stretch of the A120 was released ahead of a public consultation in the New Year.

The options – which run from Braintree to the A12 near Colchester – were unveiled to make sure residents are aware of the important study to improve the vital road link and the public consultation on route options next year.

The nine options, which have been distilled from numerous alternatives that have been considered, represent the current thinking and may be refined before the consultation goes live in mid-January 2017.

Cllr Kevin Bentley, Essex County Council Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Growth & Partnerships, said that this much needed improvement work will not only help journey times, it will also help grow local businesses not just in Essex but across East Anglia as it is vital we get this right so we can continue to grow the local economy and prove Essex means business.

Upgrades to this road are long overdue and we are keen to get views from residents and business on how best to do this.

We have spent almost a year working up route options for a public consultation and wanted to share the most up-to-date results to get everyone motivated to take part in early 2017.

It is vital that residents and businesses from across Essex and East Anglia engage in this consultation in January to help create a modern road that is fit for purpose.

Find out more about the upcoming consultation by visiting [www.a120essex.co.uk](http://www.a120essex.co.uk)

A PDF of the nine options is available through the link below

<http://collateral.vuelio.uk.com/RemoteStorage/EssexCC/Releases/5985/FINAL%209%20options%20for%20A120.pdf>

This consultation was launched on Tuesday, 17 January 2017.

Residents will be able to give feedback by filling in an online/hard copy questionnaire or by writing and sending their views via email and post.

The consultation will run for eight weeks.

Information will also be available at 11 public information events:

- Monday, 30 January – Bradwell Village Hall
- Thursday, 2 February – Silver End Village Hall
- Monday, 6 February – Rivenhall Hotel
- Tuesday, 7 February – Marks Tey Village Hall
- Friday, 10 February – Charter Hall, Colchester
- Saturday, 11 February – Spring Lodge Centre, Witham
- Tuesday, 14 February - Feering Community Centre
- Wednesday, 15 February – Civic Centre, Chelmsford
- Saturday, 18 February – Alec Hunter Academy, Braintree
- Saturday, 25 February – Coggeshall Village Hall

- Date and venue to be confirmed – Crossing

For more information or to share your views once the consultation is live please visit [www.a120essex.co.uk](http://www.a120essex.co.uk)

### **New push to improve local roads sees dramatic pothole reduction**

The number of potholes on local roads has dropped by a fifth over the last six months following major investment.

Following previous improvements to Essex's main roads, additional funding was provided to repair potholes on local roads from July until the end of December 2016.

Pothole numbers on these local roads throughout Essex dropped from 4,954 to 3,961 during this period, despite the extra problems caused by worsening weather conditions.

During this time crews fixed more than 3,200 potholes, with fewer potholes developing thanks to a record-breaking road surfacing programme over the summer.

The improvements come as the Government has announced an extra £1,869,000 for Essex as part of the national Pothole Action Fund for the financial year 2017/18.

With more than 5,000 miles to look after across Essex, it is important that key routes are kept in the best condition possible to keep Essex residents and businesses moving.

But this should not be at the expense of our local road network; thanks to this extra funding the council will have teams out on a daily basis fixing potholes across the county this winter.

This complements our long-term approach to improving our roads which saw a record 3.24 million square metres of road surface dressing last summer alone.

The latest road condition survey, which includes laser survey data from all Essex roads, shows that only 2 per cent (down from 6 per cent in 2013) of priority routes require maintenance, and local roads are down from the target level of 13 per cent to 12 per cent.

To report a highways issue, please visit [www.essex.gov.uk/highways](http://www.essex.gov.uk/highways)