

TDC Update – Manningtree – July 2018

GALA DINNER TO OPEN 2018 CLACTON AIRSHOW AND SUPPORT RAF VETERANS

A gala dinner is to be held the night before this year's Clacton Airshow takes off.

Black Jacket Events, which runs the VIP area during the two-day airshow, is organising the gala event which will help raise funds for the Royal Air Forces Association (RAFA).

It is one of a number of ways the 2018 Clacton Airshow, organised by Tendring District Council (TDC), is honouring 100 years since the end of the First World War – and the centenary year of the RAF.

Leading the commemorations will be the RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, with a Lancaster bomber and two Spitfires taking to the skies above Clacton seafront on both days of the airshow.

Flown by serving RAF crew, the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight aims to maintain the planes in an airworthy condition as part of the national heritage.

On the ground at the airshow, **which takes place on August 23-24**, RAFA will have a stand to raise awareness of their work, while TDC's Tommy statue will also be on display.

This year's programme is also themed around 100 years since the end of the First World War, with a commemorative front cover to match.

There are also a number of active RAF aircraft already confirmed for the flying programme, including the RAF Red Arrows and the RAF Typhoon.

Mick Skeels, TDC Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism, said it was fitting that this year's airshow paid tribute to the RAF.

"Flights from the RAF are always the most popular at the Clacton Airshow, and it is easy to see why," he said.

"But in this centenary year it is even more poignant to see the Lancaster and Spitfire, and to celebrate their contribution to our national defence and liberty in conflicts past and present.

"I am particularly pleased with the design of this year's programme, and strongly urge everyone to buy a copy during the event."

Tickets for the gala dinner, taking place on Clacton seafront, cost £25 and include a two-course meal, a welcome drink and live music. To book, call 01206 827883.

Anyone wanting information about sponsorship opportunities, hospitality, or trade space at Clacton Airshow 2018 should contact 01255 686683 or 01255 686623.

Clacton Airshow can also be contacted via twitter @ClactonAirshow and via its website www.clactonairshow.com – while updates on the two days will come from Radio Airshow, run by BBC Essex, on 103.5FM or 729MW.

COUNCIL UNITED IN CALLS TO DUAL TENDRING STRETCH OF A120

Councillors have backed calls for the A120 through Tendring to be upgraded to a dual carriageway.

Members of Tendring District Council (TDC) unanimously voted through a motion at full council (Tuesday, July 3) setting out the importance of the works as a matter of urgency.

The motion calls on Essex County Council as Highways Authority to lobby get the works included in the Government's next road funding cycle, RIS2, which will be announced next year.

It also pledges the council to gather support from MPs, stakeholders and the wider community for the scheme.

Currently the A120 is single carriageway from Hare Green to Harwich, despite being a route of international significance linking Harwich International Port – a national resilience port – to Stansted Airport.

The section from Horsley Cross to Harwich in particular is of poor standard, and Highways England has confirmed the road is reaching the end of its life.

However TDC does not want to see the road simply renewed, but to take the opportunity to upgrade the A120 to a dual carriageway – opening up economic growth in the process.

Neil Stock, TDC Leader, welcomed the cross-party support the motion received.

“If we are to be successful in achieving our goal of a dual carriageway A120 right through Tendring, then we must work together and be united,” he said.

“Government will not put money into a scheme if it sees political differences as a potential barrier to the project being successfully carried out – what we need to show them is that this is a sensible investment.

“Upgrading the A120 not only improves a road used by Tendring residents, but is the key to unlocking future growth at Harwich ports, right along the A120 corridor, and for UK PLC as a whole.”

PUBLIC TO BE ASKED VIEWS ON POLLING ARRANGEMENTS

A consultation begins later this month on where polling districts – and polling stations – are located during elections in Tendring.

Following changes by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, Tendring District Council (TDC) is reducing next May from 60 councillors in 35 wards to 48 members representing 32 wards.

As a result, TDC's Electoral Services team has looked at the most appropriate places for people to cast their votes during elections, and how the new wards should be split up into polling districts.

Whilst many polling places have remained the same, it has been necessary to introduce some new premises and discontinue using some existing ones.

From Monday, July 16, until August 28, everyone will be given the chance to have their say on where they vote.

To see the initial proposals and have your say, visit www.tendringdc.gov.uk/council/elections-voting/ from July 16 or view a hard copy at Clacton Town Hall or TDC's offices in Weeley.

Ian Davidson, Returning Officer and TDC Chief Executive, said it was important people reviewed the changes.

"Making sure voting is accessible to all is a crucial part of democracy, and it is particularly relevant that we're announcing this consultation during National Democracy Week," he said.

"I urge everyone to have a look at the proposals and see where they will be voting – subject to any changes following the consultation – from December.

"I also encourage people to come up with alternative suggestions for their polling arrangements."

COST OF TACKLING UNAUTHORISED TRAVELLER SITES IS MONEY WELL SPENT, COUNCIL SAYS

Tendring District Council (TDC) officers, alongside the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit (ECTU) and security contractors, have worked hard over last weekend to secure public land and to protect and reassure residents after several groups of travellers set up unauthorised encampments in the district.

An initial group of 13 vehicles entered the overflow car park on Bath House Meadow, Walton-on-the-Naze, despite the gate and barrier being recently reinforced following previous encampments. At this site the council was prepared and invoked powers under parking regulations to move the group on.

At the same time another encampment of more than 20 vehicles plus caravans had set up on private land at Clacton Airfield where police served a notice to move, requiring them to leave within 24 hours.

The displaced groups moved to Holland Haven, and also land off of London Road, Clacton. Officers from TDC, ECTU and police managed to persuade both groups to leave these council-owned sites yesterday (Monday, July 2).

The Holland Haven group appears to have left Tendring, but the London Road group has relocated again to Essex County Council-owned open space off Alton Park Road, Clacton. This group will be served with a direction to leave by ECTU tomorrow.

The cost of monitoring travellers, organising evictions and the hire of security to work alongside council officers to prevent further incursions, as well as clearing up afterwards, is considerable.

ECTU provides an extremely cost-effective service on behalf of its members, but there are additional local expenses, despite some officers giving their spare time freely to assist.

Fred Nicholls, TDC Cabinet Member for Corporate Enforcement, said it is vital to support local residents and businesses concerned about unauthorised encampments, particularly during the busy tourist season.

“Any additional expense, although regrettable, is money well spent if it reassures the public and local businesses and helps to move these groups on quickly,” Cllr Nicholls added.

“In recognition of the distress an increasing number of unauthorised encampments can cause, the Government recently consulted on the effectiveness of legal powers in dealing with them along with other related issues. TDC will continue to work where possible with all partners and government to find a long-term solution to the issues arising from unauthorised encampments on public land.

“In the meantime I urge the public to be vigilant, to report any unauthorised encampments, and to be cautious around agreeing to have work undertaken by people calling at their homes unannounced.”

PLANNING INSPECTOR REPORTS ON NORTH ESSEX GARDEN COMMUNITY PLANS

Ambitious plans to ensure North Essex is able to meet the housing and infrastructure needs of future generations are praised by the planning inspector for being ambitious and innovative, but require more work before they can be found sound.

The inspector has published his letter of recommendations following an examination earlier this year of the joint part of the Local Plans developed by Braintree District, Tendring District and Colchester Borough councils.

The three Councils created identical sections of their Local Plans – setting out how North Essex will grow over the coming years – the first time councils have come together in this way to look at a long-term approach to how homes, jobs and infrastructure are developed for future generations. The ambitious projects for three garden communities, which also involve Essex County Council and Uttlesford District Council, are designed to help tackle the area’s housing challenge while ensuring infrastructure like roads, transport systems, schools and health services are developed as the homes are built.

The independent Planning Inspector has said the plan requires work to strengthen and improve it before it can be taken forward. This will delay the process of adopting the Local Plan.

Further evidence is needed of the financial viability of garden communities, and how the feasibility of transport improvements such as those to the A120 and A12 fits in with the long-term plan.

The inspector praised the Councils’ co-operation, and described the proposed approach as “innovative and ambitious”. Although he said proceeding with garden communities as set out could be “difficult to justify”, he added: “It is possible that when the necessary additional work I have outlined is completed it will provide justification for proceeding.”

Tim Young, Deputy Leader of Colchester Borough Council, said: “I welcome this letter. The inspector’s comments are useful, and we always knew this would not be a simple yes or no to the plans as what we are proposing is without precedent.

“Much of the work highlighted by the inspector is work that has been ongoing over the last few months since the examination. I am pleased he is effectively calling on Government to give more certainty over its backing for the big infrastructure improvements we know are needed.”

Graham Butland, Leader of Braintree District Council, said the report shows the innovative partnership approach between the local authorities is fruitful.

“The three Councils, working closely with our partners in Essex County Council, the North Essex Garden Communities body and Uttlesford District Council, will continue to drive forward responsible, sustainable development in the region,” he said.

“The other option is urban sprawl or piecemeal infrastructure-light development, and that really isn’t an option.”

Neil Stock, Leader of Tendring District Council, stressed the importance of garden communities for future generations.

“As a region, and as a country, we need more housing – no-one is questioning that – and it has to go somewhere,” he said.

“I believe Garden Communities represent the only realistic way of ensuring that we get the infrastructure in place as the houses get built. I don’t want to see a situation where thousands of new homes are built in North Essex without the new roads, schools and medical facilities that will be necessary or without proper planning for the jobs and employment that will be needed

“The questions and concerns the inspector has raised are questions we would always need to answer, and over the coming months we will look to address these.”

David Finch, Essex County Council Leader, said the authority would continue to work with its district and borough partners to help strengthen the plan

“The Inspector’s letter poses some important challenges and questions, not just to the Councils, but to Government who have been clear in their support for looking at innovative approaches to long-term housing delivery, and ensuring the housing crisis is tackled.

“The opportunity offered by Garden Communities must continue to be explored, they offer the best opportunity to grow Essex in the right way and we will continue to work with our local and national partners to bring more certainty around some of the key questions raised.”

Discussions have already begun with Government about how its major infrastructure plans can be more directly linked up with garden communities to provide the reassurance sought by the inspector.

The Councils are now considering their next steps, and are continuing to work on developing the evidence and plans for the three proposed communities.

The inspector will report back on housing need at a later date, after consideration of a developer’s late submission regarding Tendring’s housing need projections.

You can view the inspector’s letter here:

<https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/planning/local-plans-and-policies/view-our-local-plan>

See also the linked information below:

PLANNING INSPECTOR CONFIRMS HOUSING GROWTH FIGURE FOR NORTH ESSEX

A planning inspector has **confirmed** the amount of new houses which need to be built across north Essex over the next 15 years.

Colchester Borough and Braintree and Tendring District councils submitted a joint section one to their Local Plans, a blueprint for growth in the area until 2033.

Following a public examination of the Local Plan, a planning inspector has now reported back on the expected housing need for the period. He reported back on other aspects within the Local Plan last month.

The inspector backed the councils' submitted figures for housing growth up until 2033 – of 550 new homes each year in Tendring, 716 in Braintree, and 920 in Colchester.

His response on housing figures had been delayed from the rest of the Plan after consideration of a late submission from a developer over Tendring's projected numbers.

However, **the inspector ruled the councils had accurately predicted housing need based on national guidelines.**

Neil Stock, Leader of Tendring District Council, welcomed the inspector's response.

"Getting an accurate figure for predicted housing growth is a critical part of the Local Plan, as it sets out how many new homes we need and how quickly we need them. This will provide greater certainty for housebuilders and councils which can only be a good thing," he said.

"I am glad the inspector has recognised the amount of work which has gone into this calculation, and that this can provide reassurance to the public that we have not simply plucked a figure out of the air."

Tim Young, Deputy Leader of Colchester Borough Council, said the borough was at the forefront of delivering sustainable growth.

"Colchester continues to be a place where people want to live, work, learn and visit, and that is reflected in our housing figure.

"Having a strong Local Plan in place, which has been prepared in consultation with our residents, is vital to ensure Colchester's housing requirements deliver sustainable developments in the right places and with the right infrastructure. It is not just about housing numbers, but creating great places where vibrant local communities can thrive and prosper."

Graham Butland, Leader of Braintree District Council, said "I am pleased that the Planning Inspectorate agrees with the housing need figures which underpin our Local Plan.

"We know building new homes is a key priority for the Government. Having a Local Plan allows us to shape where these new homes go, and make sure they are built in sustainable places, rather than where best suits developers."

CABINET VOTE TO DEMOLISH SHELTERED HOUSING SCHEME

Senior councillors have voted for the demolition of a sheltered housing scheme in Lawford.

The decision was taken in March 2018 to close the main scheme building which had been under-occupied for some time.

Although closed the building is currently costing the Council more than £84,000 annually in maintenance and other charges.

By demolishing the building, a move which will cost up to £250,000, money will be saved in the long-term – around £37,000 each year.

Tendring District Council's Cabinet agreed in March this year to close the site for good, and demolition of Honeycroft will make it easier to dispose of or regenerate the site - reassuring the community that the Council is taking positive action over the site.

Residents of the remaining bungalows on the site will be kept updated on the demolition process, which may cause some disruption over a short period.

Paul Honeywood, Tendring District Council Cabinet Member for Housing, said this was a step forward.

"By moving forward with the demolition, we will be saving money in the long run and due to the age and conditions in the building this was the only real option we had," Cllr Honeywood said.

"This is a step forward in terms of providing more suitable and safer accommodation.

"We hope that residents and the community are now assured that this issue is being taken seriously and this demolition will mean a positive future for this site."

NEW RECYCLING BANKS FOR BOOKS AND CDS INSTALLED ACROSS TENDRING

Recycling banks where people can leave their unwanted books, CDs, DVDs and computer games have been installed across Tendring.

Ten of the new media banks have been added to existing sites by Tendring District Council (TDC) contractors Perfect Stores.

As well as saving the items from landfill, the books and other goods are re-used with any funds raised going to good causes in the local community and further afield.

The banks sit alongside textile banks for clothing recycling, which goes through the same process.

New media banks have been installed at the following sites: Barrack Lane, Harwich; Clacton Leisure Centre, Vista Road; Scout Group car park, Abbey Street, Thorpe-le-Soken; Walton-on-the-Naze and Great Bentley railway stations; TDC offices,

Weeley; YMCA, High Street, Brightlingsea; Gorse Lane Industrial Estate, Telford Road, Clacton; **Mistley Village Hall, Furze Hill**; and Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles leisure centre, Low Road.

Michael Talbot, TDC Cabinet Member for Environment, said the new banks were good news for a number of reasons.

“Anything which will reduce the amount of waste going to landfill has to be a good thing, particularly with these types of items which are not bio-degradable,” he said.

“But not only will it help the environment by avoiding landfill, they will also be re-used and found a new home, while money raised supports those who may be less fortunate than ourselves.

“For me this is a win-win way of dealing with redundant equipment, and I encourage everybody to use these new media recycling banks.”

To find your nearest recycling point visit www.recycle-more.co.uk/bank-locator

General Information:

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

Alan Coley & Carlo Guglielmi