

TDC Update Manningtree – December 2018

17/01181/OUT – LAND TO THE SOUTH OF LONG ROAD, MISTLEY

This planning application, to increase the existing planning permission for 300 dwellings (gained on appeal) **by a further 185 dwellings** was heard by the full Planning Committee on the 13th November.

I spoke in opposition and the application was rejected, despite the Planning Officer's recommendation for approval.

We await the probable appeal, or revised application.

18/01767/OUT – LAND SOUTH OF NEW ROAD, MISTLEY

This is an application to change the internal layout of a development already approved on appeal.

There are considerable implications resulting from these changes. Approval by officers under delegated powers was imminent. However, I have called the application in and the decision will now be made by the full Planning Committee – no date yet.

18/01937/EIASCR – PROPOSAL TO BUILD UP TO 100 NEW HOMES - LAND SOUTH of HARWICH ROAD.

In effect this is an extension to the River Reach development (Hopkins Homes) Harwich Road, Mistley, which is already under construction (135 dwellings).

This is a formal request by the applicant's agent for a Screening Opinion from Tendring District Council as to whether an Environmental Assessment is required.

A full application is imminent. The developer has already posted glossy leaflets through the doors of local residents.

I understand that Mistley Parish Council has already had a meeting with the Applicant's Agent regarding this application and is aware of it.

APPEAL OVER DECISION TO REFUSE PLANS FOR 110 HOMES IN LAWFORD TO BE HEARD AT PUBLIC INQUIRY

A Planning Inspector will hold a public inquiry over proposals to build 110 homes on a site in Lawford.

Gladman Homes applied to Tendring District Council (TDC) to develop land at Grange Road, but the council refused planning permission for the scheme.

The developer appealed the decision to the Planning Inspectorate, and a hearing had been set to hear evidence on the case.

However, given the large amount of local interest and representations made by the public, and Gladman Homes wishing to address these, the Inspector has decided a public inquiry would be more appropriate.

The hearing scheduled, has been cancelled as a result.

A date has not yet been set for the inquiry, but people have until January 9, 2019, to submit any further representations to be considered.

To do so, people should visit the Planning Portal at <https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk> or email tim.salter@pins.gsi.gov.uk or, for those without access to the internet, send three copies to: The Planning Inspectorate, Mariola Bartkowiak - Room 3/P, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Bristol BS1 6PN.

All correspondence should quote reference number APP/P1560/W/18/3201067.

INCREASED PLANNING FEE INCOME SET TO BE REINVESTED IN THE SERVICE

Increased income to Tendring District Council (TDC) brought about by a raise in planning application fees is set to be reinvested in the planning service.

New Government rules introduced at the beginning of 2018 allowed planning authorities such as TDC to increase application fees by 20%, as long as the extra income was invested back into planning to improve the service.

Now TDC has set out how it plans to invest the additional money.

In a report to be debated by Cabinet on Friday, December 14, five areas are put forward to benefit from the investment.

These include more capacity to support section 106 agreements (contracts made by developers to provide facilities to go with housing), increased proactive monitoring and enforcement of new developments as they are built, and continuing to provide better online and digital planning services.

Fred Nicholls, TDC's Cabinet Member for Corporate Enforcement, said the money would be well spent.

"Planning is such an important role within the council, and one that a vast number of our residents will use or be impacted by, so it is important we invest in the team to ensure we continually improve our services," Cllr Nicholls said.

"Our aim is to continue to improve our planning service in order to achieve the best and fairest outcomes for applicants and communities alike.

“In particular we would like to do more to ensure we follow up on developments to make sure they are being built correctly, and to get the most out of section 106 money, and this funding will support that.”

LOCAL PLAN SET FOR AUTUMN EXAMINATION

Revisions to the Braintree, Colchester and Tendring Councils’ Garden Community proposals are expected to go before the Government’s Planning Inspector in the autumn of 2019, it has been announced.

In September the three councils, working in partnership with Essex County Council, renewed their support for the Garden Community approach for the long-term provision of homes and jobs, and last month had the green light for their approach to gathering the evidence required. This followed the Inspector’s initial findings in June.

It had been planned that additional evidence would be assessed by council committees in spring 2019 before going back to examination in the summer of 2019. However due to the tight timescales involved to allow any revisions to be agreed by each council, it has now been agreed that this will be moved to after the election period, with the examination likely to take place in October.

A spokesperson for the North Essex councils said: “One of the key pieces of work being undertaken is a sustainability appraisal, which is effectively a piece of work looking at the environmental impacts of the proposals in comparison to other potential sites and varying sizes of development. This is something which we will be consulting on with the public in the New Year.

“This has meant we are working to a very tight timescale and, as the Inspector has rightly identified, while we are under pressure to ensure a sound Local Plan is in place, it is critical that the evidence base that is being produced is the most comprehensive and thorough possible and there is sufficient time built into the programme to allow for constructive local engagement and then for councillors to consider the findings through our various committees. Moving the inspection to the autumn will allow us to do this.”

QUEEN’S COMMONWEALTH CANOPY TREE

Manningtree will receive one of the trees in January. I believe it will be a Silver Birch (sapling). The tree is potted and is ready for planting.

MAYFLOWER 400 CELEBRATION PLANS REVEALED FOR HARWICH AS NATIONAL GROUP ANNOUNCES ARTS FUNDING

A series of celebration events and a welcome centre are planned for Harwich as part of the Mayflower 400 commemorations in 2020.

The Mayflower ship, from Harwich and captained by Harwich resident Christopher Jones, took the first settlers to America in 1620 in a voyage marked annually by Thanksgiving in the USA.

A whole programme of events is being planned across 11 UK destinations, including Harwich, for 2020 to mark the 400th anniversary.

TDC's Cabinet is being asked to approve a budget of £135,000 to support other Mayflower 400 projects in the area.

These include £50,000 for a Welcome Centre to act as a hub for tourists visiting the area, £40,000 for a Heritage Trail to take visitors around the town and the key Mayflower sites, and £20,000 for a programme of events.

The Welcome Centre would be home to a whole raft of historical artefacts relating to Harwich and its links to the Mayflower story, and work is ongoing with partners including the Harwich Society and the Guildhall Archivists on this strand of the project.

Neil Stock, TDC Leader, said this is a significant moment in time to remember the key role that Harwich played in historical world events.

“This substantial investment in Harwich is about ensuring the town can capitalise on its heritage and history by welcoming visitors and tourists into the district to boost the local economy,” Cllr Stock said.

It is hoped that external funding can also be sourced from partners and grant organisations to help support projects.

At a national Mayflower Compact event held in the Houses of Parliament on Wednesday, December 5, it was announced that the Art of the Possible cultural programme will benefit from £700,000 of Arts Council England National Lottery funding.

The keynote speech was given by Michael Ellis MP, Minister for Arts, Heritage and Tourism.

The milestone in UK and US history is set to boost the UK economy and attract over 1.4 million visitors nationally during the Mayflower 400 commemoration year, yielding an anticipated economic impact in excess of £76million.

A video highlighting the national Mayflower Trail can be found and used by media here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qKuH7MAFatA>

PROPOSAL TO EXTEND BUSINESS SUPPORT FUND TO CREATE AND PROTECT FURTHER JOBS IN TENDRING

A proposal to add £250,000 to a fund supporting Tendring businesses will go before Cabinet on the 14th December.

Tendring District Council's SME Growth Fund was expanded by a quarter-of-a-million pounds in April following early success of the scheme in benefiting local firms to expand their work, create and safeguard jobs, and relocate to Tendring.

The scheme was also streamlined to make the application process easier, especially for small or start-up businesses, and widened out to include other sectors.

Since then alone the fund has given out five further grants, creating more than 17 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs and protecting another 16 roles, and allowing firms to move to new locations within Tendring and buy equipment.

Overall, since the scheme's launch in late 2015, ten applications have been supported with total grants of £400,104 – including £125,000 provided by Essex County Council when the scheme was first launched. This funding has created 37 new FTE jobs and safeguarded 17.5 FTE roles, leveraging £831,852.31 in private sector investment.

The success of the scheme means all of the money previously allocated to the fund has been issued, and with several other businesses working their way through applications Tendring District Council's Cabinet is being asked to top-up the pot with another £250,000.

Zoe Fairley, Tendring District Council Cabinet Member for Growth and Investment, said the figures speak for themselves.

"Having a strong and vibrant Tendring economy benefits everyone – it provides jobs for residents, investment in the area and increased confidence bringing further private investment into the district," Cllr Fairley said.

"That is why it is so important that we do what we can to support businesses within Tendring. By offering this match-funding it allows firms to grow, take on more staff and protect existing jobs, and overall builds that economy.

"The SME Growth Fund's success can be seen in the number of firms supported, and the number of jobs created and protected, and it makes sense to continue that good work – which is why I will be recommending this to-up to my Cabinet colleagues."

NEW LOOK RECEPTION CENTRE OPENING SOON FOR TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL

A new combined reception centre handling enquiries for two large departments of Tendring District Council (TDC) will open on the 10th December.

The council's Pier Avenue office in Clacton, which was home to the benefits and revenues reception as well as other departments, has been closed to the public since June for a refurbishment as part of TDC's Transformation Project.

Work on the ground and first floors is complete, the new-look reception area will now be open to the public.

Joining the office will be the council's housing reception, meaning the Pier Avenue building is the one-stop shop for people accessing housing or benefits services.

Licensing will also return to the Pier Avenue office, having moved temporarily to the Northbourne depot while work was carried out.

The Tourist Information Centre (TIC) will remain at Clacton Town Hall to deal with visitor enquiries and the Princes Theatre Box Office, and a self-service portal will also continue in the TIC to allow people to access a range of council services there.

The Transformation Project aims to use more technological solutions to improve services and to be more efficient, and to improve offices and make them less costly to maintain. The programme will also see the redundant offices at Westleigh House in Carnarvon Road make way for more town centre parking early next year, and a move out of the Weeley site in late 2019.

Clacton Town Hall will be the next major refurbishment site under the Transformation Project, with work on the former housing reception and the surrounding wing of the building due to begin in early 2019.

Carlo Guglielmi, TDC Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Resources, said the new-look reception area was a welcome improvement for both residents who use it and staff.

"The new reception area at our Pier Avenue office in Clacton looks modern and fresh, and much more inviting for our residents and businesses who use it and the staff who work there," Cllr Guglielmi said.

"Refurbishment has also allowed us to fit new cables and building facilities which will be much more efficient to run, saving the council money in the future.

COUNCIL PLEADS GUILTY TO HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE CHARGE OVER LEGIONELLA CASE

Tendring District Council (TDC) has pleaded guilty to a single charge relating to its Legionella management systems after being prosecuted as a result of a case of Legionnaire's Disease contracted by a customer at Walton-on-the-Naze Lifestyles leisure centre two years ago.

A Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigation was launched in November 2016 after the case, and as a result the agency charged TDC over its systems for managing the risk of Legionella.

On the 6th December Colchester Magistrates' Court fined TDC £27,000, and imposed costs of £7,197 and a statutory victim surcharge of £170.

Ian Davidson, TDC chief executive, reassured residents that systems had been changed as a result, working alongside specialist contractors.

"On behalf of Tendring District Council I would like to apologise to the individual, a regular customer at Walton-on-the-Naze Lifestyles who contracted Legionnaires' Disease and whose illness triggered the Health and Safety Executive investigation which resulted in today's hearing.

"I would like to reassure the public, and particularly our leisure centre customers, that our leisure centres are safe. We deeply regret that standards fell below the high level that we hold ourselves to, and we know which the public expect from us.

"As the court heard, as soon as we became aware of potential shortcomings in our processes for managing Legionella risk we took immediate action to address those issues. This included closing the gym showers and then the whole leisure centre, carrying out checks, and bringing in an external specialist water management contractor to thoroughly review and update our processes.

"It is important to note that the council was not ignorant of Legionella, but our systems for managing the risk fell short of the standard they should have been.

"Longer-term we have improved our training standards for staff, and regularly monitor not only our water quality, but also at a senior management level that such checks are being carried out.

"We have invested significant amounts of money into our leisure centres to make sure they are modern and in keeping with rigorous health and safety standards. All of this has been carried out without being required to by the Health and Safety Executive, and there has been no need for enforcement notices to be issued to make sure we carried out this work.

"At Tendring District Council, we take health and safety extremely seriously, and we fully accept the fine issued by the court. As the court heard, this will of course impact

upon our budgets – however, through our long-term financial plan we will look to mitigate the knock-on effect on tax payers and service users as best we can.

“We will continue to move forward with delivering a high-quality service for residents, not just for our leisure centre customers but right across the council.”

CRUCIAL CREW TEACHES PUPILS TO KEEP SAFE

More than 1,200 Tendring pupils learnt about staying safe online, healthy relationships and were warned about gangs during this year’s Crucial Crew.

Run by the Tendring Community Safety Partnership (TCSP), Crucial Crew workshops take place over eight weeks to teach safety messages to year six pupils.

In total 1,242 youngsters from 32 Tendring schools took part in the sessions.

E-Safety Training warned about the dangers of grooming and not sharing your information online, while Basildon Women’s Aid ran sessions on having healthy relationships. Meanwhile Reach Every Generation spoke about gangs and the dangers of becoming involved in one.

Among the many tips and pieces of advice given out was a warning about sending pictures – even innocuous ones, such as of your ‘cool gaming chair’ – to strangers online as they can use free software to track your location from the data embedded within the image.

The gangs workshop highlighted the realities of prison, while healthy relationships gave advice on identifying and leaving a coercive partner.

Lynda McWilliams, TCSP Chairwoman, said year six was a good at age at which to give these messages.

“At the age of 10-11 these youngsters are starting to get more independence and preparing for the transition to secondary school,” Cllr McWilliams said.

“These sessions are specifically geared towards children, and we know from the feedback that the use of roleplay, video and other techniques really get the children engaged in the topics.

“I hope that the children who took part will take away this information and put it to good use, and that by attending they will carry on down a positive path in life.”

RESIDENTS REMINDED OF CHANGES TO WASTE COLLECTIONS OVER CHRISTMAS PERIOD

Residents in Tendring are being reminded that there will be some alterations to when their rubbish is collected during the Christmas period.

There will be no collections on Christmas Day or Boxing Day, so collections from Tuesday of that week will be made two days later than usual. Residents who would usually have their rubbish collected on Friday, December 28 are instead asked to put their waste and recycling out on Monday, December 31.

The two-day delay continues into the following week as there are no collections on New Year's Day. Those who would ordinarily have their waste collected on Friday, January 4, 2019 will have it picked up on Monday, January 7.

From Monday, January 7, all collections will be made one day later – including those on Friday, January 11, who will have their waste picked up on Saturday, January 12.

All collections return to normal from Monday, January 14, 2019.

For full details, residents can check their recycling calendars or visit Tendring District Council's Christmas webpage, which also has information about office opening hours and a number of other service changes during the festive period. The webpage can be found at <https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/council/christmas-and-new-year-services-and-opening-times>

Residents are asked to note revised opening hours for leisure centres during the Christmas period, while nine toilets around the district will be open from dawn until dusk on Christmas Day.

In the event of an emergency during the Christmas period residents can contact the council's Control Centre on 01255 222022, which is available 24/7.

General Information:

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

Alan Coley