

TDC Update Manningtree – February 2019

LIBRARY CONSULTATION

There has been a great deal of cooperation in order to formulate various evidence-based challenge papers, to the proposals by ECC. These have been sent to Councillor Barker.

Special tanks to Councillor Jason Charlesworth for his excellent and professional document, which was an amalgam of contributions from members of the Research Group.

BUDGET AGREED TO ENABLE 'CAN-DO COUNCIL' TO CONTINUE TO PUNCH ABOVE ITS WEIGHT

Tendring District Council (TDC) has agreed its budget for the coming financial year to allow the authority to continue to “punch above its weight”.

The budget delivers some savings, as part of the ten-year financial plan agreed last year, and the council has also set aside funding for some major projects across the district.

These include more than £2million on business, investment and growth, £4.6m for the cliff stabilisation scheme in Holland-on-Sea and £2.5m on homes for Jaywick Sands.

As part of the budget, a £5 increase in council tax for a Band D home was agreed, in line with the long-term financial plan.

Neil Stock OBE, TDC Leader, said it was a “no frills” budget, “crafted to enable us to carry on being the outstanding local authority we have become”.

Cllr Stock added: “We have already set aside significant amounts of money to keep moving our priorities forward. These are bold and ambitious projects because we are a bold and ambitious council.

“We play a vital role in the lives of the residents of this district and we are a force for good.

“We constantly punch above our weight and I can see no reason why this should change – the Government see us as a ‘can-do’ council, and that’s a reputation we want to keep delivering against.”

Full council voted in support of the budget at its meeting on Tuesday, February 5, with 50 votes for, three votes against and one abstention.

ELECTORAL REGISTER FOR 2019 PUBLISHED BY COUNCIL INCORPORATING WARD CHANGES

The latest edition of the electoral register for Tendring has been published by Tendring District Council (TDC) – which factors in changes to ward boundaries.

Each year the council must complete its list of all those registered to vote in elections, and in which ward they will do so, and TDC published its on December 1.

Following a Local Government Boundary Commission for England review, TDC is reducing from 35 wards down to 32, and from 60 councillors to 48, from the next election on **May 2, 2019**.

As a result some voters' wards may have changed, which may also mean a change to the polling station they use.

To see the new ward boundaries visit

<https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/council/elections-voting/polling-arrangements-review>

Ian Davidson, Returning Officer for Tendring, said it was important that residents checked where they would be voting.

“There is plenty of time until the next district council elections, and we will be doing a lot of work to remind people of these changes in the lead up to polling day,” Mr Davidson said.

“However, with the publication of the latest electoral register now is a good time to have a look and see where you are voting for in the May elections.”

It is not too late to register to vote in this year's district council elections. To do so people should visit <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote> or **for those without internet access call Electoral Services on 01255 686566 to obtain a form.**

EVENT ORGANISERS ENCOURAGED TO SHARE DETAILS WITH COUNCIL FOR INCLUSION IN NEW APP

Organisers of events taking place around Tendring are being encouraged to use a free promotional system.

Tendring District Council (TDC) hosts a calendar of events on its website, with upcoming ones featured on the homepage, and people can submit a request for their activity to feature.

TDC is currently developing a leisure and tourism app to help promote events in the district, and the online What's On section will be used to pull details onto the mobile application.

People can view website and submit their event at <https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/leisure/events-entertainment/whats-on>

Event information, posters and leaflets can also be sent to the Tourist Information Centre, located in Clacton Town Hall, by sending them to LOInformation@tendringdc.gov.uk or calling 01255 686633 to find out more.

Mick Skeels, TDC Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism, said the authority recognised the importance of tourism.

“Tourism is worth more than £370million to the district’s economy, supporting more than 8,000 jobs, and that has been steadily rising year-on-year,” Cllr Skeels said.

“Flagship events such as the Clacton Airshow help with that, but we must not lose sight of how important events are right across the district, such as garden shows and heritage open days.

“They all help bring people into Tendring, or even get our residents out and spending, so anything we can do to help promote them has to be a good thing.

“Our Tourist Information Centre and our website are two ways of doing that, and we are confident the app will help to further promote the wonderful things going on in Tendring.”

APPEAL LAUNCHED AFTER PLANS FOR 485 HOMES AND EMPLOYMENT LAND IN MISTLEY TURNED DOWN

Developers behind plans to build 485 homes and employment units, including cafes and offices, on land in Mistley have lodged an appeal after Tendring District Council (TDC) refused the scheme planning permission.

TDC’s Planning Committee turned down the application in November 2018 as it felt the site had too many houses on it to be suitable for an edge-of-settlement development, situated to the south of Long Road.

Because the site already has planning permission for 300 homes and is included in the emerging Local Plan the scheme had been recommended for approval by TDC officers.

Now the developers have lodged an appeal with the Planning Inspectorate, which will determine whether not planning permission can be granted through an inquiry.

Although previously made representations will be passed on to the Planning Inspector, **people have until March 4 to make any further representations** to the inspectorate or to modify or withdraw previous comments.

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, Tim Salter - Room 3/J Kite Wing, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Bristol BS1 6PN.

All correspondence should quote reference number APP/P1560/W/19/3220201.

LOCAL PLAN PROCESS IS CLEAR AND TRANSPARENT

Three north Essex councils are reminding residents of the next steps in the development of their shared Local Plan.

Braintree District, Colchester Borough and Tendring District councils, supported by Essex County Council, are creating a shared section one of their Local Plans – a blueprint for development in their areas up until 2033.

The Local Plan was examined by a Government Planning Inspector who in June last year set out what issues needed to be addressed for the document to be found sound, including more evidence around viability and transport infrastructure. Since then the North Essex Authorities (NEA) have been revising the evidence, in an approach agreed with the Planning Inspector.

The Inspector also praised the “commendable ambitions for high-quality, strategic-scale development in North Essex”.

Acknowledging criticism from some quarters about how the process is being carried out, the councils are again informing residents about the next steps in an effort to be clear and transparent about the process.

As part of the process an independent organisation, LUC, has been brought in to rigorously assess the various potential sites put forward against the potential new garden communities to ensure that the most appropriate ones are taken forward to help the three councils meet their future housing obligations.

This work, called a Sustainability Appraisal, is ongoing and has involved engaging with stakeholders and local communities to make sure each proposal is explored and assessed fairly.

Once completed the Sustainability Appraisal, and any modifications to the draft Local Plan needed as a result, will need to be considered by each respective councils’ Local Plan Committee – and if approved would go back out for public consultation. The results of this are provided to the Planning Inspector to resume the currently paused Inquiry into the Local Plan. It is anticipated the consultation will happen in the summer of 2019, and then the Inquiry re-opened in the autumn.

Neil Stock OBE, Leader of Tendring District Council, said the process was clearly defined in national planning policy.

“Local Plans are not a new feature of planning law, and the process of a Planning Inspector highlighting areas of further work required before adopting a sound Local Plan is perfectly normal,” Cllr Stock said.

“The North Essex Authorities are now busy carrying out that work, including commissioning an independent Sustainability Appraisal, just as the Inspector asked.

“I welcome the scrutiny being placed on this process. It is absolutely right that our Local Plan is developed in a transparent, open and inclusive way; it's what we have done from the beginning and what we will continue to do all the way through.

“The Inspector told us to get on with the job, has approved our approach to tackling it, and will ultimately be able to tell us in no uncertain terms if he does not approve of the new evidence when we go back to an Inquiry. That is what we are focusing on, not idle speculation.”

Graham Butland, Leader of Braintree District Council, said a benefit of three authorities submitting a shared Local Plan was that there is three times the level of scrutiny.

“Each council has its own process for scrutinising the work it carries out, and ultimately three councils all taking a robust look at the work being done,” Cllr Butland said.

“In addition there are three sets of planning officers, experts in their field, as well as in-house solicitors, regeneration teams and so on – not to mention where necessary outsourced experts and legal guidance – all contributing towards developing a first-class Local Plan for our area.

“All of those officers involved in this process are doing an outstanding job, and I know I speak for all three council leaders when I say we are proud of them.”

Mark Cory, Leader of Colchester Borough Council, said garden community principles were the best way forward for sustainable housing growth in north Essex.

“The independent Sustainability Appraisal will look at the impact of new development in comparison with other potential sites, and when we have the findings we will need to consider this carefully. It is clear that residents want to see a commitment to new infrastructure before further development goes ahead.” Cllr Cory said.

“We must continue to listen and be conscious of the real, genuine concerns of existing communities.”

“The Planning Inspector confirmed, between the three authorities we must build a total of 2,186 houses every year up until 2033. That is not optional – what we do

have control of, is where and how these new homes are built, and we will continue to be clear that this must be done with appropriate infrastructure in the right place.”

PROGRAMME OF 2020 EVENTS FOR HARWICH CELEBRATING MAYFLOWER 400 IS SHAPING UP

Event organisers are working together in Harwich and Dovercourt to pull together an exciting programme for next year.

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.

As well as bespoke and new events introduced specifically for 2020, organisers are being encouraged to look at if their existing event or activity can also get involved.

Paul Milsom, Chairman of the Harwich Tourism Group, said he was pleased at how many people were already building on the Mayflower theme.

“While big landmark events are of course a great way of drawing people into Harwich to enjoy all the area has to offer, it will be the vibrant, exciting activities and events which we deliver year-in year-out which will create that buzz and bring visitors back year after year,” Mr Milsom said.

“Harwich is already renowned for events such as the Maritime Festival and the Harwich Festival of the Arts, and it is so encouraging to see the organisations behind those already thinking ‘Mayflower’.

“I was impressed to learn from a recent meeting of our group just how many people are picking up this thread – and I would urge others to do the same.”

Last year Tendring District Council (TDC), which is part of the Harwich and Dovercourt Tourism Group, promoted a Get On Board campaign encouraging local businesses and organisations to think about how they can contribute to Mayflower 400 – and what it could mean to them.

Mick Skeels, TDC Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism, said “As we’ve already announced, TDC is providing a lot of support and projects to help make Harwich an exciting visitor destination, and I am delighted that others in the town are also picking up the mantle.”

CHANGES TO RALLY ROUTE REVEALED AS RESIDENTS' HANDBOOKS ARE ISSUED

Details of this year's Corbeau Seats Rally Tendring and Clacton are being published as the organisers gear up for another top event.

Following last year's successful rally – the first to be held on closed public roads in England after a change in national legislation – organisers Chelmsford Motor Club (CMC) supported by Tendring District Council (TDC) have made some improvements to bring an even better event for 2019.

In addition to the two spectator areas open to the public last year, in Bradfield and Great Bentley, a third area is being planned for Little Bromley to allow even more people to watch the rally drivers test themselves along the route.

With spectators barred from the roadside for safety reasons, the official viewing areas are the best way to see the cars in action, and there are also plans for a big screen on Clacton seafront for those who want to follow the rally as it happens.

There have also been some changes to last year's route, with stages one and two from 2018 joined together in a single stage passing through Wix, while the Great Bentley stage has been reversed in direction.

CMC representatives have visits to all properties along the route well underway, as well as homes which will be affected by road closures on the day, while a handbook is also in the process of being delivered.

The rally itself takes place on **Sunday, April 28**, while Marine Parade West in Clacton will be closed from Friday, April 26, as part of the event service area. Once again competitors will complete three loops of the four-stage course during the day, setting off for the first round from Clacton 8.30am at 30 second intervals.

Meanwhile a rally guide has been produced and highlighted to competitors and volunteers to provide information on local facilities, including hotels, guesthouses and restaurants, to competitors to encourage them to boost the Tendring economy during the weekend event.

Tony Clements, Event Director from CMC, said he was looking forward to another top event.

“Last year was a spectacular rally, and a great marker as the first event of its kind in England after a change in the law,” he said.

“We were so pleased with how well it went, and how popular it was, but as with any event there's always room for improvements.

“With some changes to the route for competitors, and even more ways for spectators to get involved, we're hoping for an even bigger and better rally this time around.”

More information about the rally can be found at the event website
www.corbeauseatsrally.co.uk

FREE INTERNET SAFETY SESSIONS ON OFFER TO PARENTS

Parents are being invited to find out how to make sure their children stay safe online at a free training session.

Organised by the Tendring Community Safety Partnership (TCSP), the sessions will be run by EST E-safety Training – who have also been delivering workshops with a number of schools in the district.

During the sessions parents will be shown the risks of children being groomed while using the most popular apps, games and social media – and how to keep them safe.

Sessions are being held at Clacton's Princes Theatre, from 12.30-2.30pm on March 6, and 7-9.15pm on March 7.

Lynda McWilliams, TCSP Chairwoman and Tendring District Council Cabinet Member for Health and Education, encouraged parents or other family members to go along.

“We held some of these sessions last year, and the feedback from those who went was so positive – parents found it a real eye-opener as to the risks their children face when online,” Cllr McWilliams said.

“In this digital age not being online isn't an option for our young people. But what we can do is take steps to keep them safe, and pass on tips and advice so they can also protect themselves and enjoy the benefits of the internet safely.

“So I would really urge parents, carers, grandparents – anyone who looks after children – to come along.”

The sessions are free but a place should be booked by visiting the Princes Theatre website at www.princetheatre.co.uk

General Information:

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

Alan Coley & Carlo Guglielmi