

# **District Councillor Monthly Report**

## **Lawford, Manningtree & Mistley**

### **December 2021**

This report can be circulated as you wish, but if Parish Clerks upload to their websites the amendment of any text style to ensure Digital Inclusion Compliance is their responsibility.

#### **COVID 19 Measures**

As new national measures come into force as a precaution against the Omicron variant of Covid-19, residents and businesses in Tendring are being urged to keep up the good work.

The Government announced that from Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November, it would be compulsory to wear face masks in shops and on public transport.

In addition, all international arrivals must complete a PCR test on day two of their entry to the country, and self-isolate until they receive a negative result – while any contacts of a suspected Omicron case must self-isolate for ten days regardless of their vaccination status.

The roll-out of the Covid-19 booster vaccination has also been widened to include new age groups and the time scales between vaccinations has been reduced.

Government guidance around testing has recently changed, with people urged to take a rapid (lateral flow) test any time before attending a crowded setting.

The latest guidance and legal requirements can be found on the Government website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do>

TDC's Community Ambassadors will be working with the authority's other teams to provide advice and support to businesses around the new regulations.

The TDC website has a dedicated Covid-19 information page, which contains advice and signposts people to more details on a range of related topics, which can be visited at [www.tendringdc.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/coronavirus).

The take up of the Booster Vaccine, across all eligible age groups in Tendring has been really positive, as the table below illustrates (dated 2<sup>nd</sup> December).

LTLA name <sup>5,6</sup>	Booster or 3rd dose <sup>7,8,10</sup>							
	Under 50	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80+
Basildon	7,150	4,573	5,273	6,060	6,444	7,440	5,696	7,036
Braintree	5,058	3,157	3,544	4,062	6,051	7,457	5,804	6,708
Brentwood	2,300	1,412	2,009	2,495	2,872	3,326	2,755	3,978
Castle Point	2,777	2,158	2,526	2,925	3,875	5,424	4,389	5,067
Chelmsford	7,247	4,263	4,778	5,329	6,903	8,320	6,717	8,603
Colchester	8,061	4,035	4,169	4,726	6,368	7,931	6,373	7,789
Epping Forest	3,690	2,591	3,219	4,054	4,822	5,711	4,747	6,013
Harlow	3,164	1,517	1,979	2,356	2,777	2,753	2,154	3,028
Maldon	2,113	1,580	2,009	2,509	3,433	4,133	3,362	3,908
Rochford	3,582	2,491	3,070	3,328	3,861	4,822	3,933	4,808
Tendring	4,662	3,090	3,892	5,076	7,273	9,298	7,834	9,653
Uttlesford	2,941	2,743	2,887	3,342	3,694	4,519	3,483	4,395

## **Suicide Prevention Campaign**

Clacton Town Hall will be lit up in green next week as part of a countywide suicide prevention campaign.

The Grade-II listed building will be joining other landmarks across Essex in lighting up between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December as part of the campaign, hoping to get people talking about preventing suicide.

Tendring District Council (TDC) is showing its support for the Creating Hope through Light initiative, encouraging people to reach out and offer support to anyone who may be struggling at this time of year.

Jeff Bray, TDC Chairman, said, “Sadly suicide rates are relatively high in our district, and we know Covid-19, has for many people led to difficult situations that they may be struggling with,”

“We can all play our part in helping people this Christmas – and year round – and hopefully by joining this initiative we can help to spread the word.” Cllr Bray said.

Green is the colour of World Suicide Prevention Week and the initiative is aimed at reducing the stigma around talking about suicide and encourages people to take the free online suicide prevention training, which focuses on three key elements:

**See, Say, Signpost:** See the problem; Say the words: Signpost to support: This gives people the knowledge and the confidence to talk to someone who might be at risk of or thinking about suicide.

People can learn more about and sign up for the free training at [www.letstalkaboutsuiicideessex.co.uk](http://www.letstalkaboutsuiicideessex.co.uk) – which also provides information for those who are contemplating suicide or otherwise struggling with their mental health.

In Essex alone, in 2019, 111 people took their own life. Suicide is in fact the leading cause of death in the United Kingdom in men under 50.

Thousands of people experience suicidal thoughts and feelings every single day and coupled with COVID-19, we are now amidst a mental health crisis.

If you would like to find out more about how to get involved visit <https://letstalkaboutsuiicideessex.co.uk/about-us> for more information.

### **Planning Inspectors Approve Section two of Local Plan**

A report from independent Planning Inspectors has paved the way for Tendring District Council (TDC) to fully adopt its Local Plan.

Section Two of TDC's Local Plan was the subject of an online two-week public hearing earlier in the year. This led to a series of main modifications put forward by TDC to the Planning Inspectors which went out for a six-week public consultation over the summer.

This latest report from the Planning Inspectors follows consideration of the comments made, and states that the document “**can be found legally sound**” subject to formal adoption of the main modifications with some minor amendments.

Nick Turner, Chairman of the Planning Policy and Local Plan Committee, welcomed the Inspectors' letter.

“This is resounding good news for Tendring, meaning that subject to the final few steps required to formally adopt our Local Plan we now have a definitive shape to the growth of our district for the coming decade,” Cllr Turner said.

A Local Plan is a strategic blueprint document setting out how development should take place across the district for the future, with the emerging Local Plan for Tendring covering the period until 2033.

Section one of the Local Plan, submitted jointly by TDC along with Colchester Borough Council and Braintree District Council and looking at strategic planning matters, has already been examined approved and adopted.

Section Two, which is unique to Tendring, provides more detail on where housing and other development will take place within the district and includes specific details regarding Renewable Energy standards.

TDC's Planning Policy and Local Plan Committee will now consider the Planning Inspectors' letter on 11 January and then onto Cabinet before going to full council on 25<sup>th</sup> January for a vote on adoption (it is extremely likely to be approved!)

All of these meetings will be held at Clacton Town Hall.

### **Continued TDC Services over Christmas & New Year**

Tendring District Council will be delivering its essential front line services and will handle emergencies over the Christmas period, but will be closing its virtual offices from 4pm on Thursday, 23 December until they re-open again fully from 8.45am on Tuesday, 4 January, 2022.

In an emergency which requires TDC's assistance residents can contact the council's **Control Centre on 01255 222022**, available 24/7.

Neil Stock OBE, TDC Leader, thanked staff at the council who would be on-call or working during the festive break.

“Our services are important to residents, whatever the time of year, which is why we keep the majority of frontline services running through the Christmas period,” Cllr Stock said.

“Anything urgent requiring immediate attention will be of course be dealt with. All other issues will be picked up in the New Year. This means most of our staff can enjoy a Christmas break after what has been a busy year due to Covid-19. My thanks go to those staff keeping TDC operating during the festive period.”

Waste and recycling collections will continue, with some changes around the bank holidays, which will be communicated in due course. TDC is working with its contractor Veolia Environmental Services to minimise disruption.

Residents can find updated information on TDC’s Christmas services web page, which has full details of seasonal changes to services across the district:  
<https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/christmasservices>

### **Grant Funding – Warmer Homes**

People across Tendring are being encouraged to check if they are eligible to receive help under a new scheme being launched to help local householders be warmer in their homes, lower their carbon emissions, and save money on their fuel bills this winter.

Under the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery scheme, delivered by Warmworks on behalf of Tendring and through funding from the UK Government, householders can apply to receive improvements to increase the comfort and warmth in their home. The scheme offers a wide range of insulation measures and renewable heating technologies designed to support homes to reduce their impact on the environment, including air source, ground source, and hybrid heat pumps.

The Green Homes Grant scheme is open to homeowners, private tenants and people in social rented accommodation, where the home has a low energy rating and a low annual income.

Warmworks will arrange a survey in the homes of eligible householders to agree the work that will be carried out. An accredited and registered sub-contractor team then completes the installation of the agreed heating and energy-efficiency measures, before an independent inspection assesses the completed work against rigorous quality standards. Where required, Warmworks will also then arrange for a full annual service to be completed 12 months later.

You can find out if you are eligible for the scheme by completing the short application form at <https://surveys.est.org.uk/s/GreenHomesGrantSchemeLAD/>

## **Local Planning Appeals and Applications**

***Land South of Long Road, Mistley*** – Appeal against refusal – Construction of Medical Centre & Car Parking.

Appellant – Tendring Farms Ltd (City & Country).

**Awaiting the decision of the Planning Inspector.**

***Trinity Road, Mistley*** – Appeal against refusal - Erection of up to 65 Dwellings.

Appellant - Mr R Brooks and Family

**Awaiting the decision of the Planning Inspector.**

(1) ***Mistley Place Park*** – (21/00453/FUL) McCarthy & Stone - Planning Application to construct 42 apartments and 11 bungalows to provide “Retirement Living”

McCarthy & Stone has amended its application and it held a consultation exhibition on the 25<sup>th</sup> November at Mistley Village Hall. In essence, the applicant is proposing to reduce the number of bungalows by one and change the roof structure alignment of the others in order not to impinge on the view from New Road.

They offer a binding commitments to restore the lake, pastureland, woodland and perimeter fencing. In their package, the Tea Room and Car Park would also be refurbished. They propose to plant wildflower meadows and create a pathway between The Walls and the Tea Room.

There are other proposed changes, which include a reduction in the amount of land to be retained by the present owners, and as a result, an increase to just over 18 acres of gifted land and the Tea Rooms would be transferred to the local authority, for public access.

If this application were to be approved, it would obviously result on building dwellings on a section of Mistley Place Park, which we know many residents are opposed to.

Your three District Councillors remain undecided regarding this application. Some residents, who fervently oppose any plan to build anything at all on this land, have contacted us. Conversely, we have also been contacted by residents who see this application as a one-off opportunity to secure and protect the majority of the land for public access.

Mistley Place Park is currently a Designated Green Gap, in the Conservation area, but is not inside the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Mistley Place Park has effectively been up for sale for approximately eight years. It is privately owned and the elderly owners are extremely keen to sell. We understand that the landowners have a STP Contract with McCarthy & Stone.

The planning application will initially be decided by the TDC Planning Committee. No agenda date has yet been set.

(2) ***Tops’l House, High Street, Mistley*** – (21/00040/FUL & 21/00046/FUL) The remaining planning application concerning the engineering additions to the side of Tops’l House has now been changed. The applicant now wishes to convert the building to a dwelling, with no additional external constructions between Tops’l House and Grapevine Cottages.

This is likely to come before the Planning Committee on the 21<sup>st</sup> December.

### **Job Vacancy – Minibus Driver**

Tendring Community Transport is a registered charity providing transport services to the local community. They are looking for an experienced minibus driver to work a minimum of 21 hours per week. Duties include transporting people to health/medical appointments, shopping trips, attending social/leisure clubs. Drivers must have a D1 on their licence. For more information, please contact Pauline Mann/Phil Headford on 01255 436962 or email: [tendring.ct@btconnect.com](mailto:tendring.ct@btconnect.com).

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Registered Charity No. 1074755

### **Annual Fear of Crime Survey (Tendring)**

Residents and businesses in Tendring are being asked to give views on their fear of crime. The Tendring Community Safety Partnership (TCSP) is once again looking to determine its aims and priorities for next year.

While TCSP has picked out objectives based on crime statistics and other data from partner organisations, including the police, it also wants to know how the public feels.

People can share their views through a short online survey.

Lynda McWilliams, TCSP Chairwoman and Tendring District Council Cabinet Member for Partnerships, urged people to share their thoughts.

“Though the data gives us a fairly good idea of which areas we should focus on next year, it is important that we also pick up what the public feels is important,” Cllr McWilliams said.

The survey is quick and simple to complete, and looks at how safe people feel, whether that has changed over the last year, if they or a family member have been a victim of crime, and what they think is the main source of crime in Tendring.

To take part visit <https://forms.office.com/r/R4EfqxtWt>

Your District Councillors have paper copies of the survey, if they are required and paper copies can also be obtained through Parish Councils or the Town Hall.

**The closing date for people to have their say is 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021.**

**Kind Regards & wishing you all a Happy and Peaceful Christmas....**

**Alan Coley – District Councillor**

District Report on Behalf of:

Alan Coley, Carlo Guglielmi & Val Guglielmi

5<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**In an emergency which requires TDC's assistance residents can contact the council's Control Centre on 01255 222022, available 24/7.**

**Fly Tipping - If anyone witnesses any fly tipping occurring, please contact TDC's Waste Management Team on 01255 686768. To report a missed bin collection visit <https://tendring-self.achieveservice.com/>.**