

Minutes 16th July 2020
Meeting of Elmstead Parish Council
Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

Present: Councillors Paul Beard (Chair), Nick Bell, Amanda Brennan, Sally Fairey, John Gray (Vice Chair), Stephen Walsh, Martine Ward and Gill Williams.
Also Present: Mrs Baxter (clerk), Mr Gary Guiver (Planning Manager TDC), Mr Paul Price (Deputy Chief Executive of TDC) and 5 members of public.
District Councillor Ann Wiggins
County Councillor Carlo Guglielmi
Absent: Cllr Ali Charnick

20/115 Chairman's welcome.

Cllr Beard welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting.

20/116 Resignation of Councillor Cowell.

Cllr Beard made a record of thanks for Cllr Cowell's hard work and dedication.

20/117 Apologies for Absence.

District Councillor Gary Scott sent his apologies.

20/118 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Personal Interests.

None.

20/119 Approval and signing of the minutes from 18th June 2020.

It was resolved to accept the minutes from 18th June 2020 as true and accurate.
Proposed: Cllr Gray, Seconded: Cllr Ward, all in favour.

20/120 To receive an update about the progress of resolutions from the last meeting of the Council on 18th June 2020 not covered in this agenda.

Cllr Beard reported that for item 20/105ii (a cycle track around the Playing Field), he sent a specification to Market Field School showing the requirements for space around the football pitch. The field was measured and there is not enough room.

20/121 Public Speaking

None.

20/122 County Councillor report. Written report – a short verbal report.

See attached.

20/123 District Councillor reports. Written report – a short verbal report.

See attached.

20/124 North Essex Garden Community and A120/A133 Link Road

- i) *Sir Bernard Jenkin MP and Mr Gary Guiver (TDC planning) have been invited to discuss this with the council.*

Sir Bernard Jenkin MP was unable to attend.

Mr Guiver: The Planning Inspector has decided that only the NEGC is viable out of the 3 garden communities under examination. Going forward:

Option 1 – remove the other 2 garden communities, consulting the public on it. This would make the Local Plan sound.

Option 2 – Withdraw the Local Plan and start from scratch. Due to the changes in the National Policy Framework it would then require more houses.

The Planning Inspector recommended option 1 and Colchester Borough Council and Braintree have agreed. If TDC full council agrees too they will write to the inspector to inform him that they are accepting his recommendation and then consult on the

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modifications. In mid-August they will publish the modifications on the website for consultation for 6 weeks. The responses will go to the inspector who will decide on section 1 of the Local Plan. A sustainability appraisal is being done and will be published with the modifications.

All details of the GC will go into the DPD (Development Planning Documents) which will be subject to consultation and an examination process. This consultation will be speaking to the public and showing them drawings and diagrams in mid-2021. After the final consultation it will go to the Planning Inspector to be examined.

Mr Price: It is still to be confirmed that NEGC Ltd is to be wound up.

We are keen to ensure we retain distinct communities, we don't want an urban sprawl or Colchester to join up with Elmstead.

A resident asked that those living in the development area are remembered and that their voices are heard. They will be the most affected. They would like a 2 way communication with those developing the DPD before decisions are made on the details.

Cllr Guglielmi: We are keen to engage with as many people affected as possible.

A resident said that for the link road consultation, their opinions were ignored.

Residents want communication before decisions are made, not after. They believe that Mount Pleasant will be surrounded by high density housing; flats apartments and social housing because of its location west of the link road.

Mr Guiver: The link road will have 4 lanes in total with 2 intermediate roundabouts. The application for it will have a full environmental impact assessment. They will have to demonstrate that they will avoid, mitigate or provide alternatives to destruction to the natural habitat. New trees could be part of the mitigation, landscaping, a lot of planting and grassland.

Cllr Bell asked about protected green zones in Tendring and whether we could start a process to get the same protection on the buffer zone between the NEGC and Elmstead, part of which is currently shown as being in the proposed development area.

Mr Guiver said that in responding to the Planning Inspector's modifications to the Local Plan it would be useful if the Parish Council:

- 1) Supports the inspector's wording regarding avoiding the coalescence of the GC and Elmstead and
- 2) Suggests wording for the GC criteria policy to explicitly say that the development is kept to the west of the link road and that east is the buffer.

TDC can tell the inspector they have no objections to this.

Cllr Williams said that 10 other areas in Tendring have strategic green gaps, how can we apply?

Mr Guiver: A lot of these date back many years. TDC (with CBC) will be looking at a landscape study which will look at appropriate areas for green gaps.

There were questions around the building of the link road and the construction traffic. Mr Guiver said that when the planning application is submitted it will include a construction method statement with those details.

Cllr Brennan said that we've got 53% growth in the village, will TDC stop allowing extra building? Mr Guiver responded that 2024 is the earliest they expecting housing to be built in the GC. TDC has its housing supply and is in a strong position to tighten up on granting permission.

All being well the Local Plan should be done by the end of 2021.

Cllr Walsh asked if on fully leaving the EU will there be a legislative basis for the protection of the environment and if the government dictates higher levels of development will that render the Local Plan redundant?

Mr Guiver: The law is being replicated into UK law. To change it they would have to repeal it.

If the government make changes there will be transitional agreements. If changes happen part way through a Local Plan, it is usually kept until a new one is needed.

A resident asked about screening around the roads and noise affecting existing houses.

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Mr Guiver: There will be a landscaping scheme. Emerging designs are showing the road to be elevated. They will have to put in measures for noise and drainage.

The resident also said that the buffer zone will mean that housing will get compressed.

Mr Guiver: It is envisaged that the link road will be the edge of development. They can designate land in the search area to be a buffer zone.

Cllr Beard thanked Mr Guiver, Mr Price and Cllr Guglielmi for attending and answering questions.

Mr Guiver, Mr Price, Cllr Guglielmi and all members of the public left.

- ii) *An update from the NEGC Working Party, including a leaflet to be sent to the village to inform residents of the current status.*

Cllr Williams: Two thirds of the leaflet are distributed. There have been 3 responses so far. They've also spoken to the Crockleford Heath group, Rosie Pearson and Andrea Luxford Vaughan. They've looked at the proposed road plan and read the inspector's letter. They think it would be good to work in conjunction with the NHP working party. They want to apply for a strategic green gap for the part of the buffer outside the development zone. They have discussed media coverage and signs on gates at the entrance to the village.

We should try and get something for the village infrastructure out of it; the crossing that is needed at the eastern end of the village or the roundabout for the Budgens junction.

Navigus said that this would be good to have in the NHP.

There was a discussion around keeping the message on the signs at the gates as a positive message, like "Keep Elmstead a Village".

Cllr Brennan: We have tried to speak to people and they don't know what is happening with the GC and link road.

20/125 Neighbourhood Plan

To discuss what steps need to be taken next and to discuss information received from Navigus Planning. Does the council wish to take the first step of designating the Neighbourhood Plan area by application to TDC?

Cllr Fairey: We had a very interesting presentation from Navigus Planning. I will call Will Fuller at TDC to get an idea of what to put in the letter requesting the designation of a NHP area. We need to provide a map of the area. The working party will meet next week. It was resolved to apply to TDC for the designation of the NHP area to be the area of Elmstead Parish.

Proposed: Cllr Ward, Seconded: Cllr Williams, all in favour.

20/126 Elmstead Playing Field

Market Field School proposes to install a cycle track around the Field. Is the council in agreement? An update on whether the cycle track will leave enough room for the FA guidelines for an adult pitch size with an adequate safety margin around the edge.

No longer applicable as there is not enough room.

20/127 Committee Membership

The planning committee currently has 3 members and 1 substitute member. Terms of reference state 4 members and 1 substitute member. Would anyone like to join?

It was resolved that Cllr Williams join the Planning Committee. Cllr Beard will remain as a substitute member.

Proposed: Cllr Brennan, Seconded: Cllr Ward, all in favour.

20/128 Annual Action Plan

What are the council's strategic objectives for the next 12 months? What are the priorities?

The priorities are; the Neighbourhood Plan, the North Essex Garden Community and link road, the new community centre and the Lanswood planning application.

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Cllr Beard updated the council that the new community centre has been delayed by at least a year due to Covid-19, the slowdown of house buying and the replacement of the construction company.

20/129 Tendring District Council Street Naming Consultation

Does the council have any comments to make on the street names allocated to the new development in Tye Toad?

It was resolved to suggest that there could be a theme for the development using other types of planes, such as a spitfire or hurricane.

Proposed: Cllr Williams, Seconded: Cllr Ward, all in favour.

20/130 Planning Committee update

i) *To receive a short update of the planning committee meeting on 9th July 2020.*

Cllr Gray gave an update.

ii) *To receive an update on the public open space/equipped play area in Elmstead.*

Cllr Gray explained that he spoke to Alison Cox regarding the sec 106 contribution for the Grange Farm appeal application for 9 dwellings. The draft agreement states that an open spaces contribution will go to the play area on Old School Lane. Cllr Gray asked if it could be redirected to the Charity Field open space and was referred to Kristy Childs (Public Realm Officer). Kristy suggested that this could be directed towards a MUGA and is seeing if the change can be made. We are awaiting her response. The open spaces contribution for a 3 bedroom property is £2,300.

Elmstead is deficit in public open space/equipped play by 4.5 hectares.

20/131 Annual Internal Audit

Mrs J Stobart has completed the internal audit for 2019/20 and this has been circulated. Any questions to be discussed. The Finance Committee will review.

No questions.

20/132 Annual Governance Statement

To review and approve the Annual Governance Statement (Annual Return Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2019/20).

It was resolved to approve the above. Proposed: Cllr Beard, Seconded: Cllr Walsh, all in favour.

20/133 Annual Return

i) *To consider and approve Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2019/20.*

It was resolved to approve the above. Proposed: Cllr Ward, Seconded: Cllr Gray, all in favour.

Cllr Bell left the meeting.

ii) *Signing of the Accounting Statements by the Chairman.*

Cllr Beard will sign and deliver the above to the clerk.

20/134 Clerk's hours

To discuss additional hours worked for July.

The clerk has worked nearly 11 additional hours in July.

It was resolved to approve 11 hours of overtime for July. Proposed: Cllr Beard, Seconded: Cllr Fairey, all in favour.

After a discussion about the extra work the clerk is doing it was also resolved to approve 11 hours of overtime for August. Proposed: Cllr Beard, Seconded: Cllr Ward, all in favour.

The personnel committee will meet to discuss the clerk's hours and the Finance Committee will discuss the financial impact of any suggested changes.

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20/135 Finance

To look through the finance report and approve the payments for July. See appendix 1.
It was resolved to accept the finance report and approve the payments. Proposed: Cllr Williams, Seconded: Cllr Brennan, all in favour.

20/136 Items for next agenda or for information only

None.

20/137 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 20th August 2020 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9.56pm.

There being no further public business councillors were thanked for their attendance.

Minutes written by Mrs. A Baxter

Contact: 01206 827139

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ECC report July 2020

A133 Ipswich to Harwich Rd improvements team saves months of future disruption

Ipswich Road (south) was opened ahead of schedule as piling works were completed sooner than expected. Harwich Rd (south) re-opened on the 30th June to allow key construction works to be completed.

All the engineering work on the A133 St Andrews Avenue and Harwich Rd roundabout, to widen the road to two full lanes in both directions, will be finished during the summer as planned.

Work to strengthen the retaining wall at the south-west side of the Ipswich Road roundabout follows on from the piling to join to the Cowdray Avenue rail bridge.

Whilst completing these works, Engineers have found issues with the bridge that will require fixing.

Essex Highways are currently carrying out further investigation work, with a view to completing further remedial measures to the railway bridge. This can be done without the need for further road closures using the existing traffic management around the Ipswich Rd roundabout.

Whilst finding this issue isn't helpful to the works on site, it is good news that this was discovered now as the project team is best placed to absorb this extra job within the scheme and create the necessary space to resolve this issue without future significant road closures.

Unfortunately, this does mean that the Ipswich Road roundabout section cannot be completed until the bridge issues have been resolved.

Structures engineers will now carry out urgent investigations and start repair work on the railway bridge, following arrangements made with Network Rail. Depending on precisely what works are required on the bridge, the whole project is expected to be finished, with improved traffic flow through the whole area towards the latter part of 2020. Harwich Road roundabout up to Ipswich Road roundabout is still planned to be completed this summer.

Council wins ruling over Basildon waste plant

A High Court judge has concluded that the ongoing issues with the Tovi Eco Park at Courtauld Road in Basildon are due to flaws in the owner's original design.

Essex County Council always alleged this rather than the type of waste it processes, as the owner alleged.

The facility, a private finance initiative, began processing the county's waste in 2014.

Due to the complex nature of the plant, a lengthy commissioning or testing period during which any issues could be addressed was always envisaged.

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However, during this commissioning period, it became apparent that there were several performance issues and ECC was in ongoing contractual discussions with the plant's owner in an attempt to resolve these.

Viable solutions to these issues were not found and in 2017 ECC referred matters to the High Court for resolution to protect taxpayers' interests.

The case was heard in May-June 2019 and the judge handed down his decision on 18th June 2020. Mr Justice Pepperall concluded that the ongoing commissioning issues were the result of the plant's original design rather than due to the type of waste it processes as was alleged by the owner.

This result does not in any way affect the collection of household waste across the county which will continue as normal.

Since it began operating in 2014, the facility has been receiving and processing a considerable amount of the county's residual (black bag) waste.

While next steps are being considered, household waste will continue to be collected across the county and disposed of appropriately.

The court will

publish the full judgment on <https://www.bailii.org/>

Essex County Council underlines importance of social distancing and regular hand washing as £5.78m funding for track and trace support is announced

Health experts at ECC are underlining the need for social distancing and regular hand washing as new funding to support the track and trace service is announced.

Local authorities are central to supporting the new track and trace service across England, with the government providing a new funding package of £300 million to authorities across the UK.

The Council has been allocated £5,780,000 (£5.78m) from this funding package.

The authority is now using this funding to develop tailored outbreak control plans, working with local trusts and other partners.

This local provision is in addition to the national activity and is specifically to deal with particular local situations.

However, ECC is clear the message remains for county residents to maintain two metres of social distance and to keep washing hands at every opportunity.

Dr Mike Gogarty, Director of Wellbeing, ECC's Public Health and Communities said: "Social distancing is more relevant to people than ever.

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“If you do not come within two metres of anyone you will never be regarded as at risk under track and trace and will not be asked to self-isolate”

“Although track and trace is now being implemented, and new processes to act upon it are being created, it is vital to remember it is a complementary system when it comes to halting the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

“Track and trace is not a cure and it won’t halt the spread of COVID-19 by itself.

“The key things everybody in Essex needs to do to stop the spread of COVID-19 is maintain two metres of social distance from people outside of your household and family bubble and keep washing your hands.”

Plans drawn up by the authority to respond to track and trace focus on identifying and containing potential outbreaks in places such as workplaces, housing complexes, care homes and schools.

ECC is now working to ensure testing capacity is deployed effectively to high-risk locations. The council will work closely with the test and trace service, local NHS and other partners to achieve this.

Data on the virus’s spread will be shared with other local authorities through the Joint Biosecurity Centre to inform local outbreak planning, so teams understand how the virus is moving, working with national government where necessary to access the track and trace capabilities of the new service.

New Family Innovation Fund-Xtra gives Essex families a little extra help

A new range of additional support has been launched by Essex County Council to help children, young people and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Family Innovation Fund-Xtra (FiF-Xtra) services, offer early support across a number of key areas including children’s mental health, healthy relationships and coping with change. They are available to children and young people aged between 0 and 19-years, and up to 25-years for young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND).

The services are aimed at helping young people and families who are not already receiving specialist or statutory support. They can be accessed directly by families, through referral from a professional such as a teacher, via the Essex Welfare Service, the Getting Help in Essex Directory, or by calling one of the organisations themselves.

ECC is working with the voluntary sector and community partners who will deliver the services locally so that families receive help when and where they need it most.

Cllr Louise McKinlay, Essex County Council’s Cabinet Member for Children and Families, said: “We are pleased to build on the current support available in Essex to offer families a little extra help at this challenging time.

“We know that the effects of the pandemic will be felt for a long time, even as the world gradually returns to normal. It’s therefore vital that we have early support in place to help families address

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any concerns they face now, but also so that they are better equipped to face potential challenges later down the line.

“I would encourage any young people, parents and carers to find out more if they feel like they need a little extra help.”

The launch of FiF-Xtra follows the existing support already available in Essex through the established Family Innovation Fund (FiF).

Support can be delivered one-on-one, through group work, as a family group, or as a couple, around understanding Coronavirus; managing and coping with change; separation and loss; managing and coping with anxiety; healthy family relationships and staying active and curious.

To receive support via the Family Innovation Fund-Xtra service, young people and their families can contact one of the organisations listed below, depending on their needs.

- [Wilderness Foundation](#) – offers counselling and therapeutic support, and may bring nature, art and other creative tools into sessions. Appointments are available 9am-5pm Monday - Friday. Evenings and weekends by appointment. Contact 0300 1233073 or info@wildernessfoundation.org.uk

- [Renew Counselling](#) – an experienced and accredited counselling service for all ages. Appointments are available Monday – Friday 10am – 5pm and Monday-Thursday 5pm-8pm. Saturdays by appointment. Contact 01245 359353 or hilary@renew-us.org

- [Open Door](#) – offers coaching, counselling and mediation. Appointments are available Monday-Thursday 9am-7pm, Friday 9am-5pm. Saturday and Sunday by appointment. Contact 01375 390040 or Fifxtra@opendoorservices.org

- [Relate](#) – offer accredited mediation and counselling. Appointments are available 9am-9pm Monday- Friday and 9am-5pm on Saturdays. Contact 01245 676930 or 01708 441722 or enquiries@relatelinee.org.uk

- [YMCA](#) – can help families identify beneficial strategies and solutions for their needs in individual, group or family sessions. Appointments are available Monday – Friday and Saturdays by agreement. Contact 01245 355677 or sarah.daniels@ymcachelmsford.org.uk

- [Evolve Intervention](#) – provide early intervention for children and young people through mentoring, coaching, group work and tuition. Appointments are available Monday -Friday 9am to 6pm, with some availability between 6pm- 8pm and on Saturdays 10am to 4pm. Contact us on 01245 526069 or info@evolve-intervention.com

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Further information:

- The Getting Help in Essex Directory is available here: <https://www.essex-gethelp.uk>
- More information about Essex Welfare Service can be found here: www.essexwelfareservice.org.uk

Essex Welfare Service expands with new support services now available

The Essex Welfare Service (EWS), established by ECC, is now enabling access to more support services across the county.

The county council service, delivered by Provide, was set up to help those most vulnerable during the Coronavirus pandemic and has so far seen almost 9,000 vulnerable people across the county receiving support and over 3,000 volunteers helping to make this happen.

This invaluable volunteer support has ranged from help with shopping, medicine or day to day tasks that has enabled individuals to stay healthy and well whilst shielding at home.

The EWS has seen an increasing demand from residents for a number of different types of support. In response to that EWS has expanded to enable access to a range of organisations that can help those who feel isolated or vulnerable.

Leader of Essex County Council, Cllr David Finch said: "I am incredibly proud of the community spirit that has been shown across the county by our wonderful residents, and for this I cannot thank them enough.

"The Essex Welfare Service has played a crucial role in ensuring that those most vulnerable in our communities receive support and I am delighted that we can now build on that. Working together with a number of organisations across the county, EWS will now also be an access point for residents to a range of other services."

The expanded EWS service will now offer help and advice to residents who are feeling isolated or vulnerable, regardless of their age, health or circumstance. Residents can access support on:

- Caring responsibilities
- Mental health
- Learning disability/autism
- Dementia care
- Sensory impairment
- Parenting and family matters
- Keeping physically active

To register, or recommend to friends and family, visit the Essex Welfare Service at www.essexwelfareservice.org.uk or call 0300 303 9988.

A self-help directory will also go live in the coming weeks giving residents an additional offer of support.

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Services now offered through the EWS and partners involved:
Specialist Provider Service offer

Carers First

- Delivers support to carers over the age of 18.
- Provides emotional and practical support, advice, information and guidance, and opportunities for carers to access training, online social groups and activities.

Essex Community Learning Sensory

- A one stop shop route to the sensory support pathway.
- Offers support, provision of information, advice and guidance regarding support for people who are sight impaired, hard of hearing, deaf or deafblind.

Sport for Confidence

- A team of occupational therapists and sports coaches currently delivering an 'at home' service to support vulnerable people who are isolating to remain healthy.
- Typically, participants include people with a disability, dementia, poor mental health, or a long term-condition.

Summit

- Offers a range of bespoke services for adults with a learning disability, autism or poor mental health.
- Includes advocacy, outreach work, support through medical assessments and correspondence support.

Royal Mencap

- Provides information, advice and guidance to adults with a learning disability.
- Topics include employment, benefits, referral for mental health support and community activities.
- Also provides a befriending service.

Alzheimer's Society

- Provides dementia support, which includes support, advice and information.
- Also offers peer support and virtual 'Singing for the Brain' sessions.

Realise Futures

- Provides employment support and advice to people with a disability.
- Staff will be available to listen to any difficulties people are facing with employment, offer support and signposting where needed.

Frontline

- Supports adults with a learning disability / autism.
- Offers social isolation support (befriending) and provides supported employment, queries, advice and support.

Community Agents Essex

- Support for vulnerable adults, and their informal carers, to gain and regain independent living skills.
- No specific age, but particularly those over 65 or those with a learning disability and / or

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autism.

Royal Association for Deaf People

- Offers support in all sorts of aspects to families who are deaf themselves or have a deaf member within the family.
- Support varies with help and advice, activity ideas, or ensuring they can get essential supplies.

Action for Family Carers

- Essex Befriends service – regular contact (currently telephone only) from a trained volunteer befriender for people at increased risk of loneliness or social isolation: informal carers, older people, people with a learning disability, people with a mental health condition.

Children and Families Group

- A team providing information, advice and guidance for parents with a child / children under 18 years old living in their home and in need of additional support.

Adult social care group (ECL advisors)

- A listening service for vulnerable and at-risk adults with complex needs, problem solving or signposting them to services that might be appropriate.

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Elmstead Market Parish Council – July 2020

District

We had an All Members Briefing last Wednesday with 53 Councillors and TDC Staff involved.

Ian Davidson continues to send out regular updates on the current situation.

Gary has had weekly Group Leader Briefings. The last briefing spoke about Widdecombe – how many meetings/working parties that a particular group is able to attend – the change was due to Councillors changing their parties.

The business grants are still continuing within TDC helping businesses.

Whilst Council Meetings are taking place virtually there are more of them. Planning Committee has started to have regular meetings which should help with the enormous amount that TDC has received since the pandemic started.

Public toilets are now open in TDC.

Gary has been part of a cross party group for the PPL10 which has been discussing energy and renewable initiatives which will go into the District Plan.

Elmstead Market

Gary visited a resident at Elmcroft who backs onto the Bellway site.

Gary visited residents at Market Close with regard to the recycling bins in the car park.

Flytipping of black bags between Mitchell's Farm shop and Sibbons in the two laybys has been reported to TDC.

Gary and Ann Councillors for Elmstead Market Ward – 16th July 2020

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