

**Minutes 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017**  
**Meeting of Elmstead Parish Council**  
**Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET**

Present: Councillors Paul Beard (Chairman), Solma Ahmed, Nick Bell, Ron Fairweather, Bob Kavanagh, Mike Kirby, Jean Routledge, Jane Triscott and Martine Ward

Also Present: Mrs Baxter (Clerk) and 4 members of the public

**17/224 Apologies for Absence**

District Councillors Rosemary Heaney and Fred Nicholls and County Councillor Carlo Guglielmi sent their apologies.

**17/225 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Non Pecuniary Interests**

None

**17/226 Approval and signing of the minutes from 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017.**

It was resolved to accept the minutes from 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017 as true and accurate. Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Triscott, all in favour.

**17/227 To receive an update about the progress of resolutions from the last meeting of the Council on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017.**

Cllr Beard explained that the council should have a social media policy, a draft has been sent to the clerk. He attended the start of the Market Field School 6 week trial for football and it was well attended. The Wivenhoe youth football team were happy to share the field as they could use the goals. He also went on the charity dog walk organised by Mr Higgins and a lot of people were asking about the dog bin that's due to be installed on Tye Road.

**17/228 Public Speaking**

*There is 5 minutes of public speaking*

A resident reported that someone has been taking photos of the streetlights outside her house on Bromley Road. Another resident reported that the streetlights have been fixed on Old School Lane. Cllr Kavanagh reported that he checked the streetlights on Lucerne and they do go off overnight, in line with part time street lighting hours. (Off at 1am).

**17/229 County Councillor report**

See attached. Information regarding fly tipping and winter conditions is to be added to the PC Upmarket report for January.

**17/230 District Councillor reports**

See attached.

Cllr Bell reported that he attended a meeting on the Colchester Road layby between District Councillor Nicholls, Mr C Gooch and two representatives from TDC. Mr Gooch believes that Veolia are not doing the litterpicking job they are paid to do along the verges and ditches. The outcome was that the TDC reps will take the complaints back to Veolia. They are also going to put a better bin in a more central location in the layby.

**17/231 Planning**

*i) To hear a report from the Planning Committee regarding planning discussed at the Committee Meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017.*

Please refer to the Planning Committee Minutes for 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017. Cllr Kavanagh reported that someone has been surveying on Tye Road and Cllr Fairweather reported that there has been some clearing work on the site of the Old Post Office.

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- ii) To hear any update regarding the following developments: Church Road, Charity Field and Meadow Close.*

The Clerk reported the following: Church Road – The sale went through today to Newell Homes Ltd, based in Colchester. Kevin Coleman has had no contact and does not know if they will continue to work with him. He suggests contacting them directly.

Charity Field – The site is on the market with Strutt and Parker and they should have an idea of the outcome in a month's time.

Meadow Close – no update.

It was resolved to invite Newell Homes to the December PC meeting. Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Ward, all in favour.

**17/232 Finance**

*To look through the finance report and approve the payments for November. See appendix 1*

It was resolved to accept the finance report and approve the payments.

Proposed: Cllr Triscott, Seconded: Cllr Kavanagh, all in favour.

Cllr Kavanagh suggested asking Colchester Council for the black bin bags they haven't used as there is a large overstock at the Shrub End recycling centre.

The grass cutting at Dene Park was discussed and whether our handyman could do it instead of a contractor. The mower the contractor uses is different to ours and can cut higher grass lengths, so our handyman would have to cut more often. It was suggested that we see how long the journey on the mower would take to get an idea of the overall cost. The clerk is to ask the handyman what his views are on potentially doing this task.

**17/233 Bluegates Donation**

*An update on the spending of this donation; options/quotes for VAS signs and information regarding the installation of the gateway signs.*

Cllr Routledge shared information on quotes for VAS signs. Thermotor: £4,130 for 2 VAS signs including solar panels and delivery. These have a 2 year guarantee, they can offer 5 years, we are waiting for the quote. Westotec: £6,500 for 2 VAS signs including solar panels and a 6 year warranty. Mallatite: Only one to offer installation and a maintenance contract at £550 each. The cost for 2 signs is £5,349.

We'll need to supply the poles for either option. It is more expensive to purchase the signs with solar panels but this is the PC's preference and as we are doing this ourselves in order to meet the deadline for spending the donation we won't be able to install them onto existing streetlights. We are following Lawford in doing this ourselves as we have had so many delays with the authorities and we only have 9 months left to spend the donation. The official route would take another two years. Lawford have had no problems in the 2 years since they purchased their VAS independently. There could be a small risk that Essex Highways ask that the signs be removed but we could then justify the need with speed surveys and/or replace the defective Colchester Road VAS with one of the new signs. As the VAS are to be solar powered then can more easily be moved if necessary. Councillors were asked if they had any problems with potential risk but none did.

Quotes for gateways: Glasdon £3,093.63 for 4 x 1.5m wide gates including delivery. JACS £2,275.72 for 2 x 1.8m wide gates and 2 x 1m wide gates and includes delivery. It was asked if 4 wide gates would be preferable for JACS but they may not fit at 1.8m wide.

It was discussed that the working party are to meet and discuss costs and options and come back to the December meeting with their recommendation. Also to check if a ground survey is necessary and how much it costs. Also to ask Cllr Nicholls to contact

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Steve Gove (Highway Rangers) to ask if they would be able to do the installations for us.

**17/234 Speed of Traffic in Elmstead**

*Any progression on the discussion started last month regarding ideas to tackle the speed of traffic?*

Cllr Beard listed some ideas raised previously; rumble strips, an extension of the speed limit, a dummy speed camera.

Cllr Routledge spoke to Adam Garland when he came to do a site visit at Tye Road about rumble strips and he said they were too noisy to have that close to residences. He also said that the police wouldn't allow a change of speed limit unless they could police it. Cllr Bell suggested speaking to Alresford PC about their speed camera. The clerk has previously done this and they think the chances of getting one would be very slim. Cllr Ward spoke about the survey Cllr Gary Scott has delivered to Elmstead residents which asks residents about speeding in the village and whether we can get feedback from the responses. Cllr Ward will contact Cllr Scott to ask.

**17/235 North Essex Garden Communities Consultation**

*The 'Issues and Options Consultation' starts on Monday 13th November 2017 and runs until Monday 8th January 2018. More information about the proposals for the Garden Community will be available at the following local exhibition event: Thursday 14th December 16.00-20.00 at Market Field School, School Rd, Elmstead Market CO7 7ET. Comments on the proposals can be made using forms available at the events, or online. The link to the online consultation document will be published on <http://www.ne-gc.co.uk>*

*What action does the PC wish to take regarding the exhibition and consultation?*

It was agreed that some councillors would go to other exhibitions first to preview them and will feedback to the PC via e-mail. It was also discussed how to advertise the event to the village. It has already been included as an Upmarket article, we'll also put posters up and a sign on the North Green. Cllr Fairweather will speak to the organiser of the event to see if they have any leaflets. Proposed: Cllr Kavanagh, Seconded: Cllr Routledge, all in favour.

**17/236 North Green**

*To look at options for replacement of street furniture on North Green. The bus shelter, metal bench, wooden noticeboard and salt bin were all destroyed by an out of control car driving onto North Green. What is the latest information on the insurance claim?*

Cllr Beard thanked all those doing the work on this topic. It was a job well done to get the site cleared up for Remembrance Sunday. Essex Highways took the rubble and unwanted concrete away, levelled out the land, re-laid a new base for the bus shelter, and Cllr Fairweather put turf down. The new base will have holes cut into it so that the new bus shelter can be dropped straight in. Cllrs were asked for their preference on a new shelter, based upon getting an insurance payout on a like for like replacement. The old shelter was a Bushby shelter. Some councillors preferred spending on a like for like basis, with Hassocks being favoured, and some preferred spending the difference to get a better shelter, the Newstead, Great Leigh and Surrey were all mentioned.

The new bench will be covered by insurance. The noticeboards were underinsured so we won't get the full amount. Cllr Bell pointed out that St Anne and St Laurence church are against having a wooden noticeboard for themselves because of the price, you can

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get a metal one with wood effect at half the price and with less maintenance required. Cllr Bell asked for a response to pass on to the church, but was asked if they can hold off. More information is required from our insurer who has gone quiet, the clerk is to chase.

**17/237 Bus Stop A133**

*A resident has requested that the PC considers installing a bus stop on the A133 outside Brook Cottages. E-mail request to be circulated.*

It was discussed that this location is adjacent to 6 cottages. It was reported that when the spending of the Bluegates donation was discussed it was not an appropriate spend as it is an expensive option and would not be benefitting the majority of people in the village. It was discussed that there are 8 bus stops in the village, only 3 of which have shelters, and some of the others are served by more people.

It was resolved that the PC would not be looking to install a bus shelter at this location at the present time. Proposed; Cllr Kavanagh, Seconded; Cllr Bell, all in favour.

**17/238 Grants and December meeting**

*We did not have time to do the grant processing in time to hand out the grants at our December meeting. To discuss the timing for the 17/18 grants.*

It was resolved that the grants will be given out at the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May. Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Triscott, all in favour.

*Also, with no grants as part of the December meeting, to discuss the format of the pre-Christmas meeting.*

The December meeting is usually a short meeting, but will be a normal meeting this time. Cllr Routledge suggested we need to re-think the format as the meetings are ending late, some people have already left and there are just a few left with the washing up. To add to the next agenda.

**17/239 Finch Lane**

*An update*

Cllr Beard reported that he and Cllrs Fairweather and Kavanagh went to have a look and spoke to Mr Ben Whiting (Finch Lane goes through the Whittings land). Mr Whiting did not believe that there was a right of way across the land but did suggest an alternative route and offered to put in the path and fence. This seemed a good solution, as it may not be safe to be walking close to dangerous machinery. But since then Essex Highways have got involved and will be communicating to Whittings that Finch Lane is a highway and seeking to establish a solution.

**17/240 Local Highways Panel (LHP) Training Report**

*Report from Cllr Fairweather who attended the training (along with the clerk).*

Cllr Fairweather: They used to get £800k/year but didn't spend it all so it has been reduced to £395k for projects in Tendring and will probably reduce further. The money cannot be spent on maintenance.

The clerk spoke to Joe Hazelton (Highways Liaison Officer) about a crossing for Colchester Road. He says they can't install a crossing if the traffic speed is over 40mph. A speed survey taken a few years back showed traffic speed at that location to be 39mph. This subject is to be added to the next agenda.

**17/241 Meeting Room Board**

*The chairman's name has been updated. To get an update from Cllr Bell on the options for adding the clerk's name.*

Held over.

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- 17/242    **Alresford Road**  
*An update on progress so far with the LHP request for a speed survey and the request to cut back the greenery to be able to walk along the verge.*  
Held over as we have not heard back from Cllr Guglielmi.
- 17/243    **Elmcroft Barrier**  
*An Elmstead resident has reported that the barrier fence around Elmcroft is in need of repair and maintenance. Many of the posts are rotten and a number of them have fallen down. He requests that the PC consider a plan to carry out the necessary repairs or replacements.*  
Cllr Fairweather is willing to buy replacements posts and put new ones in and Cllr Kavanagh is willing to help. It was suggested that we ask the Elmcroft residents to help too. Cllr Kavanagh will measure up and get back to the PC. It was resolved to go ahead with this work. Proposed Cllr Fairweather, all in favour.
- Cllrs Kirby and Ahmed left the meeting.
- 17/244    **Post Office**  
*An update*  
Cllr Beard reported that the Post Office would not be reopening at the Spar. The Post Office are looking for alternative premises. Cllr Beard talked to owner/manager of Budgens who is happy to speak to the Post Office about the possibility. Cllr Triscott suggested the Old Forge but will double check with the owners before we put them forward.
- 17/245    **Elmstead Playing Field**  
*Market Field School is getting quotes for floodlights for their MUGA with the potential to turn them around for limited playing field use. Cllr Beard is meeting with Mr Gary Smith to discuss the potential utilisation of them.*  
It was discussed that the lights would not get used by us and that they will be bright and may shine on properties. Cllr Beard is meeting with Mr Smith to discuss changing rooms and will get more details.
- 17/246    **Hedges on School Road**  
*A resident has reported that the hedge is very high on School Road opposite the Farm Shop.*  
It was cut this week.
- 17/247    **Communications** *Items of interest for inclusion in our January Upmarket report in addition to the report of meeting.*  
To inform the clerk.
- 17/248    **Items for next agenda or for information only**

**There being no further public business councillors were thanked for their attendance.  
The meeting closed at 10.16pm.**

**Date of next Parish Meeting: Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2017  
To be held in the Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead  
Minuted by Mrs. A Baxter  
Contact: [elmsteadparish@gmail.com](mailto:elmsteadparish@gmail.com) 01206 827139**

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**Appendix 1**

**Elmstead Parish Council Finance Report**

*Closing Balances to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017 are:*

Current Account to end of month	£34,760.09
Total Expenses unpaid at end of month	£8.38
Total of expenses below (November payments - request for approval)	£394.53
Balance in current account after monthly expenses	£34,357.18
Deposit Account to Bank Statement Ref 153	£27,714.65
Active Saver Account (Bluegates Donation)	£10,057.39
<b>Estimated Overall Closing Balance - Current and Deposit</b>	<b>£72,129.22</b>

*Income Details for October 2017:*

TDC Precept 2nd instalment	£14,897.00
TDC LCTSS Grant	£1,103.00
<b>Total income for the month</b>	<b>£16,000.00</b>

Approval is requested for the following payments:

Community Centre Hall Hire for October x 2	£32.00
FE Payne & Son – Turf for North Green	£86.40
Ernest Doe & Sons – Strimmer mowing head & Ear Muffs for handyman	£36.99
Mrs A Baxter – Refreshments for October PC meeting	£4.29
Cllr N Bell – Ron Whitney signwriter: Councillors' board update	£30.00
Cllr B Kavanagh – copies of Parish maps x 10	£36.00
Mr A Dingwall – Black Bin Bags	£2.00
Mr B Jennings – Grass Cutting Dene Park 1 x Sept, 1 x Oct	£130.00
Cllr M Ward – Councillor training at EALC Great Dunmow, mileage 74.1 miles @ £0.45/mile = £33.35 plus parking £3.50	£36.85
<b>Total</b>	<b>£394.53</b>

Report prepared by A Baxter – Clerk & RFO  
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## ECC Report November 2017

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**£14million primary school expansion projects set to start across Colchester as council's investment in the area continues**

Work is set to begin on creating more than 900 new places across five primary schools in Colchester.

Essex County Council has already spent £30million on primary school projects in the borough since September 2014, including two new schools (Braiswick Primary School and Camulos Academy) and a number of school expansion projects.

However, with the area's population and the demand for places continuing to grow, the council is now planning to spend a further £14million on expansions at St Michael's Primary School, Stanway Primary School Stanway Fiveways Primary School, Home Farm Primary School, and Monkwick Junior School for September 2018.

315 extra places will be created at Stanway Fiveways Primary School through the construction of a two-storey teaching block, containing nine new classrooms and a school hall.

The project, together with one at the neighbouring Stanway Primary School, is being completed by Barnes Construction. Stanway Primary School will benefit from nine new classrooms – some of which are replacing existing relocatable classrooms. The scheme will increase the school's capacity by 120 places.

Eight new classrooms will be built within a new two storey teaching block at St Michael's Primary School, along with a new school hall, food science room and other facilities. The project, which is being managed by Morgan Sindall, will create 210 new places.

Subject to final agreement, an additional eight new classrooms and 210 places will also be created at Home Farm Primary School, along with two classrooms and 60 extra places at Monkwick Junior School.

All five projects will also involve works to enhance external areas and increased car parking.

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Construction is set to start on some of the projects later this month, while works on others is scheduled to get underway early in the New Year.

In addition to the primary school projects due for completion next September, Essex County Council hopes more than 1,000 other primary school places will also be created in the Colchester area in the coming years.

The council hopes to build a new primary school at the Lakelands site in Stanway, while the Education and Skills Funding Agency has approved proposals for an all-through free school on the Chesterwell site in Mile End and a primary free school elsewhere in Colchester (location TBC).

Cllr Ray Gooding, Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Education, said: "We have already spent £30million creating more than 2,300 new school places in Colchester since September 2014 and are committed to ensuring that investment continues in the years to come.

"I am very pleased that work is now set to start on the expansion of these five primary schools.

"The 915 new places these projects will create will be crucial in helping us continue to offer the vast majority of pupils a place at one of their parents' preferred schools."

**Essex housing vision praised**

Plans to create 1,800 new specialist homes for local older people with a care need in the county have won national praise. Essex County Council's Independent Living programme was commended in the Local Government Association's *Housing our Ageing Population* report, published this autumn.

The report sets out what is required to meet the housing needs and aspirations of the ageing population nationally. In particular, Essex was commended for:

- Having a clear vision, promoting awareness and changing attitudes towards housing in later life
- Planning for its ageing population

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- Delivering and enabling new housing for older people
- Promoting a combined approach towards housing, care and health.

Cllr John Spence, Cabinet Member for Adult Health & Social Care, ECC, said:  
*“Our ambition is to provide the maximum help we can so that everyone can have somewhere safe, pleasant and supportive to live in later life. It’s heartening that our approach in Essex has been recognised as an example for other local authorities around the country to follow.”*

The council’s Independent Living programme will see £27.7 million invested between now and 2022 to help the development of new, self-contained homes for the counties ageing population. The investment will enable many more older people in Essex - who would otherwise live in residential care or a home of their own that may no longer meets their needs - to live independently.

The first two new Independent Living housing schemes for older people in Essex, Rosebank Park in Harwich, and Beaumont House in Walton, opened in 2017. A third new scheme, Cornell Court in Saffron Walden, is due to open in summer 2018. Construction will also begin on new schemes in the Braintree, Colchester, Epping Forest, Harlow and Rochford districts during 2018.

The LGA is the national voice of local government, working with councils to support, promote and improve local government. In addition to Essex, its report also identified Birmingham City Council, Central Bedfordshire Council, Mansfield District Council, Newcastle City Council, North Somerset, Bristol, Bath and North-East Somerset Councils, and Worcestershire County Council as demonstrating good practice.

Find out more about Independent Living housing in Essex:  
[www.independentessex.co.uk](http://www.independentessex.co.uk)

**Read the LGA’s report: [Housing our Ageing Population](#)**

Watch: [Cllr Spence explains why ECC is investing in Independent Living homes](#)

Watch: [The first residents of Rosebank Park in Harwich explain how their new Independent Living homes are benefitting them](#)

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**No one in Essex needs to suffer because of the cold**

During the winter months lots of people suffer because of the cold. No one in Essex needs to suffer- is the message Essex County Council is sending residents today as the local and national 'Stay well this winter' campaigns are launched.

Winter conditions can be bad for our health, particularly for those most vulnerable.

This winter, Essex County Council's Public Health team are teaming up with partners and organisations across Essex to keep the county's most vulnerable residents well and warm.

The campaign will highlight how people can keep well and warm, make their homes winter ready and signpost to local support services.

Mike Gogarty, Director of Wellbeing, Public Health & Communities said:  
"According to Age UK, every winter in the UK one older person dies needlessly every seven minutes. In this day and age no one should be suffering because of the cold and certainly no one should be dying as a result."

"In Essex we are working with key providers and organisations across the county to ensure our most vulnerable residents stay well and warm this winter.

"Older people tend to be most vulnerable as they are often less active, spend more time indoors and have reduced muscle and body fat to help insulate them from the cold. This can increase the likelihood of a heart attack, stroke, pneumonia, and other chest diseases. We hope that the awareness raised by this campaign and the advice given will help people understand what support is available and where to go for help."

Cllr John Spence, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care said: "With the clocks turned back, and the weather turning colder, I encourage everyone to prepare for winter.

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"Make sure you have had your boiler serviced, stock up on blankets if you need to, and make sure you have all the medication you may need in case you can't get to a pharmacy."

"Please also look out for others, especially elderly or vulnerable friends, relatives and neighbours, for whom keeping warm this winter could be a matter of life or death. Make sure their homes are ready for the cold, they can keep warm with suitable clothing, and have stocks of food and enough medication."

What you can do to stay well and warm:

- The NHS advises that at the first sign of a cough or cold you should get immediate advice from your pharmacist before it gets more serious.
- Think about any medicines that you or your family may need during the winter months to make sure that you have enough and also ensure you pick any prescriptions up before the Christmas holidays because of closures.
- For over 65s, those with long term conditions, some carers, pregnant women and children aged two and three and in reception year as well as years 1, 2 , 3 and now 4. The flu vaccination is available for free, because these groups are most at risk. If you are in one of these groups and have not had your flu vaccination yet please contact your GP or midwife to get this booked in as soon as possible.
- Keeping your home warm this winter is key to making sure you stay well. Your home should be heated to at least 18°C (65°F) and it is also it's important to make sure your boiler has been serviced recently.
- Many people worry about the cost of heating but with the success of the Essex Energy Switch, people can be confident that when they turn up the heating, they are still getting value for money. The Essex Energy Switch saved Essex residents over £2 million over the last three years. To sign up or the switch visit [www.essex.gov.uk/energyswitch](http://www.essex.gov.uk/energyswitch). You may also be eligible for support towards your fuel payments, visit <https://www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment/overview> for more information.
- Make sure you have enough warm clothes, blankets and food and drinks in stock. Also make sure you eat and drink plenty of hot meals and drinks.
- Keeping safe on the roads is also important. If you want to know when and where highways crews will be gritting the roads this winter,

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you can find all the information you need online at [www.essex.gov.uk/gritters](http://www.essex.gov.uk/gritters). The page also includes some helpful winter driving tips and details on where to access free salt stocks to help keep important public footpaths, like those leading to doctors' surgeries, clear of ice.

- If you do need help over the holiday period when your GP surgery or pharmacy is closed, call NHS 111 or visit [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) who can direct you to a local service that is open. Always call 999 in an emergency.
- *Look after each other, especially those who are elderly or vulnerable.*

For more information on how to stay well this winter, visit [www.livingwellessex.org](http://www.livingwellessex.org) or [nhs.uk/staywell](http://nhs.uk/staywell)

A video of Cllr Spence launching the campaign can be found here- <https://youtu.be/Mj75aosqPYY>

**A new graffiti wall made available to local artists**

A local construction company has provided access to a wall in order to encourage art work from local artists in the community.

Taylor Wimpey has created a temporary street art provision at the construction site next to Essex Record Office. The company was aware that the graffiti wall in Wharf Road car park was closed, and this was regularly used by local artists in the community.

To respond to the closure, Taylor Wimpey has created a new space on their hoarding, which can be used by local artists in the community. Taylor Wimpey was keen to provide the new space as part of their wish to engage with the local community.

The graffiti wall has already generated a positive response from the community, including local street artist Steven Harris, who has created graffiti art work on the new wall.

Peter Monk, Taylor Wimpey Project Consultant, "After speaking to many of the street artists over the last few months it's apparent how important this is to the artist community and how far people travel to express their art. Taylor Wimpey

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promotes community engagement and looks forward to seeing the artist at work”

Essex County Council’s Cultural Development Team will be working closely with Taylor Wimpey to spread the word about this opportunity and encourage use of the new space, including through [exploreculture.org.uk](http://exploreculture.org.uk), a one stop shop to find out about cultural events and activities across Essex.

**Construction companies build foundations for the future at networking event**

Fifty local construction companies attended a networking event to discuss upcoming growth opportunities in Essex.

Companies networked at ‘Construction Opportunities in Essex’, a breakfast event, on Wednesday, 25 October at Colchester Institute’s Colchester campus organised by the Essex Employment and Skills Board (ESB).

The event showed the wealth of opportunity in Essex for the construction sector over the next ten or more years, along with the positive steps being taken to address the skills shortages and negative perceptions of the sector. This led to discussions on how their business would prepare for the future pipeline and their business support needs.

Businesses also heard about the work of Colchester Institute in supporting employers to make their construction courses more industry-focused, as well as how the BEST Growth Hub can help businesses identify and realise their potential.

Cllr Gagan Mohindra, Deputy Cabinet Member for Economic Growth at Essex County Council, said: “Construction is a vital sector in Essex, employing 64,500 people across the county, so it was important for construction companies to get together. As well as gaining valuable insight and information, the event gave them the opportunity to network and build relationships.

“The event covered the industry as a whole and discussed future workforce and growth opportunities to meet the exciting and significant future pipeline.

For further information on Construction, visit: [essexesb.co.uk](http://essexesb.co.uk)

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**Essex County Council becomes one of the first local authorities to receive**

**Disability Confident Leader status**

Essex County Council (ECC) has achieved the highest level an employer can receive as part of the DWP's Disability Confident scheme, Level 3 Leader. The Disability Confident scheme, run by the national government promotes a disability-inclusive culture among employers across the UK.

The scheme has three levels of accreditation and Level 3 employers are challenged thoroughly by a rigorous, independent validation of their self-assessment before being granted this status.

They also commit to becoming an advocate and peer mentor employer, promoting the benefits of employing adults with disabilities. Becoming a Disability Confident Leader means the council will be working together to encourage and share the journey of continuous improvement with partners and businesses across the county.

The announcement coincides with the first of ECC's networking events being held with businesses from across the county at Writtle College. The event included a Q&A session with current ECC disabled employees, all of whom shared their employment experiences, good and bad, as well as the opportunity to talk to a number of organisations who can support employers to recruit and retain more adults with disabilities.

Speaking at the networking event, Gavin Jones, Chief Executive at Essex County Council said; "It is a great honour to become a Level 3 Disability Confident Leader, and we will be advocating the benefits of employing more adults with disabilities, as well as encouraging other employers across the county, and indeed the UK, to take action and change their recruitment practice.

"While we're immensely proud of what we've achieved by becoming a recognised Disability Confident Leader, this is only the start of a much broader journey. Under the Disability Confident scheme we will carry on learning and strengthening the networks we will need to continue to improve our offer to existing and future disabled employees."

Mike Adams, chief executive of Purple who carried out the validation, said: "What was really impressive about Essex County Council's approach was the commitment from the top to build a Disability Confident organisation and to

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**Minutes 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017**  
**Meeting of Elmstead Parish Council**  
**Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET**

promote that philosophy with its supply chain and the Essex business community.

“It was good to see the range of activities already undertaken to promote Disability Confident to businesses and that they go beyond awareness-raising to support real understanding of building capacity of organisations, including through the active engagement of disabled people.”

Kate Crofts, chair of the Disabled Employees Network (DEN) at ECC, said; “It is great to see Essex County Council recognised in this way and I am pleased to have been part of the work that took place.

The DWP’s Disability Confident scheme promotes a disability-inclusive culture, helping us to identify and remove barriers to employment. It equips employers to attract, retain and develop disabled talent and for this to become part of everyone’s day-to-day business.

Disability Confident Leaders also commit to supporting partners and other local employers in becoming Disability Confident.

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**District Councillor News**  
**November 2017.**

Public Consultation regarding the proposed Garden Communities options and Evaluation will take place between 13th November and 9th January 2019 For this area Market Field School, Elmstead Market will be the place to view various maps and documents, planning officers will be on site on 14th December.

Tendring District Council Local Plan has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, the public enquiry into the plan is expected to be in January. Details will be in the local media.

You may have read reports in the local newspapers a Planning Inspector has stated TDC do not have a 5 year housing land supply. This decision is being challenged by means of a Judicial Review by TDC. The official view from TDC Local Plan Committee is "Confirm that the Tendring District Council Methodology calculation the Housing Land Supply as agreed by members in January 2017 remains sound and should be relied upon and continue to be used by officers"

Update on the A120 Harwich Road roundabout, anybody using this junction or driving to Little Bentley can clearly see the work that has so far been undertaken. Trees and undergrowth have been cleared and gives the impression of the junction being opened up.

Fly tipping continues to be a big problem in our area. Rosemary and I urge all residents to take note of any fly tipping and report it to TDC environmental services. Also if you witness any fly tipping please note details of the person and/or vehicle and report the details as well.

I understand that a Housing Association has purchased the land at Mary Lane, Great Bromley for the affordable housing and will be holding a public exhibition in the near future.

I am pleased to report that following my request to TDC Highway Rangers, Finches Lane in Elmstead has been cleared of all the undergrowth and overhanging branches.

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