

Minutes 19th October 2017
Meeting of Elmstead Parish Council
Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

Present: Councillors Paul Beard (Chairman), Nick Bell, Bob Kavanagh, Mike Kirby, Jean Routledge and Martine Ward

Also Present: Mrs Baxter (Clerk), County Councillor Carlo Guglielmi and 7 members of the public

17/200 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Ron Fairweather, Jane Triscott and Solma Ahmed. District Cllrs Fred Nicholls and Rosemary Heaney. Cllr Beard announced that Cllr Julie Snowden has resigned so the council now has 9 members out of a total 11.

Cllr Beard thanked Cllr Carlo Guglielmi for his help and support, and the councillors, District Councillors and Clerk for their work this month.

17/201 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Non Pecuniary Interests

Cllr Beard declared a non pecuniary interest in item 17/207(iii)

17/202 Approval and signing of the minutes from 21st September 2017.

It was resolved to accept the minutes from 21st September 2017 as true and accurate. Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded: Cllr Ward, all in favour.

17/203 To receive an update about the progress of resolutions from the last meeting of the Council on 21st September 2017.

The clerk made a verbal report.

17/204 Public Speaking

Residents spoke about the speed on Church Road, the streetlights on Old School Lane (not working) and that on School Road opposite Mitchell's Farm shop the hedge is very high. Elmstead In Bloom requested that as TDC have stopped taking green waste from the south green could they put the waste in the Community Centre skip? This will go on the next agenda.

The gardening club reported that they are having their posters removed from the bus shelter opposite Oatlands. Cllr Beard confirmed that it is not the PC taking them down. Residents also reported that tractors and trailers going to the biodegradable plant on Tye Road have been leaving debris (silage) in the road. The trailers should be covered. Cllr Beard replied that we will speak to David Hunter to find out more. Cllr Kavanagh commented that it could be Mr Hunter's own land that he is getting the silage from and he will check if it has to be covered up.

Cllr Beard spoke about Finch Lane. Part of the Lane has been cleared by the Highways Rangers but the clearing has stopped due to Whittings structures across the way. There is a folder with historical information regarding the Lane, Cllr Kavanagh offered to read through the file and report back.

17/205 County Councillor report

Cllr Guglielmi provided information on a number of agenda items, comments included in the relevant items below.

Please see below for the report.

Cllr Guglielmi left the meeting with thanks from Cllr Beard for attending.

17/206 District Councillor reports

Not present.

17/207 Planning

- i) To hear a report from the Planning Committee regarding planning discussed at the Committee Meeting of 12th October 2017.*

Cllr Routledge: There has been a new application for the old Post Office site. It is for 2 x 2 bed semi-detached houses and the committee felt this was better than the

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original application for a 5 bedroom house so supported the application. There was a revised application for the second bio-digester at Allen's Farm, the difference being that the bio-digester would not be self-supporting and would require importation of material. The applicant estimated 6 vehicle movements per day for the importation. As this goes against one of the planning conditions for the approval of the original application the committee has objected.

There has been an application for an additional 2 houses at Blue Barn Farm. The committee has objected on the basis that it is outside the development envelope and that TDC has its 5 year supply of housing.

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

Church Road update from Kevin Coleman by e-mail: Contracts have been exchanged (today I believe) and completion will occur in 4 weeks. I do not know who the party is yet.

Charity Field update from Andrew Waters by e-mail: Last week we instructed an agent to market the land and this should happen within a few weeks.

Meadow Close: Nothing to report.

iii) 17/00927/DETAIL Reserved matters application for construction of new access to serve housing development approved under 16/00219/OUT. Land to The East of Tye Road Elmstead Colchester Essex CO7 7BB. An amended plan has been submitted by Mr J Hills - Hills Residential Ltd. The PC has until 20th October to return its comments. To decide comments to be made.

After a discussion regarding the type of large vehicles which use Tye Road, and concerns over the future increase in HGV traffic due to the new reservoir and possible importation to the second bio-digester at Allens Farm it was resolved to object to the amended plan on the grounds that the footpath is not wide enough at 1.5m, which is the minimum. Also on the grounds that the width of Tye Road should not be reduced as the road has previously been widened at the request of Essex Highways to accommodate the two way movement of HGV traffic.

Proposed: Cllr Routledge, 5 in favour (Cllr Beard did not vote due to his non pecuniary interest)

17/208 Finance

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

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

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

17/209 Bluegates Donation

An update on the spending of this donation. A possible discussion on whether to agree to fund speed surveys on Bromley Road and Clacton Road, subject to the working party meeting on the 17th October. The speed surveys will demonstrate whether the speed on the roads meets the criteria for LHP approval for the VAS signs.

Cllr Guglielmi: Regarding the gateway signs he is due to meet with Steve Gove soon (Highway Rangers) and will ask for the protocol of requesting the rangers help to install the gateways. They installed the gateways in Little Bromley. Wix and Beaumont also installed their gates independently. He will send us the feedback from Mr Gove.

Cllr Routledge: We are making progress, at the meeting with Cllr Guglielmi he suggested going the DIY route. We can do the VAS installations ourselves and ask the Highway Rangers to install the gateways. We have contacted 4 companies and we can get a VAS signs for about £2,000. The cheapest way to install it is to put it onto an existing lamp post and tap into the electricity supply. We could get two fixed signs or a

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mobile sign and alternate it between Bromley Road and Clacton Road. The fixed type are cheaper to buy and install. If we chose solar it would be an extra £700-£750. After a discussion to see what preferences the PC had Cllr Routledge proposed that we pursue 2 fixed solar powered VAS signs and the gateways. Seconded by Cllr Ward, all in favour.

17/210 Speed of Traffic in Elmstead

A discussion on ideas to combat vehicles speeding through the village.

Cllr Beard pointed out that there have been vehicle collision incidents in and around Elmstead recently. There was a fatality on Bromley Road and the vehicle crash on North Green could have hit someone.

Cllr Beard has spoken to Cllr Guglielmi to see if a deal could be done to put the pedestrian crossing in near Oatlands in advance of the Meadow Close development going ahead (the agreement for this development includes the provision of a crossing on Colchester Road). This is not going to be possible.

The following speed reductions suggestions were made; rumble strips, ask for the temporary speed reduction at the eastern end of the village to be made permanent, have a graduated speed reduction as you approach the village from the western end and install dummy cameras.

It was resolved to pursue these options with Essex Highways and Cllr Guglielmi. Proposed; Cllr Routledge, 5 in favour, 1 against.

17/211 Weight Limits for School Road and Tye Road

We have heard back from Cllr Ian Grundy, cabinet member for Highways, who advised working with Cllr Guglielmi to submit two new applications to the LHP.

Cllr Guglielmi: Send the LHP requests for these to him.

17/212 Post Office

An update on the status of the temporary closure of the Post Office.

Cllr Beard read the latest communication from Laura Tarling which explained that Royal Mail, which is a separate organisation to the Post Office, has decided to move the sorting office out of Elmstead. They are talking to the Postmaster at Spar to try and reinstate services until the end of their notice period (12th February 2018). Laura has also asked the clerk for suggestions of alternate locations for the Post Office. Cllr Beard will speak to Budgens and Cllr Routledge will add a request for suggestions to the Upmarket report.

The clerk reported that there is also the option of having an outreach Post Office funded by the government. These are mobile units and need a location to operate from. There is one in Great Bromley. It would be part time though and so the PC will continue to pursue the option of a full time Post Office to be reinstated.

17/213 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 Guglielmi: Has asked if there are any spare salt bins and suggested that Steve Gove may have some ideas.

Cllr Fairweather has not heard back from Essex Highways as to what work they will do for us yet. Cllr Kavanagh reported that he knows someone who may be able to remove the concrete and take it to Whittings. The idea is to remove the concrete and put grass back in. Only the bus shelter area will be resurfaced with hard standing. The Elmstead in Bloom post with the flower basket on will also be put back in.

The clerk informed the PC that they have approximately £2,300 in sec 106 monies being held by TDC for the use of open spaces which can possibly be put towards the replacement of the street furniture.

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17/214 Church Noticeboard on North Green

Cllr Bell spoke to Barrie Merridew who said that a wooden noticeboard would cost the church £1,600 versus £700 for a metal one. Cllr Bell suggested the PC gets a metal one as the wooden ones get a hammering from the weather. There was a discussion regarding possibly moving the noticeboard on Harvest Way to the Green and putting a metal noticeboard on Harvest Way but it was agreed to wait and see what the insurer says.

17/215 Village Plan Events Working Party

The meeting has been postponed with the North Green incident and reparations taking precedence.

17/216 Facebook Policy

To discuss the means of creating a facebook policy for the PC.

Cllr Routledge informed the PC that it had been part of the clerk's appraisal that a facebook policy be agreed to help take forward the use of the PC facebook page. She suggested that a working party agree the policy and then put it forward to the PC for approval. Cllr Beard will look into this.

17/217 Elmstead Playing Field

Market Field School would like to run a disability football session on the field on Saturdays starting 14th October, 10 till 11.30. It's a trial for 6 weeks to check interest and sustainability.

Cllr Beard: Agreed this for last week. The Wivenhoe youth team uses the field on a Saturday morning but they are happy to share. The PC owes it to the parishioners to reduce costs and so he spoke to Gary Smith about the associated costs of maintaining the field and Mr Smith has offered to waive the cost of grass cutting if the PC agrees to him using the field. We used to pay in the region of £900 for grass cutting but the School has since purchased their own mower and are doing their own cutting. We don't know how much the new invoices will be but they can't charge more than the market cost for grass cutting.

There was a discussion around whether it would taking the field away from public use, and what would happen if there was an event on the field. We'd need to consider the wording for a contract. It was resolved that we agree to a trial period for six weeks to see if we get any feedback from the public. Proposed: Cllr Beard, all in favour.

Cllr Kirby left the meeting.

17/218 Meeting Room Board

The chairman's name is to be updated. Cllr Bell suggests that the clerk's name should also be written somewhere.

Cllr Beard visited another Parish Council Hall where the clerk's names are recorded along with the chair's names and thought it was a good idea. There was a discussion around whether the record was just a historical record of fact, or rather a record of achievement. Some felt that the boards were antiquated anyway, and others liked the history of them. Cllr Bell will report back with an idea of cost.

17/219 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.

Cllr Guglielmi: The LHP requests are in validation. He added a bit to the request to see if he could get the vegetation levelled out. The requested speed survey would be funded by Essex Highways is it is approved.

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17/220 Community Governance Review

To decide the Parish Council's response to Cllr Neil Stock's letter asking for initial views on TDC undertaking a Community Governance Review. This may affect the number of councillors each Parish Council can have. Based upon a projected electorate of 1,577 in 2022 our suggested number of seats is 9. This is based upon National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Guidance. Joy Darby (CEO of Essex Association of Local Councils) has written to the NALC CEO asking that NALC publicly states that they do not accept that the details of numbers of Councillors, appropriate in 1998 are appropriate today.

Cllr Kavanagh left the meeting.

There was a discussion around whether 9 councillors would be enough, there are a lot of committees, and there wouldn't be enough councillors to go around. Also the forecast of our electorate in 2022 does not seem high enough given the number of new houses to be built. It was agreed to respond to the letter to query the forecast figures, to query whether the number of councillors should be reduced to 9 and to ask how it would work if a reduction was put in place and then our electorate figures increased taking us up to the next level. Would that trigger a change to additional councillors? Cllr Routledge will put some wording together.

17/221 Dog Bin for Bromley Road

Does the PC agree to the installation of a dog bin on Bromley Road close to the entrance to the footpath by Red Thorn Lodge? Costs to be provided.

It costs approximately £60/annum for the emptying of each dog bin. The PC has a spare bin which can be installed here.

It was resolved to agree to the installation of a dog bin at this location, and in addition a further dog bin on Tye Road by the footpath. Proposed: Cllr Beard, all in favour.

17/222 Communications *Items of interest for inclusion in our December Upmarket report in addition to the report of meeting.* Speedwatch, the Post Office and the bus shelter.

17/223 Items for next agenda or for information only

None

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

The meeting closed at 10.12pm.

Date of next Parish Meeting: Thursday 16th November 2017

To be held in the Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead

Minuted by Mrs. A Baxter

Contact: elmsteadparish@gmail.com

01206 827139

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Elmstead Parish Council Finance Report

Closing Balances to 30th September 2017 are:

Current Account to end of month	£22,110.90
Total Expenses unpaid at end of month	£1,852.29
Total of expenses below (October payments - request for approval)	£157.29
Balance in current account after monthly expenses	£20,101.32
Deposit Account to Bank Statement Ref 153	£27,714.65
Active Saver Account (Bluegates Donation)	£10,057.39
Estimated Overall Closing Balance - Current and Deposit	£57,873.36

Income Details for September 2017:

Elmstead Playing Field Hire - Strawberry Fayre	£50.00
Elmstead Community Centre – share of waste disposal expenses (707 Ltd)	£212.61
Elmstead Community Centre - share of projector	£191.15
Total income for the month	£453.76

Approval is requested for the following payments:

Community Centre Hall Hire for September x 2	£32.00
Cllr Fairweather – New tyre for mower from Universal Tyre & Autocentres	£96.00
EALC – Good Councillor Guides and P&P	£22.57
Mrs A Baxter – 2 nd class stamps	£6.72
Total	£157.29

Report prepared by A Baxter – Clerk & RFO
16th October 2017

Notes:

- 1) An account has been opened with Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd to enable Mr Dingwall to make purchases up to a maximum of £100 without having to pay the expenditure himself and then make a claim.
- 2) Most of the September expenditure was paid by bank transfer on the 3rd October, hence the large figure of total expenses unpaid at the end of the month.
- 3) The second half of the precept was paid into the account on 5th October - £16,000.

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ECC Report October 2017

Priority groups urged to book in for flu vaccination from today

The Public Health team at Essex County Council is today urging those at highest risk of flu to get vaccinated ahead of the winter period, when the virus is most common.

The national flu vaccination programme is now available nationwide to all eligible people. New this year, children in school year 4 will also be offered the vaccine in a school setting for the first time, along with children in reception and years 1, 2 and 3.

The national drive marks the start of Stay Well This Winter, an initiative from Public Health England and NHS England to help the most vulnerable people prepare for winter and avoid having to visit hospital due to common winter illnesses.

Cllr John Spence, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care said that it is crucial for people in the priority groups to get their flu vaccination as soon as possible, to not only protect themselves, but those around them too. It's free for priority groups because they need it.

Mike Gogarty, Director of Wellbeing, Public Health & Communities at Essex County Council stated that flu and complications associated with it cause around 8000 deaths on average a year in England so if anyone is at risk, I can't stress enough how important the flu vaccination is.

Many people don't realise they are in a priority group, so please think about whether you qualify and if you are eligible for the free vaccination and have not had it, then contact your GP, pharmacist or midwife to arrange your vaccination.

Those in priority groups and eligible for the free flu vaccine include:

- Adults over 65
- Pregnant women
- Children aged 2 and 3 as well as pupils in reception class and school years 1 to 4
- People with long-term health conditions (including asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and cardiovascular issues)

Another way of protecting vulnerable adults is to vaccinate children, who are 'super-spreaders' of the vaccine.

For healthy children aged 2 and 3 the flu vaccine is in the form of a nasal spray, administered by a health professional. Nationally, parents of over three million children in reception class and school years 1, 2, 3 and 4 will be asked to agree to have their children vaccinated in school.

According to Public Health England, last year's flu vaccination programme reduced the risk of flu in children who received the vaccine by 63% compared to those that didn't.

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The vaccine is the best form of protection against flu. Vaccinating those who are most likely to get flu also offers a protective effect for the rest of the population by reducing the overall spread of the virus.

To book your flu vaccination, please contact your GP.

For more information on the flu vaccination take a look at www.nhs.uk/staywell

Rock the tower

The Jaywick Martello Tower will be hosting free music sessions for young people aged 8 to 18 years old.

The music sessions will be held at the Jaywick Martello Tower every Tuesday from the 7 November during term time running hourly between 5pm and 9pm.

There will also be a drop in session on Saturday 28 October from 12-3:30pm for those interested to come along and meet the organisers as well as play some instruments.

Young people will have the opportunity to have music sessions in the historic Jaywick Martello Tower, which produces a varied programme of successful heritage and art exhibitions, talks and theatrical events throughout the year.

The sessions have been provided by Harwich based charity, 'We Are Music,' which helps young people to engage in the community through popular music, and have the chance to play alongside others in a band.

Essex County Council recently awarded £1,500 via the Cultural in Essex Small Grants Scheme to help support young musicians and promoters in the area.

The project has been funded by Essex Music Education Hub (using funding from Arts Council England) and Essex County Council.

Cllr Susan Barker, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Culture, Communities and Customer said that through joint funding from Arts Council England and the Music Hub, Essex County Council has been able to facilitate music sessions for young people at the Jaywick Martello Tower. The contribution will enable ECC to work with young people to increase opportunities for them, and give them the chance to perform and be seen by a larger audience.

It is hoped that the music sessions will inspire young people to engage in the community with popular music

If you would like to know more details about the free music sessions, contact the Jaywick Martello Tower on jaywickmartellotower@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01255 822783.

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New GCSE data shows Essex pupils achieved higher grades than national average

Essex County Council is congratulating secondary schools after GCSE statistics published today showed the county again performed above the national average in the majority of measures.

About 15,000 young people were entered into GCSEs at schools in Essex this year, which was the first since the Government introduced a new numerical (9 to 1) grading system.

Provisional figures published for the first time by the Department for Education today show that Essex is performing above the national average under the Attainment 8 measure (average grade across the same suite of eight subjects) and broadly in line with the national average for Progress 8 (average of all students' progress across eight subjects between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4).

The percentage of pupils achieving a standard pass at GCSE (9-4) in English and maths is also above the national average (64.9 per cent compared to 63.5 per cent).

The new data means Essex is ranked 57th of all 151 local authorities under Attainment 8 and 72nd under Progress 8.

English language, English literature and maths were the only subjects to be graded under the new 9 to 1 scale, with others continuing to be graded A* to G.

Most other subjects are expected to adopt numerical grades by 2019.

Cllr Ray Gooding, Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Education, said: "Secondary schools in Essex continue to perform well and I am proud to hear that the county is again performing above the national average in the majority of measures.

"Not only do 95 per cent of secondary pupils now attend a school rated as good or outstanding, but young people in Essex are also achieving higher grades than many of their peers elsewhere in the country.

"I know that the new GCSE grading scales presented schools with an additional challenge this year and I would like to once again congratulate the teachers and young people on their achievements.

"As a council, we remain committed to ensuring all pupils in Essex receive the best possible education and continue to work very closely with schools."

All statistics contained within this release relates to Essex state schools only and has been sourced from the provisional data published on the DfE website on 12/10/17.

For more information, please visit www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-gcses-key-stage-4

Essex performance:

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- Attainment 8 score is slightly above national average: 46.4 per cent compared to 46.1 per cent nationally.
- Progress 8 Score is similar to national average: -0.04 compared to -0.03 nationally.
- Standard pass at GCSE (9-4) in English and maths is above the national average: 64.9 per cent compared to 63.5 per cent nationally.
- Essex's national ranking for Attainment 8 is 57 and for Progress 8 is 72 (out of 151 local authorities).

Direct comparisons with last year's results are not possible due to the new numerical grading system.

BBC micro:bit lending at Essex Libraries

Essex could soon become home to the coders, programmers and digital pioneers of the future as part of an initiative to lend pocket-sized computers to library visitors.

From 23 October, library members will be able to borrow BBC micro:bit computers free of charge.

The tiny computers, launched last year as part of the BBC Make it Digital initiative, allow people to get creative with technology, whatever their experience, and aim to build a new generation of digital pioneers.

Over the past year they were given to all Year 7 students across the UK who turned them into simple games, smart watches and even fitness trackers, by using one of the code editors at www.microbit.co.uk and connecting them to other devices and sensors.

Coding skills are vital for many jobs in flourishing high-tech industries, as well as being great fun for all ages to learn.

ECC believes that everyone in Essex is being given the chance to explore the vast potential of these computers for themselves. Along with the Makerspaces and Code Clubs, this is another example of the innovative work Essex Libraries is doing to spread digital expertise.

The device has a lot of features, such as 25 red LED lights that can flash messages, and there are two programmable buttons that can be used to control games or pause and skip songs on a playlist.

They can also detect motion and tell you which direction you're heading in, and use a low energy Bluetooth connection to interact with other devices and the internet.

If you have a micro:bit you can bring it along, but there will be ones available to use also. Children must be accompanied by an adult and booking is essential.

Micro:bits will be based initially at Chelmsford, Colchester, Rayleigh, Witham, Harlow, Basildon, Braintree and South Woodham Ferrers Libraries, but customers will be able to request them to pick up at any Essex library as they can with other items.

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There are currently weekly [Code Clubs](#) for 9-13 year olds in Chelmsford, Colchester, Rayleigh, Witham and South Woodham Ferrers Libraries.

Essex families encouraged to consider adopting siblings this National Adoption Week

Families in Essex are being encouraged to consider adopting brothers and sisters this National Adoption Week.

Essex County Council helps find families for dozens of children every year, with a large number of them siblings who the council want to keep together.

Of the 41 children in Essex currently awaiting adoption, 23 are part of sibling groups of two or three children.

Unfortunately these children often have to wait much longer until a loving home can be found for them.

Among them are brothers Justin, Jacob and James, who love spending time together and playing outdoors.

Justin, eight, enjoys riding his bike and camping in the back garden. Jacob, five, is very cheeky and loves going on walks with his foster carers' dogs. Youngest brother James, one year of age, likes anything musical and splashing around at bath time.

Sisters Evie and Sophie are also waiting for their forever home and need an adoptive family who will give them the opportunities they need to thrive and reach their potential.

Evie, five years old, likes dressing up and doing arts and crafts. She is sociable and loves going to school, where she has made lots of friends and is doing very well. Sophie, three, is active and enjoys exploring the outdoors. She also likes nursery rhymes, soft toys and playing with bubbles.

National Adoption Week, which takes place from October 16 to October 22, is an ideal time to consider whether you could give children like these the love and care they need.

Cllr Dick Madden, Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Children, said: "We are committed to ensuring all children in Essex get the best start in life and our adopters play a key part in that.

"Many of the children in Essex who need adopting are part of sibling groups and wherever possible we look to keep them together.

"Unfortunately brothers and sisters can often face a much longer wait to find a loving home and we are desperately in need of families who can help change that.

"Siblings have a special bond and our adopters regularly tell us they feel it made the transition into their family easier.

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“I would encourage anyone who is considering adoption to get in touch with us this National Adoption Week and find out more.”

Essex County Council also needs adopters for children aged between four and eight years old, and children with special educational needs or disabilities.

Being an adopter in Essex means you become part of a large, supportive adoption community. Adopters receive extensive local support, not only during the adoption process but throughout the young person’s childhood. Finances don’t have to be a barrier either and support can be made available.

Adopters come from various backgrounds and there are very few barriers, but you must be capable of parenting a child into adulthood.

The council is hosting special sibling-themed adoption information events at County Hall in Chelmsford on 24 October and 7 November.

To find out more or reserve a place, call 0800 801 530, email adoption.recruitmentteam@essex.gov.uk or visit essexadoptionandfostering.co.uk/adoption

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