

**Minutes 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019**  
**Meeting of Elmstead Parish Council**  
**Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET**

Present: Councillors Paul Beard (Chair), Nick Bell, Sally Fairey, John Gray, Mike Kirby, Jean Routledge and Martine Ward

Also Present: Mrs Baxter (clerk) and 7 members of the public

**19/043 Chairman's welcome**

Cllr Beard welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. He thanked the councillors, District Councillors (Fred Nicholls and Rosemary Heaney) and County Councillor (Carlo Guglielmi) for all their help outside the meetings. He also thanked the clerk and Mr Dingwall for their work.

Cllr Beard announced with sadness that Jane Triscott has resigned from the PC. He has communicated with her to let her know that she is always welcome back and she said she will continue to be a member of the New Community Centre Committee. A thank you is to go in Upmarket.

As a PC we need to find more members and need to look at different ways to do this. Cllr Beard offered to help with the welcome pamphlet. Councillors need to talk to people about it, we can put a poster in the noticeboards, attend the school fete and add something to the Upmarket article. We need more councillors to do the things we want to do. To add to the April agenda.

**19/044 Apologies for Absence**

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

**19/045 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Non Pecuniary Interests**

None.

**19/046 Approval and signing of the minutes from 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019.**

It was resolved to accept the minutes from 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019 as true and accurate, subject to agreed changes.

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

**19/047 To receive an update about the progress of resolutions from the last meeting of the Council on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019 not covered in this agenda.**

With regard to the EIB report Cllr Routledge updated that Mrs H Ward will water the planter outside Market Close and that Maxine will plant this and the Colchester Road planter twice yearly. Cllr Beard has not spoken to Mr Berry about the watering for South Green yet. Cllr Gray will let the fish and chip shop owners know about the response to the LHP application.

**19/048 Public Speaking**

James and Trish of Elmstead Lodge Farm came to tell the PC about converting the Essex barn on their property to a wedding and events venue. They would like to be able to open it to the community during the week for coffee mornings, meetings etc. They have met with planners who are looking favourable on the restoration of the barn to its former glory. It backs onto 240 acres of nature and is a good meeting point for walks and wildlife viewing.

Cllr Beard welcomed James and Trish to the village, and thanked them for coming to the meeting to ask our views.

A resident reported that the bollards at the end of Bromley Road are flashing. The fly tipping in Slough Lane is still there. It's possible that TDC won't remove it as it's on the Colchester side so the clerk is to contact Colchester.

**19/049 County Councillor report**

See attached for ECC annual report and March 2019 report.

**19/050 District Councillor reports.**

District Councillors not in attendance.

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**19/051 Planning**

Cllr Bell reported that at the last TDALC meeting it was said that the Local Plan is now estimated to take 3 years. It can't go ahead until the plan between Tendring, Colchester and Braintree has been agreed. The government are saying that more houses need to be built with a figure of 847 per annum for Tendring.

Cllr Routledge reported that there had been no planning committee meeting in March.

- i) *ESS/24/15/TEN/23/1, ESS/24/15/TEN/24/1, ESS/24/15/TEN/30/1, ESS/24/15/TEN/49/1, ESS/24/15/TEN/51/1, ESS/24/15/TEN/55/1, ESS/24/15/TEN/58/1*

*Details pursuant to Conditions 23 (CEMP); 24 (Scheme of Working); 30 (Lighting); 49 (Soil Handling and Storage); 51 (Soil Movement and Storage Scheme; 55 (Revised Restoration Scheme) and 58 (Biodiversity Management Plan) of Planning permission ESS/24/15/TEN for the: "Construction of an irrigation reservoir involving the excavation, processing and removal of sand, gravel and soils, engineering works and ancillary buildings" Land at Elmstead Hall, Elmstead, Colchester*

*Deadline for comments 26th March 2019.*

Cllr Routledge explained that these are minor variations for planning already approved but suggested that we ask Essex Highways that once the works on Tye Road are completed they check the road width is still suitable. Since the planning for this application was approved the road has changed. If two HGVs try to pass each other they will have to go onto the new footpath. It was resolved to ask the above. Proposed: Cllr Bell, Seconded: Cllr Ward, all in favour.

- ii) *Tye Road*

A complaint has been forwarded by Cllr Belgrove (Alresford PC) about the lack of signage for the closure of Tye Road. It was discussed that there is no sign coming from the Clacton direction to warn in advance that Tye Road is closed. Cllr Gray added that the signage does not comply with the Roads Act and that the taper for the cones should be longer, it's insufficient on a 60mph road. Drivers are overtaking and then having to brake hard when they realise a lane is closed. It was resolved to ask Essex Highways to do something about the insufficient signage. Proposed: Cllr Gray, Seconded: Cllr Ward, all in favour.

**19/052 New Community Centre Committee**

- i) *Any updates?*

Cllr Beard: Nigel Tedder attended the last Committee meeting and said that Go Homes would give the land and money to the PC to build the new community centre. After much discussion by the end of the meeting he said Go Homes would build the community centre, but there is still the issue of the £400k to come from the Church Road development. Mr Tedder agreed to do some planning drawings for us. There has also been another meeting with Go Homes' brand manager and colleagues. Mrs Valentine updated that they were keen to get involved and it was a very positive meeting. The next Committee meeting is Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April.

- ii) *A look at the current lease timing and to discuss a possible extension.*

The lease on the current community centre expires in 2025 and it may be necessary to extend it in order to make some funding applications. The committee are looking into this.

**19/053 Great British Spring Clean**

*To discuss details for the litter pick planned for the 6th April including:*

- i) *Where will the litter pick be done?*
- ii) *Time.*
- iii) *Meeting point.*
- iv) *Welcome briefing and safety talk.*
- v) *Where we will leave the sacks to be collected?*
- vi) *What equipment is needed?*
- vii) *Risk assessment before the event.*

It was discussed that Cllr Ward will call TDC to borrow litterpickers, and that the PC has high vis jackets which can be used. The meeting point will be the hall. TDC will give us black bags and collect them the next day, we'll leave the rubbish in the car park. There was a risk

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assessment and other information that needed review before holding the event so Cllr Gray offered to do this before the next PC meeting and the event will be postponed. Cllr Ward will let TDC know about the delay and the clerk will inform the volunteers.

**19/054 Health and Safety**

*Cllr Gray has completed the following for approval by the council:*

- i) Health and safety policy statement*
- ii) Health and safety policy*
- iii) Fire safety policy*

Cllr Gray explained the legal requirements behind the policies. The arrangements, procedures and risk assessments will follow. We also need to look at a lone worker policy for our 2 employees.

The above policies were approved and adopted. Proposed: Cllr Routledge, Seconded: Cllr Ward, all in favour.

**19/055 Clacton Road changes to speed limit and signage**

*The council previously approved the moving of the Elmstead Market signage on Clacton Road 175m southeast along Clacton Road to the start of a new 40mph buffer zone. Essex Highways has other works to do in this area; reinstating the island outside the Go Homes development and creating a permanent right turn lane. They can do all the works together and anticipate this will be in summer, or arrange for the new signage to be installed first as a separate job. Does the council have a preference for this and is it happy for the new 40pmh signs to look the same as the old - "Elmstead Market reduce your speed"?*

It was asked if the new island will have a light. The clerk is to ask EH and also ask about the light on the Lanswood island.

It was resolved that the PC was happy for all the works to be done together.

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

It was also resolved to request that the sign say "Elmstead Market please reduce your speed."

Proposed: Cllr Bell, Seconded: Cllr Beard, all in favour.

**19/056 Elections Process**

*To go through the procedure for completing and returning the elections paperwork.*

The clerk went through the paperwork and requested that completed forms be returned to her by Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March so that she can deliver them to TDC.

**19/057 Finance**

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

It was resolved to accept the finance report and approve the payments. Proposed: Cllr Bell, Seconded: Cllr Kirby, all in favour.

**19/058 Communications** *Items of interest for inclusion in our May Upmarket report in addition to the report of meeting.*

Nothing additional.

**19/059 Items for next agenda or for information only**

Cllr Bell suggested that we send our congratulations to Mr Gary Smith on his OBE.

**There being no further public business councillors were thanked for their attendance.  
The meeting closed at 9.26pm.**

**Date of next Parish Meeting: Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2019  
To be held in the Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead  
Minute written by Mrs. A Baxter  
Contact: 01206 827139**

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**Appendix 1**

<b>Elmstead Parish Council Finance Report</b>			
<i>Closing Balances to 28th February 2019 are:</i>			
Current Account to end of month	£	3,244.41	
Total Expenses unpaid at end of month	-£	517.00	
Total of expenses below (January payments - request for approval)	-£	491.11	
Balance in current account after monthly expenses	£	2,236.30	
Business Premium Account	£	34,284.10	
Active Saver Account	£	10,096.86	
<b>Estimated Overall Closing Balance - Current and Deposit</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>46,617.26</b>	
<i>Income Details for February 2019:</i>			
<b>Total income for the month</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>-</b>	
Approval is requested for the following payments:	Net	VAT	Total
Community Centre Hall Hire for February x 2	£ 32.00		£ 32.00
Mr A Dingwall - Black bin bags.	£ 1.00		£ 1.00
Lambert Smith Hampton Rent of playing field 25/3/19 - 18/9/19	£ 450.00		£ 450.00
Mrs A Baxter - refreshments for meetings	£ 8.11		£ 8.11
			£ -
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 491.11</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ 491.11</b>
Parish Council resolved to approve the above expenditure 21st March 2019 meeting item 19/057			
Signed			
Examined invoices			

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## ECC Annual report 2018/2019

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### **Education**

2018/19 has been another very busy for ECC with the creation of the delivery of more than 3000 new school places.

65% of pupils achieved at least a level 4 pass (Grade C in the old system) in GCSE English and Maths and 94% of Essex schools have been judged by OFFSTED good or outstanding – five percentage points higher than the national average.

Despite significant growth of pupil numbers in parts of the county, the council’s continued investment in creating new school places has meant that 95.25% have been offered either their first or second preference, (88.13% 1<sup>st</sup> choice and 7.12% 2<sup>nd</sup> choice) per OFSTED inspectors visited ACL (Adult Community Learning, Essex) in February 2018 and found that leaders, managers and staff have worked hard to improve its adult learning provision; they awarded an overall rating of Good in its recent OFSTED inspection.

In March 2018 a County wide initiative was launched, to raise awareness to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), so that parents, carers and peers alike, would be more alert in identifying the signs of online abuse, the dangers of social media, and the privacy settings of all social media apps.

Young people aged 8-13 years old are the most vulnerable as this is a crucial age where mobile phones and the internet are often introduced

Moving on to the older population, the Adult Community Learning (ACL) was judged to be “GOOD” in all aspects of the service by an OFFSTED inspection, including the effectiveness of leadership and management; apprenticeships; quality of teaching, learning and assessment; Adult Learning Programmes; personal development, behaviour and welfare and outcomes for learners.

ACL runs courses across Essex. These include recognised qualifications as a route to employment, as well as creative courses to develop new interests and improve health and wellbeing.

For more information visit [www.aclessex.com](http://www.aclessex.com)

#### **School projects completed in time for the 2018 Autumn term:**

- New 420-place primary school, Newhall, Harlow
- New 210-place primary school, Magna Carta Primary Academy, Stansted Mountfitchet
- New 420-place primary school and Early Years building, Beaulieu Park, Chelmsford (to operate as county’s first all through school from September 2019)
- Expansion of Home Farm Primary School, Colchester (210 new places)
- Expansion of Stanway Fiveways Primary School, Colchester (315 new places)
- Expansion of Stanway Primary School, Colchester (140 new places)
- Expansion of St. Michael’s Primary School, Colchester (210 new places)
- Expansion of Roding Valley High School, Loughton (150 new places)
- Expansion of Elsenham Primary School (210 new places)
- Expansion of Moulsham High School, Chelmsford (240 new places)
- Expansion of Clavering Primary School, Saffron Walden (35 new places)
- Expansion of Philip Morant School, Colchester (300 new places)
- Expansion of Stanway High School, Colchester (270 new places)

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- Expansion of The Fitzwimarc, Rayleigh (150 new places)
- Expansion of Stebbing Primary School, Dunmow (35 new places)
- Expansion of Roseacres Primary School, Takeley (60 new places)
- Expansion of Monkwick Junior School, Colchester (60 new places)

**School projects scheduled to be completed later in 2018:**

- Expansion of West Hatch High School, Chigwell (300 new places)
- Expansion of Westerings Primary Academy, Hockley (210 new places)

**Projects being delivered for the 2019/20 academic year:**

- New 900-place secondary school, Beaulieu Park, Chelmsford (to operate as county's first all through school from September 2019)
- New 900-place secondary school, Colchester – Paxman Avenue (former Alderman Blaxill site)
- Relocation and expansion of Lexden Springs School, Colchester (80 new places, plus 30 boarding places)
- Expansion of Oak View School, Loughton (24 new places)

A 12 weeks consultation was launched on the future of all Essex Libraries on 29<sup>th</sup> November which run to 21<sup>st</sup> February. This has given rise to the biggest ever response from the public, with over 21.000 responses and 57.000 signatures to an Essex wide petition.

An independent firm had been chosen to analyse the responses and it's expected that a report with the results and findings will be sent to Cabinet in mid-June.

A combined response from the four District Councillors, as well as a combined response from the three Parishes of Lawford, Manningtree and Mistley, was submitted to the consultation.

**Children Services**

The Council celebrated the news of achieving an OUTSTANDING rating on all fronts from OFSTED for its children's social care services, following a period of assessment in November 2018.

The full Ofsted report can be found at [www.reports.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.reports.ofsted.gov.uk)

Under this heading, fostering received a range of high profile promotions to try to identify over 100 families needed to foster children in care in Essex, who would benefit from a very competitive financial package, ranging from £479 a week for each child they care for, to up to £600 a week specialist therapeutic scheme

There are no special qualifications required for being a foster carer; as the only qualities needed are to be supportive, caring and willing to go the extra mile to provide a secure home environment for a child.

If anyone is interested in becoming a foster carer please call the Fostering team on 0800 801 530 or enquire via the website:

[www.essexadoptionandfostering.co.uk/fostering](http://www.essexadoptionandfostering.co.uk/fostering) or visit the Fostering Network Website at <https://www.thefosteringnetwork.org.uk/>.

**Highways**

Option D was chosen as the Council's favoured route option for a new dual carriageway between Galleys Corner, Braintree and the A12 junction 23 just south of Kelvedon.. This announcement was also followed by the news that ECC had been successful in a Housing Infrastructure Bid, known as HIF, where the council had been successful in reaching the final

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stage of a £250 million investment Bid, for the A120, 3<sup>rd</sup> lane on the A12 and a brand new Link Road between the A133 and the A120.

For more information on the A120 Braintree to A12 scheme, please visit [www.a120essex.co.uk](http://www.a120essex.co.uk).

So far 40,000 of the 127,000 street lights have been converted to LED; by the time the programme will be completed, it will eventually deliver a saving of £24million over 20 years. This summer over 250 miles of road have been covered in 3,652 tonnes of binder and then 38,000 tonnes of stone chippings, which are rolled in to form a new top layer. The technique can be viewed at [www.essex.gov.uk/surfacing](http://www.essex.gov.uk/surfacing)

A major restructure will be trialled with devolving more functions to Parish Councils later this year, and the way all Local Highway Panels operate across Essex. A new Direct Delivery Team has been set up who will deliver smaller schemes much more quickly.

**Planning and Housing**

A new Essex Planning and Housing development scheme was officially unveiled at the end of October; it has delivered the first 3 of 27 potential development sites which will be announced in the near future, which will go some way to tackle the county's housing shortage Essex Housing was set up to help tackle the housing shortage by redeveloping surplus buildings and land at risk of lying empty and drifting into disrepair. The council recognises the importance housing plays in enabling a broad range of positive outcomes for the residents of Essex.

The council has continued to support the North Essex Garden Community, (NEGC) the biggest project of its kind in the country, which will see the delivery of well over 40,000 homes between Tendring, Colchester and Braintree.

**Environment and Public Health**

In July "Solar Together Essex" was launched as the solar panel group buying scheme; well over 1000 people registered, who have benefitted from extremely competitive offer for Solar Panels through an auction purchase by the Council.

The benefits were not only to save money on energy bills, but also to generate clean electricity too. All those who were successful will have the installation in place by the end of this month; for more information please visit [www.essex.gov.uk/solartogether](http://www.essex.gov.uk/solartogether)

During the unprecedented levels of hot weather last summer, Essex County Council's Public Health Team (PHT) encouraged residents to enjoy the sun but also to know their limits when it comes to alcohol, especially at Barbecues and social gatherings for more information visit [www.dontbottleitup.org.uk/](http://www.dontbottleitup.org.uk/)

The proportion of dependent drinkers not in treatment in Essex is 82.6% (2016/17)

- 7% of adults in England regularly drink over the Chief Medical Officer's low-risk guidelines, and 2.5 million people report drinking over 14 units on their heaviest drinking days.
- In 2016, 21% of the population reported not drinking at all and overall consumption has fallen by around 18% since 2004.
- In the UK, in 2015 there were 8,758 alcohol-related deaths (around 14 per 100,000 people). The mortality rates are highest among people aged 55-64.

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- In England, there are an estimated 595,131 dependent drinkers, of whom only 108,696 are currently accessing treatment.
- Alcohol misuse is the biggest risk factor for death, ill-health and disability among 15-49 year-olds in the UK, and the fifth biggest risk factor across all ages.
- Alcohol harms are estimated to cost the NHS around £3.5 billion annually.
- While the price of alcohol has increased by 36% since 2005, it remains 60% more affordable than it was in 1980.

Source: <https://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk/alcohol-statistics>

The good weather wasn't just good for socialising but also for Archaeologists in Essex who celebrated the revelation of several hidden archaeological sites, especially near crop marks, which the prolonged spell of dry weather had very clearly uncovered.

A has inspired people to take part in regular sport and exercise, it has been revealed.

In June more than 800 participants signed up for the first 30:30 challenge by Active Essex, in a campaign to get people more active by completing 30 minutes of exercise a day for 30 days throughout.

In February this year Essex was awarded a "game-changing" National Lottery grant of £10.68 million from Sport England to increase activity levels across Essex. Well over 390,000 people in Essex do not partake in physical activity or an active lifestyle and many suffer from social and mental health problems, which represents one in four of our total population (27%).

### **Finance**

At the February Budget meeting it was revealed that ECC is in the top ten most productive councils in the country for productivity and it announced capital investment of just under **£250m for homes, schools and roads** in the coming year, alongside revenue spending plans which include:

- Funding for **1,066** new primary school places, and **2,198** new secondary school places – the equivalent of five new schools - including those for pupils with special educational needs and disability
- **£117m** for maintaining and improving the road network
- **£14m** for faster broadband connections
- **40** new homes including eight for people with learning disabilities through Essex Housing.
- **Half million pound** to the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner, for a partnership-based approach which will aim to protect young people at risk from those who may exploit them through County Lines.
- **£1,000,000** to tackle the mental health of our young people, which is a growing concern and it will help to sustain the outstanding children's services.
- **£700,000 extra and on top of the yearly Highways budget** for pavements and footways every year, having tackled potholes last year
- **£250,000** to help prevent homelessness and rough sleeping. A new scheme will see the council recruiting mentors who will work with up to 50 people who are at risk of rough sleeping, and 150 people who are at risk of losing their homes.

With the Council's revenue support grant from central government reducing fast and set to be phased out entirely from next year, plus the impact of inflation, population growth and increasing demand for and expectation of services, the financial picture remains challenging.

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This has necessitated a proposed total council tax increase of **3.99%**.

Of this, **1%** would be ring-fenced to adult social care from the Government's social care precept allowance, with the remaining **2.99%** supporting the delivery of other vital local services. The council tax annual bill for a band 'D' property in Essex for County Council services would be **£1,270.44**, a weekly increase of just **£0.94 a week**.

Cllr David Finch, Leader of Essex County Council, said that if the County Council does not find ways of doing things differently, or innovative the future will be bleak. The challenges of ever-increasing costs and demand are real. Austerity might be over, but its effects are still very much within the organization.

This budget is about making the right decisions and to invest in the correct way for the future. Savings of over £1million a week, every week, over the past four years, have been made, which have only been done by being innovative, enterprising, and embrace internet-age opportunities.

The challenges of ever-increasing costs and demand are real; Essex has the highest percentage of elderly population in the country, and demands on adult Social Services have never been higher.

The way things were done 10 years ago is massively different from today's world; lives, work, travel and leisure time has been radically transformed by technology.

Inflation, population growth and increasing demand and expectation have meant mean that the County Council will have to utilise the Government's 1% increase for social care which will compound council tax by a total of 3.99%.

The organisational plan and budget can be found at <https://bit.ly/2sq9Tvz>

County Councils across the country will once again be able to put up Council Tax by 3% with a further 1% for social care. ECC, following Government direction took up the option of a stepped increase of 3% in 2017/18, 2% in 2018/19, and 1% in 2019/20

**Economic Growth**

During the last year ECC has:

- Enhanced the Invest Essex service to promote Essex as a place to do business
- Invested with partners in the Anglia Ruskin University Medtech Innovation Centre at Harlow and the University of Essex Innovation Centre in Colchester
- Given substantial business support to 22 firms resulting in about £2.3m finance raised and multiple new products brought to market
- Developed a social enterprise network to create capacity in our health and care sector supply chain
- Developed plans to reduce car use in our main towns including infrastructure improvements in Chelmsford
- Continued planning and campaigning for investment in the major routes, including the A120 and a £250m bid to build major roads
- Provided almost 100,000 homes and businesses with superfast broadband.

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## ECC Report March 2019

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### **Apprenticeships available with ACL (adult community learning)**

In the National Apprenticeship Week 2019, (4 to 10 March), ACL Essex urged individuals and employers to find out more about apprenticeships – the prospects they can bring individuals and the benefits to employees.

An apprenticeship enables individuals to develop new skills directly aligned to their job role. They undertake training that supports their career progression.

Apprenticeships are made up of ‘off-job’ learning e.g. taught sessions in a classroom, ‘on-job’ learning, in some cases a qualification e.g. Diploma in Management and if required maths and English, and they are driven by the employer.

It’s not just school and college leavers that can take advantage of the hundreds of apprenticeships that are available; there is no age limit on apprenticeships. Anyone starting a new job role with their existing employer or entering a new profession can undertake an apprenticeship as part of their training and development. An apprenticeship supports individuals to gain the right skills for the job and gain certification that demonstrates they have met industry standard.

Recognising the potential benefit to individuals, businesses and the economy in general, the government has invested in a nationwide advertising campaign to increase awareness of apprenticeships. And apprenticeships are being developed specifically to meet the current and future needs of business and include innovative and growing sectors such as media, digital, health and construction.

For those looking to further their study there are also an increasing number of degree level apprenticeships now available, allowing individuals to undertake apprenticeships that will qualify them as teachers, solicitors, accountants and nurses – to name but a few.

Authorised training providers, like ACL, who have local centres across the county have experts on hand to help both individuals and businesses find the right solution to their employment needs. This could be supporting individuals to undertake an apprenticeship in their place of work or helping those looking to access the labour market via an apprenticeship to secure a position in which to complete a programme.

In summary, Apprenticeships are excellent opportunities for both individuals and businesses in Essex to improve their future prospects. The growing numbers of apprenticeship options available and the quality of training providers, like ACL, have never been higher than the current position.

For more information visit please contact our apprenticeship team on 03330 139502 or email [acl.nostoppingme@essex.gov.uk](mailto:acl.nostoppingme@essex.gov.uk)

### **Three new SEND schools set to be built in Essex**

Three new schools are set to be built in Chelmsford and Witham, greatly expanding the provision of Special Educational Needs (SEND) places in Essex.

At an Essex County Council Cabinet meeting on 26th February councillors agreed to progress with three projects which will provide much-needed school places for children and

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young people with autism and social and emotional health needs in Essex – at no extra burden to county taxpayers.

Essex County Council has been working with the Department for Education (DfE) to enable the building of the three new Special Education Needs (SEND) schools in Chelmsford and Witham.

This project will provide 209 new places in the county for children with autism and social and emotional mental health needs, 30 of which will be residential.

Two schools will be built on the old St Peter’s College site in Fox Crescent, Chelmsford, and one will be built on a site close to the New Rickstones Academy in Conrad Road, Witham.

These projects all reuse existing education land. No land has had to be purchased for this project and the schools will all be centrally funded by £23m in grants from the DfE.

Currently ECC’s infrastructure team have secured all the approvals from the DfE to commence the design and consult with the local community on all three schools.

Each of the new SEND schools will be sponsored by a different Multi-Academy Trust (MAT).

The school in Witham will be sponsored by the Market Field Trust, which operates Market Field School in Elmstead Market, near Colchester, a school rated outstanding by Ofsted at its last inspection in July 2015. This school will be known as The Chatten Free School after Brad Chatten, a former student at Market Field School.

One of the schools in Chelmsford will be sponsored by the Seax Trust, who currently sponsor the city’s Thriftwood School and College, which was rated outstanding by Ofsted at its last inspection in September 2017.

The other school in Chelmsford will be sponsored by the Beckmead Trust, a trust new to Essex, which runs the Beckmead Family of Schools in the Croydon area. Beckmead School, operated by this trust, was rated outstanding by Ofsted at its last inspection in January 2019. Consultations with local communities near to all three schools are now set to take place during spring of this year.

The need for school places for children and young adults with autism and social and emotional mental health needs has been rising, and ECC is determined to meet that need even during these financially challenging times.

Direct grants from the DfE, the reuse of land already allocated for education purposes and the involvement of the multi-academy trust partners, have meant that the Authority can provide as an excellent education to many children with special educational needs, as those in normal main stream.

**Preparing For EU Exit in Essex**

Locally across Essex authorities and public services are working together and planning for us leaving the EU.

The council does this as part of local resilience forums (LRFs) which are multi-agency partnerships made up of representatives from local public services, including the emergency services, local authorities, the NHS, the Environment Agency and others. These agencies are known as Category 1 Responders, as defined by the Civil Contingencies Act.

LRFs are supported by organisations, known as Category 2 responders, including the Highways Agency and public utility companies. They have a responsibility to co-operate with Category 1 organisations and to share relevant information with the LRF. The geographical area the forums cover is based on police areas.

LRFs also work with other partners in the military and voluntary sectors who provide a valuable contribution to the forum’s work in being prepared for emergencies.

The LRFs aims to plan and prepare for localised incidents and catastrophic emergencies. Because the method of our exit from the EU is currently unknown the LRF also has a role to play in preparing for what happens when we do.

Signature .....

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The organisations which make up the LRF work together to identify potential risks and produce emergency plans to either prevent or mitigate the impact of any incident on their local communities.

Further information on how you may be impacted by EU Exit, please view the National Guidance at <https://euexit.campaign.gov.uk/>

This website has been designed to enable an easy access to the work of the Essex Resilience Forum, which is a partnership of the organisations who respond to emergencies, and to provide information which will enable residents, business, and communities to cope and prepare with an emergency.

The Essex LRF has been planning to mitigate for any disruption that may be caused by the EU Exit since August and has a working group dedicated to EU Exit type issues that may arise.

**Appeal for foster carers**

An appeal has been launched for new foster carers to come forward.

Essex County Council's fostering service is looking for at least 100 new carers as it seeks to address a shortfall in numbers.

County Hall says there are now more than 1,000 children in foster care in Essex and this number is continuing to rise.

A fostering information event took place at the Dragonfly Hotel in Ardleigh on 22<sup>nd</sup> February; anyone who missed the event and is interested should call 0800 801 530, email; [adoptionandfostering@essex.gov.uk](mailto:adoptionandfostering@essex.gov.uk)

Or visit the website for more information [essexadoptionandfostering.co.uk/fostering](http://essexadoptionandfostering.co.uk/fostering)

**Secondary state schools preferred list**

Demand has been overwhelming in North Essex secondary schools, especially the two selective Schools in Colchester.

Students are able to apply for up to six schools with the most popular schools being oversubscribed.

The Consortium of Selective Schools in Essex announced that 612 pupils hoping to get into Colchester County High School for Girls sat the 11+ entry exam, and 539 children sat the exam for Colchester Royal Grammar School.

Oxford House School in Colchester was the most successful with 11 pupils receiving grammar schools' offers.

Figures released by Essex County Council's show:

- The Gilbert School, Colchester- 375 parents picked as a first choice with 312 places.
- Stanway School, Colchester - 311 parents picked as a first choice, with 280 places,
- Colchester County High School for Girls - 612 parents picked as a first choice with 160 places.
- Colchester Royal Grammar School - 539 parents picked as a first choice, with 128 places.
- Philip Morant School, Colchester - 236 parents picked as a first choice with 340 places, which includes 180 places at Paxman Academy, due to open at the former Alderman Blaxill School site in September.
- Thurstable School, Tiptree - 193 parents picked as a first choice, with 210 places available.
- St Helena School, Colchester - 184 parents picked as a first choice, with 200 places.
- Thomas Lord Audley School, Colchester - 177 parents picked as a first choice with only 168 places.
- St Benedict's Catholic College, Colchester - 166 parents picked as a first choice with 180 places.
- Colchester Academy - 95 parents picked as a first choice with 240 places.

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- Colne Community School and College, Brightlingsea - 203 parents picked as a first choice with 248 places.
- Honeywood School, Coggeshall -157 parents picked as a first choice, with 210 places.
- Manningtree High – 215 parents picked as a first choice, with 174 places.
- Ramsey School, Halstead -151 parents picked as a first choice, with 130 places.
- Clacton County High - 353 parents picked as a first choice, with 279 places.
- Clacton Coastal Academy -150 parents picked as a first choice, with 270 places.
- Tendring Technology College, Frinton - 298 parents picked as a first choice, with 312 places.
- Harwich and Dovercourt High-170 parents picked as a first choice, with 260 places available.

Signature .....

Date .....