

Chief Officers Report 14th February 2023

BENCH REPAIRS

Pill box Bench

The repairs to the bench have been completed, and both benches have been stained and varnished. This is now complete.

Memorial Benches

The harbour office bench has been repaired and varnished. The welding can be completed but this will be a charge to the custodian and details have been passed to them for consideration.

IT EQUIPMENT AND WEBSITE

IT Equipment

Speakers and webcam have been received. This is now complete.

Website

The general overhaul of the website and its content has started and will be complete by the end of February 2023. A request has been put in to the EALC to provide us with a guide to necessary content.

The review of the site compliance will commence in March 2023.

Chamber Microphones

3 solutions to update/upgrade the microphones for the chambers mainly to cover the SEP meetings.

TOWN MAINTENANCE

Planting and landscaping (including tree quotes)

The tree works outside the offices was approved by the TPO and works carried out by Skippers. This is now Complete.

Clock Tower

There is still a requirement to update the fuse board and I will be liaising with some local electricians to visit and provide some costs to install the correct AMP fuse and if necessary, re visit the external sockets to include for additional protection against water penetration.

Town Signs

The two town signs have now been delivered. Prior to arranging for ECC to come and install them can we agree positioning.

Road Markings

Cllr Stamp has asked if there is any requirement for road marking within the town, Chief Officer to submit LHP forms to ECC where necessary as agreed by Council.

Water Fountain

The town warden has fixed the water fountain at the dementia garden, this is on a timer, it was quite nice to see a young family paying an interest and more people sitting out there with the lifted tree canopy.

Dementia Garden area

I would like to bring to council the possibility of obtaining quotations to repair/replace the paving slabs and install some disabled access to the area.

Defibrillators

The council has now adopted the defibrillator at the Rio Cinema as this did not have a custodian, we have been working with the first responder to make sure the equipment is in good working order and is included in the town wardens duties to carry out monthly checks.

EVENTS

Burnham in bloom

I have reviewed the previous documents for Burnham in Bloom and will be looking to produce a flyer to bring to the March Council meeting for approval. I am in the process of setting up a meeting with Taylor Wimpy to discuss how they can assist.

Community Beat surgery.

Maldon police have been in touch with a view to reinstating the community beat surgery. We have earmarked a possible date of 21st February and then potentially monthly after. It was discussed that Tuesdays are a better day as the town is busy and more likely to attract visitors and become well attended.

Chamber Hire

We have had a request to hire the chambers from the Dengie Earth Matters on the 16th of February 2023.

LEGISLATION AND UPDATES

Funding

The EALC has posted on their website a list of funding sources which can assist Parish, town, and community councils with special projects. These include:
Art

Heritage
Lottery
Sports
Community amenities

Waste and Recycling

A booking system is being introduced for entry into the recycling plants. A Q&A sheet has been provided by ECC and is attached. Should any residents have any questions these can be emailed to members or passed to the Chief Officer to collate and forward.

Levelling Up

Following receipt of the ECC annual plan 2022-23 (attached) I was asked to engage with the representatives from the libraries to start to look at how we can support them in the schemes they are running locally within the town. We discussed the following with a view to bringing to council and holding another meeting at the beginning of March.

Joint marketing – they are going to send me posters etc of events that are already on, and we can post on our website and notice boards.

Shared facilities – particularly round the 'warm welcomes' The library is open Tues, Thurs, Sat. So potentially we could offer the chamber facilities on one of the other days.

Youth workshops (summer activities) work is being done around holding workshops during the summer such as coding clubs, podcast workshops and game console sessions

Apprenticeships – the service works with young adults who are neither in college nor staying on at school to obtain apprenticeships.

RURAL ENGAGEMENT TEAM AT-TRACTING ATTENTION

The Rural Engagement Team is working closely with two Essex companies to help drive the reduction of crime in our rural communities. Our officers attend many agricultural shows and other rural events during the year to raise awareness of specific crime prevention measures and to encourage people to report crime and anti-social behaviour.

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING WEEK

This year's Neighbourhood Policing Week saw our officers take part in more than 90 events and operations across the county.

Our community policing officers, PCSOs and Special Constables met with a broad range of groups from primary school pupils through to retirement home residents and everyone in between to discuss the issues that really matter to local communities. The key themes of the activity were early intervention, problem solving, improving trust and confidence, and wellbeing.

CREATING A SAFE AND SECURE ESSEX

Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Roger Hirst, is proposing a budget for 2023-2024 that will enable Essex Police to complete its ambitious expansion, increasing officer numbers by 905 and taking the total number of officers in Essex to 3,755, the biggest and strongest in its 182-year history.

The proposal will also allow Essex County Fire and Rescue Service to continue its investment in preventing harm, protecting people and training firefighters. The increase will also fund a pay increase for firefighters and professional support staff equivalent to five per cent this year and four per cent in the year ahead.

Roger's budget proposal will mean a Band D Council Taxpayer will pay an extra £14.94 per year for policing and an extra £4.95 a year for fire and rescue services – a combined increase of £1.67 per month.

The Census is the modern equivalent of the Domesday Book produced in 1086 AD when the national population was less than 2 million, compared to 60 million today. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) recently published analysis of the 2021 Census. Nationally, this showed that the population of England grew by 6% in the last 10 years and 14% over the last 20 years. Locally, the increase has been much faster. The population of The Hundred Parishes in 2021 was around 156,000, up 12% since 2011 and 24% since 2001. If roads seem busier, these extra 30,000 people are a major factor.

Today, 8% of the Hundred Parishes population was born outside the UK (compared to 17% in the whole of England and Wales); 10% of homes are flats (v 22%); 36% of houses have 4 or more bedrooms (v 21%); 27% of homes are rented (v 37%); 40% of adults work at home (v 31%); 55% are in professional or managerial jobs (v 46%); 56% of households have 2 or more vehicles (v 35%). We have a different age mix to the UK average, with a shortfall of around 5,000 people in their 20s and 30s offset by around 5,000 extra people aged over 40.

While the previous paragraph highlights contrasts, some statistics are closely aligned with the national picture: 99% of households have central heating; 5% of households have a second home; 51% of the population is female and 49% male.

Each parish introduction on www.hundredparishes.org.uk has been updated to include the 2021 population. For more information, please go to <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census>

2023/24 BUDGET PROPOSALS REVEALED

Essex County Council have published the plan and budget for the 2023/24 financial year. It outlines how it is proposed to spend the £2bn they are responsible for. This includes investment in the key areas that will benefit all residents. It also includes how they will continue to look after the county's most vulnerable people.

The plans are based on the commitments set out in [Everyone's Essex](#), the plan to level up the county. They are also informed by you, the people who live, work and study in Essex. During a Budget Consultation last year, the key priorities highlighted for investment include Infrastructure, support for those who care for the vulnerable, securing high standards in education and providing support to struggling families.

[You can read the budget proposal along with other documents from the latest Cabinet Meeting on the 17th January here.](#)

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE HIGHWAY CODE CHANGES?

The SERP (Safer Essex Road Partnership) is encouraging all road users to familiarise themselves with changes to the Highway Code, introduced over a year ago. The aim of the change is to improve safety for vulnerable road users, creating a hierarchy that states that drivers of quicker or heavier modes of travel now have the greatest responsibility to reduce the danger or threat they may pose to others on the road.

A YouGov poll, carried out this January on behalf of Cycling UK found 25% of adults asked did not know about the changes. The Charity Brakes has introduced a short video of the changes which can be shared with your communities- <https://youtu.be/gtx2a7oWQ48>.