

## **Burnham Town Council Report – Councillor Stephen Stratton – November 2023**

### **River Crouch Coastal Community Team Steering Group Meeting**

The meeting was held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at the Mill Arts Centre Rayleigh.

This was a well-attended meeting with representatives from Maldon District Council, Chelmsford City Council, Rochford District Council, and elected councillors from the Dengie, Rochford and South Woodham Ferrers. Interested landowners relevant to the steering group were also present. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the Crouch Harbour Authority were also in attendance. A great deal was discussed and I have detailed below the most pertinent.

CLlr Michael Hoy was nominated as the Chairperson.

#### Footpaths Working Group

Coast to Coast Path – restoring the old disused railway path from South Woodham Ferrers to Maldon West. It was advised that only half of the route was a public right of way, so funding would be required. To date, it appeared that no one seem to know the ownership of approximately one-third of the land. Essex County Council had been approached to identify the landowners, and local farmers, but to no avail.

The Land Registry would now be contacted to ascertain land ownership.

#### Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)

There had been reports of anti-social behaviour from the use jet-skis on the River Crouch. The Crouch Harbour Authority (CHA) had spent considerable time and effort on this matter and has successfully acted against those without appropriate river licences, or who were acting irresponsibly. The Police can prosecute and have assisted the CHA when they have been asked. It was noted that people are using Jet-Skis and are coming from Southend through the Havengore and then into the River Crouch.

#### Path to Prosperity Project

Further information:

[Essex Coastal Forum - Essex Path to Prosperity \(coastalessex.org\)](https://coastalessex.org)

Maldon District Council's Tourism Group had submitted a successful bid to host a walking festival right across the district. This was a success, and the festival was now going to take place on an annual basis, and it would be good if the Steering Group could become involved as a legacy to the Path to Prosperity Project.

Further information:

[The Saltmarsh Coast Walking Festival \(visitmaldondistrict.co.uk\)](https://visitmaldondistrict.co.uk)

[Crouch Walks – South of the River | Rochford Council](#)

Attention was drawn to the quality of footpath surfaces and advised that some people were very surprised when they came back covered in mud! It was stated that if visitors were to be encouraged to return then the footpaths must be maintained.

#### Proposal for latest stretch of Wallasea to Burnham Coastal Path – update provided by Natural England

The Steering Group noted the update provided by Natural England

Proposals to the Secretary of State for improved public access along and to this stretch of coast between Wallasea Island and Burnham-on-Crouch.

Further information:

[England Coast Path Stretch Wallsea Island to Burnham-On-Crouch Report 1 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

#### RSPB Wallasea Island - Latest Developments

Two planning applications have been submitted to Rochford Council. One for proper public convenience, rather than a porta loo, and that necessary funding was now being sought. The second application is to improve the visitor shelters.

Date of Next Meeting agreed on Monday 11 March 2024 at 10 am. Venue to be agreed.

Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday, 21 November 2023 at 10 am. The venue is The Pavilion at the Rayleigh Town Council offices.

### **Conservation**

Pavement Seating in the High Street.

The Chief Officer (Nichola Payne), Tim Howson (Maldon District Council Conservation) and Cllr Stratton met at Burnham High Street on the 25th of October and walked most of the conservation area. We discussed the issue of unauthorised pavement seating from local coffee shops and how best we might resolve the issue. Tim advised that this was for the Maldon District Council Community Engagement Team, and subsequently this matter was referred to the team.

Flat 1 St Mary's House

This is the property where the windows are in poor condition. I had visited the area again since our meeting, and residents of Sy Mary's House explained they recently held a community meeting and were concerned at the deterioration of the outside of this particular property. They sought advice and support from both Burnham Town Council and Maldon District Council with regards as ensuring improvements were made to the property as within conservation requirements.

### **Allotments**

Cllr Una Sidell Norman and I attended the allotment Annual General Meeting. Cllr Norman has agreed to provide this report.

Cllr Stephen Stratton