

ESSEX RURAL PARTNERSHIP TREE PLANTING CEREMONY

At the Rural Strategy Launch event earlier this year the Rowan Tree was a focal point and those present were encouraged to pledge their support for the strategy, and to tie it to the tree which was specially sourced for the occasion.

To mark this, the tree has been planted by Cllr John Jowers, Cllr Walsh and Canon John Brown, and now sits in a beautiful spot at The Great Notley Country Park. Members of the working strategy group also joined the ERP for the tree ceremony and a plaque has been placed by the tree in honor of the launch. If you wish to visit the park for a leisurely stroll and enjoy the beautiful grounds please refer to the map shown below which also shows where our Rowan Tree is situated.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE SETTLEMENT TO INCLUDE A PROPOSAL TO CAP PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT INCREASES AT 2%



Essex Association of Local Councils
Enabling and Assisting Localism in Councils

Any Parish Council wishing to impose an increase greater than 2% would need to undertake a costly referendum. EALC explained that if this new rule is put in place, it

would have a potentially severe impact on Parish Councils and could significantly restrict the activities they could afford to undertake, and the support they might be able to offer to local projects. The meeting on 30th September agreed that a formal response objecting to the proposal would be sent on behalf of ERP. Members are also encouraged to make their own representations.

More information can be found at: <http://www.ealc.gov.uk/home/>

The consultation can be completed at: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/583WBQL>

The survey closes on Friday 28th October

For further reading the following documents are available to download:

[Press Release .pdf](#)

[EALC AGM Motion.pdf](#)

[Draft Local Government Finance Settlement.pdf](#)

POLICE TAKE TO SKY AGAINST RURAL CRIME - Awareness



Police have launched a new operation aimed to tackle rural crime – including using drones to catch criminals. Dubbed Operation Buzzard, the initiative will coordinate all rural crime related operations in the county. These operations will make best use of all the specialist teams and help ensure the force is in the best position to tackle a range of rural crime offences. The launch took place at Cherry Tree Orchard farm in Orsett. Thurrock Rural Community Policing Team joined forces with their special constable and wildlife officer colleagues to discuss issues affecting rural areas.

The event brought together police officers who shared ideas on what can be done to increase awareness of and help prevent rural crime.

Sergeant Aaron Connolly of the Essex Police Drone Team, demonstrated how the force drone could be used to gather intelligence about criminals. It could help bring to justice offenders who were persistently committing crime in the countryside. Rural and heritage crime officer Pc Andy Long drew upon his experience of working with the rural community, highlighting different types of rural crime, including farm machinery and equipment theft.

PC Long said: "Operation Buzzard gives us the opportunity to develop our response to rural crime with the assistance of new technologies such as the force drone."

Operated by trained professionals, the unmanned aerial vehicle could help police gather evidence to crack down on offenders, he added.

To continue reading please click [here](#)

A NEW CHARTER FOR TREES, WOODS AND PEOPLE - PLEASE ADD YOUR STORY



The Woodland Trust is leading over 50 organisations from all sectors of society in a call to create a new charter for trees, woods and people. The charter will be rooted in stories and memories.

The Woodland Trust wish to collect thousands of tree stories from across the country. It just takes a couple of minutes to add your own story [here](#)

If you would like more information, please contact Ellie: elliehenderson@woodlandtrust.org.uk

FLY TIPPING IS A MAJOR PROBLEM IN ESSEX



Our 'throw away' society is becoming more of a hindrance due to the careless fly tipping that occurs within our region. The problem appears to hit certain areas harder with an emphasis on fly tipping being named as an organized crime due to a link to businesses legal and illegal. Not only is it an eyesore but depending on the items being dumped could prove harmful to environment, costly to the tax payer and the unfortunate person who may own the private land that the dumping is being done!

A prime example is a farm near Brentwood who is suffering due to the colossal amount of illegal fly tipping that is occurring on their land. Some of the waste found includes an illicit cannabis factory.

The cost amounting to £8,500 will have to be paid to have two loads of the rubbish taken away and disposed of legitimately. Other farms in the area also have similar problems and it doesn't just affect farmers, fly-tipped waste can be found anywhere, such as roadsides and in lay-bys. This is a community problem which has the ability to affect all areas local councils and private land owners spend around £150 million every year, investigating and removing fly tips. Vigilance is imperative and reporting suspicious activity always helps to combat repeat offenders and help prevent fly tipping. Note registration numbers and vehicle types and spread the word.

Chelmsford City Council state that: You can be fined up to £50,000 and/or get 12 months in prison for fly tipping. If the case goes to the Crown Court, they can impose unlimited fines and a sentence of up to five years. The person found guilty of fly tipping also has to pay for what the council spend on investigating and clearing up the incident.

To read the full article including pictures of illegal fly tipping please click [Here](#)

PROPOSED NEW CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES



What is changing in the Eastern region?

The Eastern region has been allocated 57 constituencies – a reduction of one from the current number. The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) proposals will leave six of the 58 existing constituencies unchanged. The BCE state that as it has not always been possible to allocate whole numbers of constituencies to individual counties, they have grouped some county and local authority areas into sub-regions. The number of constituencies allocated to each sub-region is determined by the electorate of the combined local authorities. Consequently, it has been necessary to propose some constituencies that cross county or unitary authority boundaries.

How to have your say – The BCE are consulting on their initial proposals for a 12-week period, from 13th September - 5th December 2016. They wish to encourage everyone to use this opportunity to help the BCE shape the new constituencies – the more views they hear, the more informed their decisions will be when considering whether to revise their proposals. The BCE website is at www.bce2018.org.uk which has more information about how to respond as well as details of where and when they will be holding public hearings in your area.

During the consultation we the BCE will be visiting the Eastern region and holding four public hearings: Public hearings for the Eastern region please click [here](#) – Nearby Chelmsford 31st October – 1st November

For further information please click [here](#)

MY FIRST SUMMER AS A FEMALE FARMWORKER

Farming is still seen by many a “male” profession. So what does a young woman with no previous experience, who’s just completed her first summer harvesting, make of it all. Jenna Macfarlane shares her perspective.



I had never given agriculture much attention, despite having grown up on an arable farm in the Scottish Borders and being constantly surrounded by it. I’m currently in my third year studying English language at the University of Glasgow and when I moved to the city, I was captivated by urban life and quickly forgot about my rural origins. I had assumed from a young age that I would be a journalist like my mum.

When I was a kid, I would travel to school in Berwick-upon-Tweed every day, driving past numerous fields without a single thought about the processes and work behind it all – until this summer, when I was employed as a tractor driver.

The options are incredibly vast no matter what gender you are. The only restraint for women is the lingering attitudes of society. Hopefully the stereotypes will gradually be challenged and this will be reversed. Of course, we also need to encourage more boys to consider careers in the countryside – these days there’s a major push in schools for young people to go to university or get an apprenticeship, rather than considering agricultural college.

My university friends are all studying arts subjects such as history and English and could well end up becoming lawyers and teachers. No one I know is considering going into farming, environmental studies or anything along those lines, which I find sad.

After this summer, and considering the competition I face in a dying field such as newspaper journalism, I will definitely consider a career in agriculture. Farming is a fundamental – and too often underappreciated

To read the full insight into Jenna’s first harvest please click [here](#)

LEADSOM WANTS RURAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL



Rural people should have the same opportunities as people in cities, Defra secretary Andrea Leadsom has said. Mrs Leadsom made the comments when she addressed the Conservative party conference in Birmingham on Monday (3 October). "We want to make the most of this vast economic potential, as well as making sure there is a great quality of life on offer to those who live in rural areas," she said.

"I want people living in our market towns and villages to have the same life opportunities as those who live in our cities."

This should apply to school leavers looking for apprenticeships, single working mothers seeking access to free childcare and elderly couples needing local transport, she suggested. Mrs Leadsom said the government's plan aimed to keep villages "thriving and growing". She said she was also determined to improve mobile phone coverage and to roll out superfast broadband.

For the full article please click [here](#)

THE RURAL OSCARS ARE BACK, AND ARE THE RURAL BUSINESS AWARDS TO WIN, GIVING A VOICE AND A PLATFORM TO THE BEST OF OUR PRODUCE, ENTERPRISE, HERITAGE AND COMMUNITIES.



Nominated by the public, the Awards recognise and honour those who routinely go the extra mile for their community. So if you want to recognise a farm enterprise*, local food & drink producer, village shop/post office or a rural tourism enterprise the Countryside Alliance wants to hear from you. They are looking for nominations of businesses which not just make a contribution to the rural economy but to the protection and promotion of our rural heritage, celebrates our great local produce and supports our rural communities.

Nominations will be accepted until 4th November, following which judging will take place. Winners will be announced in Spring 2017. To nominate simply complete the nomination found here

*A category to recognise farm diversification other than farm shops



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