

SPECIAL FEATURE: FLY-TIPPING

NEW ACTION PLAN TO TACKLE FLY-TIPPING



The rising cost of clearing up fly-tipped rubbish is putting pressure on local authorities struggling with funding problems. Some 70% of local authorities say fly-tipping is a major problem, according to a poll commissioned by Keep Britain Tidy. It comes as a separate Ipsos MORI survey shows that over a third of people (36%) said they thought it was OK to do things legally defined as fly-tipping. 53% of local authorities who said fly-tipping was a major problem think that changes – including the increase of bulky waste charges and closing recycling centres – have contributed to the problem.

Keep Britain Tidy Chief Executive Allison Ogden-Newton said increases in waste disposal charges and closing recycling centres had contributed to an increase in fly-tipping. "We know that local authorities are at their wits' end trying to tackle the growing crisis of dumped rubbish," she said. "There is a real challenge here to educate the public that not only is it not OK to fly-tip, it is illegal and can result in a substantial fine for householders and a criminal record."

The Ipsos MORI nationwide survey revealed that:

- 47% of people don't know that they're responsible in law if their waste is fly-tipped by a third party.
- 36% of people think it is acceptable to get rid of an unwanted sofa or mattress in a way that is legally classed as fly-tipping.

The latest figures show there were more than 900,000 reported fly-tipping incidents in 2014/15 – costing local councils in excess of £50million a year to deal with. To read further please click [here](#)

ESSEX ACTION – INCLUDING HOW TO REPORT FLY TIPPING AND DUMPING OF WASTE

ERP is co-ordinating a Task and Finish Group to look at the issue of large-scale fly-tipping – an issue of increasing concern in Essex. The group is chaired by Cllr Simon Walsh and includes representatives from Essex Police, Environment Agency, NFU, RCCE and various local authorities. The group first met on 9th November to discuss ways in which the different partners can work together to reduce the dumping of waste in rural Essex. ERP joined two local authorities and several Police Officers to assist in an Essex Police-led operation in mid-November, working to try and identify those responsible. The Task and Finish Group is has also undertaken some work to ensure that guidance available to the public about how to report fly-tipping is enabling information to reach the right people.

If an incident constitutes a van-load or less, and does not contain hazardous material, you should contact your local authority. Small-scale fly tipping can be reported to Local Authorities in Essex, for further information please go to the Essex Rural Partnership website: [click here](#)

If the waste constitutes a lorry-load or more, or contains hazardous waste of any kind, or if you see illegal tipping in progress, contact the Environment Agency.

The Environment Agency can be contacted via a National Incident Control Centre on: 0800 80 70 60

CHANCELLOR PLEDGES FUNDING FOR EU PROJECTS



THE government has guaranteed to continue funding rural development projects signed while the UK is still in the European Union. Chancellor Philip Hammond made the pledge during a speech to the Conservative Party conference in Birmingham on Monday 3rd October. Previously, the government had agreed to continue funding only for EU projects signed before the Chancellor's Autumn Statement, which is expected on 23 November.

But Mr Hammond said: "I can offer some additional certainty to British businesses and other organisations bidding to receive EU funding while we're still a member."

He added: "The Treasury will offer a guarantee to bidders whose projects meet UK priorities and value for money criteria that if they secure multi-year EU funding before we exit, we will guarantee those payments after Britain has left the EU."

Rural organisations have welcomed the pledge. They also welcomed inclusion in the Chancellor's announcement of a commitment to structural growth funds, which play an important role in diversifying rural economies.

Country Land and Business Association president Ross Murray said: "We have been calling for Government to make these commitments to the countryside and the environment."

"This is a crucial step in the transition to a strong post-Brexit future both for the environment and for rural businesses.

"EU funded schemes are vitally important to driving investment in our rural economy and delivering environmental benefits such as creating habitats for wildlife and reducing flood risk."

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

PLAN TO WITHDRAW RED PHONE BOXES



Rural communities are being urged to adopt their local red phone box – or face the possibility of its removal.

Out of 46,000 working public payphone kiosks on the streets of the UK, around 8,000 are traditional red phone boxes. But the advent of mobile phones means many phone boxes are seldom used, if at all. BT is currently consulting on proposals to remove a number of kiosks – including many that haven't been used at all during the past year. But towns and villages across the country also have the opportunity to preserve their local phone box for just a £1 under BT's Adopt a Kiosk scheme. More than 3,500 kiosks have been adopted and transformed into a variety of new uses since the Adopt a Kiosk scheme was introduced in 2008.

Some decommissioned phone boxes have been fitted with life-saving defibrillation machines. Others have been turned into art galleries, mini libraries or information centres. In Shropshire, for example, the local council is appealing to residents, town councils and parish councils to have their say on a proposal by BT to remove 214 public payphones. As the local planning authority, the council has the right to object to the removal of the telephony service and kiosk in any particular area. It can also consent to removal of the telephony service, while keeping the kiosk, or consent to the permanent removal of the telephony service and the kiosk.

To read the full article please use this [LINK](#)

RURAL PHARMACIES 'FACE CLOSURE THREAT'



Up to 1600 rural pharmacies face the threat of closure due to government funding cuts, it is claimed. A government announcement is expected to see pharmacists lose £113m in funding this financial year and £208m next year. The Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC), which represents pharmacies, says it faces a 12% cut this year, with further cuts next year. The committee has rejected the Department of Health's proposed funding package for 2016/17. It claims the proposed package includes reckless cuts to pharmacy funding that will, if implemented, see patients suffer as services are withdrawn. The department will now have to propose a revised package, or impose their proposed funding changes on England's community pharmacies, says the PSNC. The committee argues that the package would force pharmacies to reduce staffing and cut back on important services.

Please click [here](#) for the full article

CONSERVATION 21: NATURAL ENGLAND PUBLISH THEIR STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE



Natural England, the Government's statutory advisor for the natural environment in England, have published 'Conservation 21', a paper which details their strategy for conservation for the 21st Century.

Though a non-departmental body, Natural England are funded by the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), and are therefore affected by the cuts to the departmental budget that were announced in last year's Spending Review and Autumn Statement. With the EU Referendum Results also raising concerns about the level of funding and focus that might be afforded to conservation, this report is a timely reminder that the environment will not be overlooked as we adjust to any changes in financial or political policy.

In essence, 'Conservation 21' focuses upon three main objectives. Natural England will aim to:

- Create resilient landscapes and seas
- Put people at the heart of the environment
- Grow natural capital

It is hoped that these principles will deliver 'better long term outcomes for the environment by understanding people's interests and needs, and working towards a shared vision.'

'Conservation 21' places a strong emphasis upon the need for greater consultation and interaction, particularly with those actively involved with the natural environment. Mention is made of working better with farmers, and this is surely a positive step.

To read the full article please click [here](#)

For the strategy please click ['Conservation 21' Strategy](#)

RCCE - GROWING COMMUNITIES PACKED LUNCH PLOT COMPETITION



Growing Communities invites all children in primary schools, special schools and community groups of Essex to take part in designing a healthy kitchen garden plot and also create a recipe for a healthy packed lunch using the produce.

The age groups for the competition are: Infants (Years R,1&2) and Junior (Years 3-6).

RCCE are asking children to think about the vegetables, fruit and herbs that could easily be grown at school or at home and when harvested, could be used to make the perfect healthy packed lunch. The 'dish' can be sweet or savoury but must include the produce from the plot. You can also use additional ingredients for example: pasta, rice, bread, couscous, meat, fish or chicken and not forgetting some seasoning!

RCCE want to hear some exciting and new ideas for lunches, try putting a twist on the usual packed lunch and create an explosion for the taste buds!

To enter the competition please see below for your category:

[Primary schools](#)

[Special schools](#)

[Community Groups](#)

Registering is **free** just by answering a few questions

Entries need to be submitted on the A3 template provided in your entry pack. Entries can use any medium they choose to create their kitchen garden design. Recipes can be written by hand or typed and printed out, but must be securely fixed to the template and fit within its confines.

All entries must be received by 5pm on Friday 10th February 2017. Judges will be looking for originality, variety of produce used, simple preparation and the ability to easily fit into ones lunch box!

There will be a winner from each category, and various runner up prizes. There will also be a number of Highly Commended Certificates, awarded at the judges discretion.

Please share information about this competition with your local schools and community groups.

All enquiries please contact: elizabeth.rose@essexrcc.org.uk

Kindly sponsored by



DRAFT SOUTH MARINE PLAN: CONSULTATION NOW OPEN



The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is delighted to announce that the consultation on the Draft South Marine Plans will take place between 7 November 2016 and 27 January 2017.

The consultation gives interested parties the chance to share their views and opinions on the Draft marine plan and it will provide the MMO with invaluable insight to shape this stage of the Marine Planning process. When the consultation

has closed all of the comments received will be reviewed and considered.

Steve Brooker (MMO Chief Planning Officer) said: "Public participation is critical to the marine planning process and this is an opportunity for the public to look at the Draft South Marine plans, see the objective and priorities being considered and share with us their views. I would urge people to please visit our website and take part in this important consultation."

The area of this Plan abuts that of the South East Marine Plan (which covers the Essex coast) currently being developed please click [here](#) to have your say.

FULL ERP FUTURE MEETING DATES 2017

Date: Tuesday 24th January 2017

Time: 2pm - 5pm

Location: TBC

Date: May 2017

Time: TBC

Location: TBC

Date: Monday 25th September 2017

Time: 2pm – 5pm

Location: TBC

USEFUL HINTS IN PREPARATION FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON

Rechargeable batteries for Christmas gifts



This Christmas lots of toys and gadgets will require batteries. So why not make the switch to rechargeable batteries?

How to reduce food waste this Christmas



Do you need ideas on how to waste less food this Christmas? [Love food hate waste](#) have some great ideas and it all starts with planning ahead.

(Waste and recycling news by Essex County Council)

This newsletter is produced and sent by Rural Community Council of Essex on behalf of the Essex Rural Partnership. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter in future please e-mail info@essexruralpartnership.org.uk with 'unsubscribe' as the email subject.

Compiled and edited by Lizzie Rose, Rural Community Council of Essex. Rural Community Council of Essex Registered Charity No. 1097009. Company registered in England and Wales No. 4609624