



CHRISTMAS EDITION

ERP FLY TIPPING TASK AND FINISH GROUP



The new Task and Finish Group met for the second time on 20 December. The group is bringing together the various partner organisations which have a role to play in preventing and/or dealing with the illegal dumping of waste. There has been significant evidence of such waste being illegally dumped in rural Essex over the past few months and partners are keen to explore how they can be more effective in prevention by working together.

On 18 November Essex Police led an operation in response to this problem. They were joined by local authority partners and an RCCE officer as they patrolled areas where illegal waste dumping has been occurring recently. If you see evidence of fly tipping or illegal waste dumping it is important to report it asap. Details of where/how to make a report can be found on [this page](#) of the ERP website, and on [this page](#) of the Essex Police website.

GOOD NEWS! PARISH COUNCILS WILL NOT BE CAPPED CURRENTLY

At its meeting in September the ERP voted to write in objection to proposals to extend referendum principles to Parish and Town councils wishing to increase their precepts. We are now pleased to hear that the council tax referendum principles have not been extended to local (parish and town) councils in 2017/18. The secretary of state for communities and local government, Sajid Javid MP, announced the provisional local government finance settlement

for 2017/18 in the House of Commons; an extract from his speech is below:

“Local [town and parish] councils play an important role in our civic life. We have decided that we will defer our proposals this year, while keeping the level of precepts set by town and parish councils under close review. I expect all town and parish councils to clearly demonstrate restraint when setting increases that are not a direct result of taking on additional responsibilities. I am also actively considering with the sector ways to make excessive increases more transparent to local taxpayers.”

For the full NALC update please click [here](#)

A NEW VISION FOR ESSEX



essex partnership
shaping the future of essex

Essex is going to change a lot over the next 20 years. But whatever Essex looks like, the Essex Partnership want to make sure it's still an Essex we all love. Partners from across the county have gathered together and want your help in developing a shared vision for Essex.

Please get involved and answer three questions on how you feel about Essex.

To help develop the vision for where you live, work and play [please click here](#) and answer the three simple questions.

WI-FI SCHEME LAUNCHED FOR VILLAGE HALLS



A new scheme lets rural residents access superfast broadband via a hub installed in their local village hall.

Superfast Essex is the county's broadband improvement programme which is working to make Essex one of the best connected counties in the UK. Run by Essex County Council, the programme has so far enabled more than 65,000 homes and businesses to access superfast broadband speeds. Further work aims to extend coverage more widely still.

Under the scheme, community hubs – such as village halls or community centres – can buy a broadband service from two approved suppliers, APC Solutions or County Broadband. Initial set up costs will be supported by the Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) and community hubs will subsequently need to pay a monthly service charge. The CIF is a small grants scheme funded by Essex County Council.

Money from the CIF has been set aside to help community hubs pay for the setup costs of a Wi-Fi service as offered by the two service providers under this scheme. Up to £400 can be claimed per community hub by completing a short online form similar to the general CIF application process.

Essex County Councillor Penny Channer said: "Our aim is to encourage and support communities to make use of the upgraded infrastructure being installed by the Superfast Essex Programme. We're really pleased the CIF has been able to help make this scheme possible. The scheme is aimed at but not limited to community hubs enabled to access superfast broadband."

Cllr Channer said the scheme could provide additional value to village halls when it came to attracting prospective users looking for somewhere to hire.

The Community Wi-Fi Scheme is supported by the Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) and the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC).

It was presented to delegates at the RCCE Village Halls Conference in October, generating initial interest from around 15 communities.

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

RURAL BUSINESS 2030 REPORT LAUNCHED



At their Rural Business Conference held on 6 December 2016, the CLA published a 'Rural Business 2030' report. The report is the result of a year-long programme gathering evidence and insight about the future of rural business. It includes new large scale research of investment intentions by rural business owners and a series of seminars gathering experts together from across the

rural business and other sectors, academics and policymakers. CLA President and Monmouthshire rural business owner Ross Murray said: "For far too long Government policy has allowed a focus on business support and infrastructure spending in our towns and cities to undermine the focus needed on promoting growth and investment in our countryside. Never has it been more important to address this imbalance than today as the rural economy prepares for the potentially seismic changes of Brexit. The new Industrial Strategy and the 25 year plan for food and farming are the opportunity to address this imbalance and they must be taken."

The CLA report reveals that landowning businesses in rural England and Wales – 96% of which are family businesses – are currently investing more than £13 billion a year, and there is potential for this figure to increase. It also paints an optimistic picture about the future with more than 80% of landowning rural businesses planning to make investments for business resilience and growth. To access the report please click [here](#)

PLOUGH SUNDAY INVITATION



Please join us and the
THAXTED MORRIS MEN
to celebrate

plough Sunday

All welcome!



A special service to support all those who work
on the land followed by a Ploughman's Lunch

SUNDAY 8 JANUARY 2017
11.00am
THAXTED PARISH CHURCH
with the
RT REVD STEPHEN COTTRELL, BISHOP OF CHELMSFORD

*You are cordially invited to Plough
Sunday with the RT Reverend Stephen
Cottrell,
Bishop of Chelmsford.*

On Sunday 8th January 2017

11:00am

Thaxted Parish Church

Followed by a ploughmans lunch!

All are welcome



For further information please contact Reverend Janet Nicholls via email: jnicholls@chelmsford.anglican.org

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](#)

To read further please click [here](#)

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



FULL ERP FUTURE MEETING DATES 2017

Date: Tuesday 24th January 2017

Time: 2pm - 5pm

Location: Marconi Club, Tydemans off Beehive Lane, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 9FH

Date: 24th May 2017

Time: 2pm – 5pm

Location: TBC

Date: Monday 25th September 2017

Time: 2pm – 5pm

Location: TBC

Please note the meetings are closed to members only invitations will be sent accordingly.

**FINALLY SUZANNE AND LIZZIE, YOUR SECRETARIAT TEAM, WOULD LIKE TO
WISH ALL OUR MEMBERS AND READERS
A WARM AND WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



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.

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