



District Councillor Monthly Report

Lawford, Manningtree & Mistley

March 2021

This report can be circulated as you wish, but if Parish Clerks upload to their websites the amendment of any text style to ensure Digital Inclusion Compliance is their responsibility.

Coronavirus Update

The **Shield helpline** can be contacted on **01255 686700**.

The COVID vaccinations are progressing well, with most local residents, eligible in these first tranches, electing to receive their vaccination at the Fryatt Hospital or via their own GP. However other locations are open to them at both Ipswich and Colchester.

The Essex Infection rate is reducing significantly. The latest data showing 91.7 cases per 100,000 population.

Hospital admissions are reducing slowly and have reduced by over 20% in the last week. However, a third of new admissions were patients in the under 50 age category.

On Friday 26th February the Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) reported that in the East of England Tendring District has the highest level of 'First Dose Vaccines' given to adults. By that date 47% of all our adults had received the first dose of vaccine. Clearly our significant elderly population influences that figure, but it is good positive news.

All residents are reminded that COVID-19 has not gone and all the standard precautions are still required, even if you have been vaccinated!

Census - 2021

Residents are reminded that Census day will be on **March 21**, with households receiving letters early in the month with online codes explaining how they can take part. The census will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. For the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Census 2021 will be the first run *predominantly* online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets. **However, there will be plenty of support available for people who are not confident with online services, or have no access to the Internet.**

Residents have the option of completing the census questionnaire online, or in paper if they would prefer. A paper copy can be requested.

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It provides vital data on a national and local level, and has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

To promote the census a number of buildings across Tendring will be lighting up in purple on 19th March ahead of census weekend.

For more information, and to find out how to get help, visit www.census.gov.uk or call the contact centre on **0800 141 2021**.

TDC Budget

The District Council budget for the next financial year was unanimously approved by full council on the 16th February. This will result in a £5.00 annual increase in the District Council's portion of the Council Tax bill. Tendring District Council receives approximately 7% of the household council tax bill.

District Local Plan

After examining stage one of the Tendring District Local Plan for three years, the Planning Inspector finally decided that our "Plan is Sound" and the council has received the confirmation letter to that effect.

Part one of the local Plan has now been fully ratified by the Full Council. This has resulted in our Annual Housing Figure reverting back to 550 dwellings, from the previous Government Annual Figure of 1,100.

Since ratification some planning applications have already been refused on the basis that our land supply is now recognised as being in excess of 6.5 years.

The Tendring District Council Planners have already progressed part two of the plan, which is being examined in a hearing which began on Tuesday 23rd February and is anticipated to conclude on Thursday 4th March 2021.

I understand there has been considerable opposition to some of the policies contained in part two, especially policies relating to climate control and renewable energy. We await the result of the examination,

A significant element for our area in Part 2 of the plan is that all sites which had been proposed for development in Lawford, Manningtree and Mistley have now secured planning permission, and the only exceptions which will be considered for

development, will be any “Affordable Housing” proposals, or any “Special Regeneration” schemes.

The Local Plan will be in place until 2033, but will have to be reviewed every five years.

Local Planning Applications

(1) *Land East of New Road, Mistley* – Carla Homes withdrew their application to vary condition 13 of the approved application. This is concerned with the visibility splay at the mouth of the entrance into the new development.

The developer has been engaged with Essex County Highways and a reconfiguration of the entrance has been agreed between both parties. Carla Homes has therefore submitted yet another application as a result. As the new configuration has been agreed with Highways, I have no planning grounds to further refer the application to the Planning Committee.

However, we still have some concerns, as the construction of the junction into the development appears to have been fully completed. Therefore I have asked the Planning Officers that when they approve the latest application they include a condition which stipulates that no new home can be occupied until the entrance is reconfigured to the design agreed with ECC Highways.

The Planning Officer dealing has agreed to my request. Then if for some reason the access is not reconfigured as approved the Planning Enforcement Team could take action against a breach of the Planning Conditions.

(2) *Land East of Long Road, Mistley* – The construction of a Health Centre, Car Parking and a new Access Road. I did call-in this application, but it was refused under Delegated Powers. If this developer is true to form an appeal will be forthcoming.

It remains our position that we wholeheartedly agree that a new Health Centre is required, but that land should be found near to the existing Riverside Surgery and the Commercial Centre of Manningtree. This is essential to care for current patients and for the continued viability of Manningtree Town.

(3) *2 High Street, Manningtree* – Change of use to Dwelling. This application has been called-in and we await its inclusion on a Planning Committee agenda.

The developer has written to your District Councillors stating that a marketing initiative to let or sell the property as a commercial space has been unsuccessful. He therefore indicates that we should not continue with our opposition to the change of use and conversion to a dwelling.

However, if marketing has taken place it has been conducted during the worst possible period for a potential start-up business. There are few enterprising souls who would take on a new business venture in the middle of a virus epidemic.

It remains our view that this property must remain as a commercial property. At its location it links the High Street with Station Road. Its loss as a business would be a serious blow to the viability of Manningtree High Street.

When the 'lockdown' eases and we all emerge into a brighter future this property must be there as a commercial premises to serve the existing and the significantly growing population.

Our opposition to this application continues and we hope to have the support of local people.

(4) *Land South of Harwich Road, Lawford* - Erection of a Flexible Electricity Generation Facility with associated ancillary infrastructure, access and boundary treatment. This application has been called-in and is awaiting the Planning Committee Agenda Date.

(5) *Mistley Place Park* – Between the 2nd and 16th February McCarthy & Stone conducted an on-line consultation exercise regarding their ambitions for a development at this location.

Their ambition is to build a selection of 52 apartments and bungalows, together with 41 parking places on approximately 10% of the land.

We await the submission of their planning application, which is anticipated in March.

(6) *Topsi House, High Street, Mistley* – Two applications for change of use. The first floor to a dwelling and the ground floor to a restaurant.

Whilst welcoming business into the area we are initially concerned about the entrance, the required additional constructions, the potential detrimental effect of the residents in the adjacent dwelling and the flooding potential.

We will be interested to learn of the Parish Council's views.

Demolition of Honeycroft

Demolition of a former sheltered housing block in Lawford has begun. The work is due to be completed by mid-March 2021. TDC is drawing up proposals for the site's future.

Carlo Guglielmi, TDC Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Governance, said a new future was on the horizon for the site.

"As demolition gets underway we're writing the final chapter of Honeycroft; during its existence it did serve several hundreds of very happy residents really well, since it opened its doors in the late 60's, but the type of accommodation offered here became quite outdated against the current options in Sheltered Housing" Cllr Guglielmi said.

"Once the site is cleared we can look at what we do next with the site, which is sensitive to its surroundings."

Some residents still live in bungalows around Honeycroft, and work is being carried out sensitively to minimise disruption to them.

As much material as possible from the old building will be recycled.

TDC planning Green Flag bid across the district

Tendring District Council is finalising its bid to retain prestigious Green Flags across the district. Several bids are to be put forward by the authority for four of its managed gardens including:

Clacton Seafront Gardens, Frinton Crescent Gardens, Dovercourt Cliff Park and Weeley Crematorium. These have all been awarded with Green Flags in the past and it is hoped this recognition can continue.

The Green Flag Award Scheme is a nationally recognised benchmark for parks and open Spaces. Any Green spaces freely accessible to the public having a site specific management plan can apply.

The criteria for judging includes:

- a welcoming place
- a healthy safe secure place
- clean and well maintained
- sustainability
- conservation and heritage
- community involvement
- marketing
- management plan.

An ongoing programme is included in the submission. This involves replanting of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants, fence maintenance and replacement, litter bins, shelters and seat painting.

The Council's Open Spaces staff are supported by groups of volunteers and community groups who assist on a weekly basis in all weathers.

This is a ray of light after the last year's restrictions. Perhaps our three parishes can produce an entry for next year.....?

Judging for the Green Flag takes place during early summer and the result is announced during July.

Kind Regards

Alan Coley – District Councillor

District Report on Behalf of:
Alan Coley, Carlo Guglielmi & Val Guglielmi

1st March 2021

In an emergency which requires TDC's assistance residents can contact the council's Control Centre on 01255 222022, available 24/7.

General Information: If anyone witnesses any fly tipping occurring, please contact TDC's Waste Management Team on 01255 686768.