



District Councillor Monthly Report Lawford, Manningtree & Mistley November 2021

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Coronavirus

The COVID infection rates are continuing their steep rise in Tendring. The 12 – 15 age group drives this, but new infection rates for those over 60 are also increasing. Hospital admission rates are manageable at present but are rising earlier than the medical professionals expected.

Anyone eligible for initial, second or booster vaccinations is urged not to delay in taking up the opportunity.

The below is the latest ECC Update (30th October)

Covid case rates in Essex have risen over the last week in all age groups to an average of 536 per 100,000 population per week. This is now above the East of England rate of 522 and the national rate of 487. Within this, the rate in 11-18 year olds is 1,900 and the rate in over 60s is 233 per 100,000 per week

Our Essex Director of Public Health does, however, see some early evidence that the rates overall in Essex, and among 11-18 year-olds in particular, have peaked and may be starting to fall. This is in line with national models, although the rise in older people is likely to take a further ten days or so before it starts to reduce.

Hospital beds occupied by people who have Covid have increased by 37% to 190 over the last week with 39 ITU beds occupied by people with Covid (up 8 %).

Colchester Hospital saw nearly a doubling of people with Covid in their beds over the last week and, based on their concerns around spread from visitors to patients within the Trust, have temporarily restricted visiting.

While the numbers in hospital have increased, this is far less than we saw last year, due to the protection provided by the vaccine. As the effectiveness of the vaccine wanes over time, it is essential that people get the booster when it is offered. This is the key way to stay safe.

Over 150,000 people in Essex have had the booster to date with nearly 60% of people over 80 receiving the jab. Over coming weeks, it is critical that we maintain the impetus to achieve full booster coverage. Residents seeking to book their booster appointment are advised to contact the national booking service a few days after they have reached six months since their second vaccination. In addition, they may go to the walk-in centres for their booster.

NHS advise that the walk-in sites available for boosters are not open for 12-15 year-old appointments unless residents are specifically informed otherwise.

To protect children from missing school and from illness, vaccination of 12-15 year-olds is important. This will be driven mainly through schools, with school visits planned until mid-December. Given the current case numbers, parents will also receive a letter from the national team informing them of a second option – booking a vaccine at one of the main vaccination sites, which can be done via the national booking system.

Additional drop-in clinics specifically for 12-15 year-olds are being set up. Parents will be notified of these via schools and local media. In the first instance though, parents are advised to get the vaccine via their school.

Activities at Leisure Centres – Health Conditions

People suffering with Long Covid, heart disease and other long-term health conditions could qualify for referral onto a newly expanded scheme at Tendring Leisure Centres.

TDC is launching the Back to Health initiative in a bid to improve the well-being of residents in the area.

Lynda McWilliams, TDC Cabinet Member for Partnerships, said the initiative was an expansion of the existing GP Referral Scheme and was fully supported by partners in the health service.

“We want to improve the health of people with both mental and physical long-term conditions; this will not only give them a better quality of life, but also reduce the impact and pressure on our health services,” Cllr McWilliams said.

“As a member of the North East Essex Health and Wellbeing Alliance we understand that no one organisation – and certainly not just the NHS – can tackle health issues, which have deep roots in our day-to-day living. So by supporting partners with schemes such as this we can help to make everyone’s lives better.”

Under the scheme those with qualifying health conditions may be referred by a health professional to either instructor-led gym sessions, or the Back to Health Fitness Class at the council’s three leisure centres in Clacton, Dovercourt and Walton. The cost to participants will be £2.80 per activity.

After an initial six weeks of sessions participants will be assessed, with the option for a further six weeks if appropriate. After completion of the 12-week course people will also qualify for reduced rate leisure centre membership for the rest of the year.

In addition a free hot drink will be provided at the end of each session to provide a social element – encouraging participants to bond, support each other with ongoing activity, and tackle loneliness and isolation.

Conditions which will qualify people for referral include heart disease, hypertension, obesity, stroke, diabetes, COPD, severe asthma, Long Covid, mental health, some musculoskeletal conditions and cancer rehabilitation.

Running as a 48-week pilot initiative Back to Health will cost £30,000, funded from TDC’s Back to Business programme; a series of schemes designed to help the area recover and come back stronger both physically and economically from the Covid-19 pandemic.

It enhances the current GP Referral plan by offering more health professionals the ability to refer, and a wider referral criteria.

People cannot self-refer to the scheme, with GPs, social prescribers, practice nurses, physiotherapists and occupational therapists all being able to send people to the programme.

Planning Enforcement

Yet again, we have concerns about the effectiveness of the Planning Enforcement Department within Tendring District Council. It seems one developer in our area continues to flout the planning conditions regarding approved times of working, especially at weekends.

Another serious example of failing to comply with conditions was discovered when mature trees on a site were not being protected from felling or harm.

On these occasions, the Planning Enforcement seems to have been particularly ineffective.

It is important to note that not all developers are flouting the conditions, but effective responses are required when this happens.

Both Carlo and I have been in contact with the officer who is the Head of Planning and we have made plain our annoyance. Carlo is organising another meeting between us and senior managers. This situation must improve.

Local Planning Appeals and Applications

Land South of Long Road, Mistley – Appeal against refusal – Construction of Medical Centre & Car Parking.

Appellant – Tendring Farms Ltd.

Awaiting the decision of the Planning Inspector.

Trinity Road, Mistley – Appeal against refusal - Erection of up to 65 Dwellings.

Appellant - Mr R Brooks and Family

Awaiting the decision of the Planning Inspector.

Anchor Inn Mistley – Appeal against refusal – Change of use to Residential.

Appellant – Mr Tom Newman Ankerinn Ltd. **Appeal Refused.**

(1) ***Mistley Place Park*** – (21/00453/FUL) McCarthy & Stone - Planning Application to construct 42 apartments and 11 bungalows to provide “Retirement Living”.

Still awaiting a Planning Committee Agenda date.

(2) ***Tops'I House, High Street, Mistley*** – (21/00040/FUL & 21/00046/FUL) The planning application concerning the engineering additions to the side of Tops'I House are **still awaiting a committee decision.**

(3) ***Land South of Long Road / West of Clacton Road, Mistley*** – (21/00197/DETAIL)

The Reserved Matters application for 485 dwellings, two hectares of Employment Land, Public Open Space and Infrastructure.

We three District Councillors attended the Planning Committee on the 26th October and I gave a presentation to the committee. It was important to explain the remaining concerns we have regarding this application.

The planning permission to build up to 485 dwellings and create commercial premises on this plot of land was granted on appeal several years ago. It is fair to say that the applicant has recently provided more encouraging plans regarding design and layout for what will now be 483 dwellings. However, some of the details in the Reserved Matters document were still concerning. Some of what I addressed in my presentation is indicated below:

- The Breakdown of Dwelling Types, in particular the inclusion of another 46 flats and no bungalows.
- The failure to tie-down the intended use of the designated Commercial/Employment Land (would there be some later application for more dwellings?)
- The Designated Strategic Green Gap & the Outstanding Planning Appeal (Medical Centre) relevant to that Green Gap
- The proposal included a fenced Dog-off-the-lead area, a fenced Attenuation Drainage Pond and a large fenced Equipped Play Area, all to be included in the Green Gap off Long Road. Although we welcome these facilities, it is our view that they should have been included within the site, and not positioned as an intrusion into the visual amenity of the Green Gap.
- The applicant’s commitment to Renewable Energy fell short of the TDC emerging policies.

- The applicant was making no commitment to provide any Highways Safety Improvements to mitigate against the emergence of vehicles belonging to 483 dwellings onto our already busy roads (eg; footpaths, junction improvements etc.)

However, the committee approved the application.....

Stolen Lifebelts

Tendring District Council (TDC) has seen a spate of lifebelts, vital lifesaving equipment, going missing in the last few weeks. The orange lifebelts, which each cost around £60 to replace, have been stolen, with Dovercourt-the worst affected area.

The Council has over 80 lifebelt stations along the entire stretch of the Tendring coastline. The rings are used by TDC's beach patrol and members of the public if a person gets into difficulty in the sea.

Cllr Alex Porter, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Tourism at TDC, said he is shocked that anyone would steal lifebelts which are potential lifesavers.

"We take coastal safety very seriously, you never know when a lifebelt might be needed by someone who may get into difficulty in the sea."

This is not a joke! It is a crime to tamper with emergency equipment and more so to steal that equipment. If anyone has information regarding the idiots responsible, they should contact the council or the police.

Kind Regards

Alan Coley – District Councillor

District Report on Behalf of:

Alan Coley, Carlo Guglielmi & Val Guglielmi

4th November 2021

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

Fly Tipping - If anyone witnesses any fly tipping occurring, please contact TDC's Waste Management Team on **01255 686768. To report a missed bin collection visit <https://tendring-self.achieveservice.com/>.**