

# COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY – VIDEO CONFERENCING MINUTES

Little Easton Parish Council

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Minutes of the **Little Easton Parish Council** meeting held via Video-Conference Call on **24 JUNE 2020 AT 7PM**

Present: Cllr Dodsley Cllr Rush Cllr Fowell Cllr Rodwell

Dist Cllr Foley Dist Cllr Tayler

Member of the public

<b>20/34</b>	<b>NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> County Cllr Walsh & Cllr Hindley offered their apologies
<b>20/35</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR THIS MEETING</b> None
<b>20/36</b>	<b>APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 MAY 2020</b> <b>RESOLUTION</b> to Approve minutes: Proposed Cllr Fowell, Seconded Cllr Rush
<b>20/37</b>	<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION</b> Members of the public may raise questions about and comment on items on the Agenda OR of import. Session is limited to 15 minutes (3 minutes per person with no repetition of a previous question)  LITTERING at lakes increasing
<b>20/38</b>	<b>RECEIVE THE DISTRICT &amp; COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS</b> <b>Dist Cllr Tayler</b> – Finances, dire situation at UDC, the council is not permitted to run at a deficit which is currently at £56Million, the first portion of any loss to be met by the council, second portion met by the council and the Govt. An increase in demand for council services plus providing shielding support, Test & Trace provision and the No Deal implications are all contributing factors to the situation. One solution would be to increase Council Tax which would require a 63% rise so not really considered an option, cuts to services an alternative option to save money but very difficult to achieve with demand out-stripping supply, so third option under consideration is an investment led strategy requiring borrowing (which the council can do quite cheaply) to invest in diverse projects primarily property related.  <b>Dist Cllr Foley</b> – Recently appointed the CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) representative for UDC. The District Council's deficit partly down to previous administration leaving office with a black hole to recover plus the effect of Covid19 and failed local plans costing circa £10M. DC Foley has spent last two weeks helping towns in promoting their traders reopening for business and the Keep Safe message; hospitality due to be opening on 04 July. A sad reality has to be recognised that some traders will not reopen.  At a recent meeting the CEO of Stansted Airport was invited to consider stopping night flights due to the sizeable decrease in flight demand; to follow the lead set by Southend Airport who have already adopted that policy. It was noted that there had been an increase in complaints concerning the smell of aviation fuel.  The CEO responded to the effect – The Airport will do what they are allowed to do.  <b>COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – APPENDIX A</b>

<b>20/39</b>	<p><b>RECEIVE CLERKS REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE</b> LAUNDRY LANE - wobbly stile in need of attention – Reported and Fixed</p> <p>COVID19 – various updates and guidance from UDC/ECC/EALC circulated to members during the month.</p> <p>Manor Road – Sign opposite The Stag indicating play area is missing - Cllr Fowell reported</p> <p>Manor Road – Resident concerns over a neighbour’s hedge obscuring their view when trying to exit their drive, REQUEST to place a mirror opposite on PC fence/land? – Request denied</p> <p>Manor Road – Resident’s concerns over safety overall along Manor Road and management of Mem Hall car park – Second PC representative appointed to the MHMC, no further comments</p> <p>Manor Road – GIGACLEAR Wayleave agreement – Clerk to sign agreement</p> <p>PARK ROAD – Volume and speed of HGV passing along Park Road servicing the road planings/scalplings pile on the Airfield – Land Securities property management and Strutt &amp; Parker now aware and speaking to Farm management to help resolve the situation.</p>
<b>20/40</b>	<p><b>FINANCE – RECEIVE STATEMENT &amp; AGREE PAYMENTS – APPOINT AUTHORISER</b> <b>RESOLUTION</b> to Approve minutes: Proposed Cllr Dodsley, Seconded Cllr Rodwell <b>APPENDIX B</b> Unanimous agreement to renew RCCE membership at £44 – CLERK to ACTION Cllr Dodsley to Authorise</p>
<b>20/41</b>	<p><b>PLANNING – REVIEW AND COMMENT ON ANY CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS</b> <b>UTT/20/1252/FUL Land Adj. To The Old Laundry, Laundry Lane – Erection of 1 No. dwelling</b> NO OBJECTION</p>
<b>20/42</b>	<p><b>APPOINTMENT OF 2<sup>ND</sup> PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE TO MHMC</b> Cllr Hindley duly appointed – Clerk to advise MHMC</p>
<b>20/43</b>	<p><b>RECEIVE UPDATE ON FLOOD ROUTE SIGNAGE AND CONFIRM STORAGE</b> Currently stored at Cllr Dodsley garage, photo placed in asset register, consider Memorial Hall as alternative storage</p>
<b>20/44</b>	<p><b>NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – NEXT STEPS - APPOINT PC LEAD FOR NP</b> UDC progressing the application, DEFER appointment of representative item to next agenda</p>
<b>20/45</b>	<p><b>LITTER AT LAKES UPDATE – SIGNAGE AND LITTER PICK</b> Cllr Rush advised land owner agreed to signs, council to acquire two generic sign written Correx board, budget £30 – Cllr Rush and Rodwell to liaise</p>
<b>20/46</b>	<p><b>DDA SEESAW REPLACEMENT – REVIEW PRICED OPTIONS INPUT FROM MEMBERS</b> Defer to next meeting</p>
<b>20/47</b>	<p><b>REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS</b> <b>WAR MEMORIAL</b> – Paved area jet washed <b>MEMORIAL HALL</b> – Ramp widened, railings pending, successful grant funding from UDC <b>PLAY AREA</b> – Postpone inspection <b>EASTON PARK</b> – Focus to Restore Easton Park campaign, document published soon, restore to Ancient Park with associated revenue streams <b>STANSTED AIRPORT</b> – Meetings postponed <b>HIGHWOODS QUARRY</b> – Next meetings September <b>FOOTPATHS &amp; HIGHWAYS</b> – Churchyard stile reported, report of vegetation in river</p>
<b>20/48</b>	<p><b>ITEMS OF REPORT OR FOR INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA OR IN 5P MAGAZINE</b></p>

	Increase in ASB - Agenda, Promote use of 101 and Police website, Note/photograph vehicles – 5P
<b>20/49</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S) – 29 JULY – 7pm – CLOSE – 9:15pm</b>

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Signed.....Date.....

**APPENDIX A – COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

**County Councillor’s Report June 2020**

**Residents urged to follow guidance over trips to recycling centres**

Essex County Council is thanking residents for showing patience and understanding during the first week of recycling centres reopening following the COVID-19 lockdown and is asking for this spirit to continue over the upcoming bank holiday weekend.

15 recycling centres in Essex reopened on Monday, 18th May.

New restrictions and strict social distancing controls are in place to ensure the safety of residents and site staff. These restrictions include limiting the number of cars on site at any one time.

These necessary restrictions, together with some residents using the centres when perhaps they don’t need to, have caused long queues to form at some recycling centres, with waiting times of between one and three hours being reported.

Recycling centre staff report the majority of Essex residents visiting using the recycling centres have shown patience, understanding and good humour.

As the bank holiday weekend approaches – traditionally the time for a spring clean clear out - Essex County Council is repeating the call for residents to make a decision if the household waste they have really needs to go to the recycling centre right now, or if it can be stored safely until recycling centres return to normal.

If it does need to go to the recycling centre, residents must be aware there will be a long wait.

The safest way to get rid of your waste and recycling is using your kerbside collection. A visit to a recycling centre is only essential where there is no alternative available.

Any residents showing symptoms of COVID-19, self-isolating or shielding should not visit any recycling centre and should follow advice from Public Health England.

Cllr Simon Walsh, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for the Environment and Climate Change Action, said: “The opening of the recycling centres has gone better than we expected because of your help.

“Reports coming back to me have been very positive, with users and staff saying it’s generally all going well, despite being very busy.”

“I want to thank the people of Essex for their patience whilst we got ready to reopen the County's recycling centres. A good deal of work was needed to ensure social distancing could safely be achieved. This involved marking out the parking bays, painting footprints on the ground to indicate where users can stand when depositing their waste, and a thousand extra information signs.

“Our priority remains the same - we must ensure the safety of residents and site staff, which is why a number of recycling centres are unable to reopen at this time.

“Now we have the bank holiday upon us. I want to repeat my call for residents to make a judgement on whether they really need to visit a recycling centre.

“There will be queues. I would urge, if you are able, to wait a little while longer as the sites will become less busy, and this will make your visit a better experience for you. If you can dispose of your rubbish using the kerbside collections, then please do so, and only consider using the recycling centre if the waste you have is becoming hazardous or is a safety issue.”

“I must stress the importance of only making an essential visit when absolutely necessary. By coming to the sites you’re adding to local traffic and in some cases preventing people being able to get to businesses and shops.”

A full list of which recycling centres are open, advice for essential recycling visits and what to expect when visit a recycling centre can be found here: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/news/appeal-for-residents-to-make-a-common-sense-judgement-as-essex-recycling>

### **Essex road improvements ramp up as restrictions ease**

Several planned, non-emergency highways works across Essex are now resuming at pace, following a Government announcement that some of the restrictions in place to stop the spread of COVID-19 would be reduced.

The works are continuing with appropriate social distancing measures in place and have received a boost thanks to an additional £17.9m funding from Department for Transport highways for repairs and maintenance.

Major improvements on the A133 at Ipswich Rd to Harwich Rd in Colchester have started, as has the Edinburgh Way works in Harlow, which has previously changed to daytime works. Preliminary work to build the new Junction 7A on the M11 at Harlow is also being prepped too, linked to a new east-west route across the town.

Councillor Kevin Bentley, Deputy Leader of Essex County Council and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, said: “I am happy to report that nearly all our major and smaller road improvement schemes are back up and working following full risk assessments.

“Of course, some essential work of course never stopped and I’d like to thank all the highways workers who have kept our roads safe throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We know reliable roads are key to getting the Essex economy moving again. For public safety, we are switching some of the road surfacing schemes we had planned for residential areas this year, to main roads instead. Those local roads will still be repaired and will be included in the surfacing programme for next year.

“I must again thank the majority of drivers in Essex for staying at home during lockdown and only using the county’s road network for essential journeys.”

The impact of the pause to some highways work, combined with the need to work differently to before to protect highways crews and the public, will inevitably affect the completion dates for some schemes. However, Essex Highways remains committed to delivering as much of this year’s programme of work as planned.

As previously announced, Essex Highways is also in the process of introducing further measures to support local people to socially distance, by encouraging sustainable methods of transport, including walking and cycling, particularly in urban areas. The first developments of this work will be introduced in the coming weeks.

Road surfacing work is now also fully underway, with surface dressing and full resurfacing (night works) programmes operational. The second resurfacing team and the micro-surfacing crew started on Monday 18 May.

Please follow Essex Highways Twitter feed at <https://twitter.com/essexhighways> for daily updates and the programmes map at [www.essex.gov.uk/surfacing](http://www.essex.gov.uk/surfacing) for all planned work.

Please note that planned surfacing work is subject to weather, and delays may impact on subsequent schemes. Residents are encouraged to watch out for on-site sign boards alerting to work in the near future and particularly requests not to park on the road on the day.

### **Work to begin on new M11 Junction**

Work on the ‘critical’ new M11 Junction 7A at Harlow is gearing up, with the site currently being cleared to enable the works team to set up in June. Construction will then start on Gilden Way at the London Road Roundabout in June/July.

Cllr Kevin Bentley, Deputy Leader of Essex County Council and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, said: “It is fantastic to see this long-awaited major project becoming a reality.

“The new junction is critical for Harlow and the wider area, ultimately helping to reduce congestion in the town, offering new public transport opportunities and further unlocking the economic potential of Harlow through supporting local business growth.”

One of the biggest infrastructure projects in the county, the works will see a new junction created between Junction 7 and 8 of the M11 and a new link road joining the M11 with a widened B183 Gilden Way. This will ultimately see a new east-west link created through the town.

Referring to the ongoing Coronavirus situation, Cllr Bentley added: "Covid-19 has, of course, had an impact on many infrastructure projects.

"Therefore, we have been working closely with the contractor GRAHAM to enable surveying and preparatory works to take place, with stringent social distancing rules in operation. This will continue as the works progress.

"We are also looking closely at other schemes that are going on, such as in Edinburgh Way, which is due to complete in the next few weeks, to ensure that the potential impact on traffic is minimised"

The new junction 7a is planned to open in 2022. For more information and to register for construction updates on the scheme visit [www.essex.gov.uk/junction7a](http://www.essex.gov.uk/junction7a).

## Essex preparing for phased school reopening

### Latest update

**28 May 2020**

Today, the government announced that primary schools, nurseries and early years settings can begin to open to more pupils from Monday 1 June. Secondary schools and colleges will be able to open to more students from 15 June. This is possible because the [government's 5 tests](#) have been met.

In Essex, we have been supporting schools and settings to develop their plans for wider opening. Each school and setting has made their own decision on how they will respond based on the completion of a thorough health and safety risk assessment.

This means that not all schools and settings will open full time to all pupils who are now eligible to return from 1 June. We do not yet have a full picture, but our current indications are that between 75 and 80 per cent of Essex primary schools will open to more pupils in some form from 1 June, while 20 per cent are indicating they will not.

Schools and settings are responsible for communicating with parents and their setting's wider community about their individual decisions. All schools and settings will continue to remain open for the children of critical workers and vulnerable pupils.

For more information, visit our page on [Schools opening: guidance for parents and carers](#).

**26 May 2020**

On 24 May, the Prime Minister announced that primary schools, nurseries and early years settings are still expected to start reopening to more pupils from 1 June. He reiterated that any increased provision will only be possible if the government's 5 tests are met by Thursday 28 May. These include the new infection rate continuing to fall.

It was also announced that secondary schools should now plan to provide face to face contact with some students from 15 June at the earliest, subject to the 5 tests being met. Previously, this date had been 1 June.

Secondary schools are being asked to supplement the remote education of year 10 and 12 pupils (years 10 and 11 for alternative provision schools) with face to face support where possible.

Schools, colleges and early years settings will share local arrangements with parents and carers in the coming weeks. Parents should speak to their school or setting if they have any questions or concerns.

GOV.UK has more about the [government's 5 tests](#).

## Previous updates

### 15 May 2020

Following the Government's announcement earlier this week regarding the reopening of education and childcare settings, Essex County Council wants to update parents, school communities, and the wider Essex population on the work taking place to support reopening in the safest possible way.

In Essex, building on the Government's plans, the return will take place on a gradual, phased and small-scale basis, allowing for local flexibility within schools in terms of class size, staffing, and the constraints of school buildings.

Teams across the Council have been working with Essex schools and early years settings, and partners such as the Department for Education, Ofsted, education professional associations, unions and other local authorities to prepare for reopening. Resources, experiences, and approaches are being shared across all education settings, giving school leaders a wealth of information and support, which will help them to make the best decisions to support their school community.

The safety of everyone in the school community will be paramount in our planning. A thorough Health and Safety Risk Assessment will be undertaken by every setting, contact will be minimised through smaller class sizes and mixing between groups will be reduced through timetable changes.

Cllr Ray Gooding, Cabinet Member for Education, said: "I understand how uncertain this time is for parents and carers, and that following the Government's announcement about reopening of education and childcare settings, parents will still have a lot of questions and concerns.

"I want to reassure parents, carers and communities that our primary concern is the safety of all children, their families and staff. The support and guidance we are giving to all settings puts safety at the forefront.

"Reopening is a complicated exercise and we are helping settings to come up with their own solutions. This means that settings will have their own approaches that work best for them, their children and their local communities.

"We are clear that each setting's health and safety risk assessment should drive their decision making. This will mean that not all settings will be able to offer a full-time service initially. Some may re-open later in June. Things will be gradual, phased, and small scale to begin with, and potentially until the end of term.

"Schools, colleges and early years settings will be contacting parents and carers with details of their arrangements in the coming weeks. Parents and carers should speak to their school following this if they have further questions or concerns.

"Finally, I want to pay tribute to the fantastic and tireless work of all education and childcare staff over the last few months, preparing for closure, supporting children with home learning, keeping settings open for those that needed it most, and now, working towards re-opening. The dedication and commitment they have shown during this time is inspiring and my thanks goes to each and every one of them."

Earlier this week, the Government announced it may soon be feasible for early years children to return to settings and for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to return to schools in smaller group sizes from 1 June.

Secondary school pupils in Years 10 and 12 due to be taking exams next year (Years 10 and 11 for alternative provision settings as they have no Year 12) may be able to receive some face-to-face contact with teachers, and special schools may be able to gradually increase the number of children and young people on site, again from June 1.

Any return for children and young people to settings is contingent on the five key tests set by government justifying the changes at the time. This includes that the rate of infection continuing to decrease.

### **Active Essex Launches 30:30 physical activity campaign**



A countywide campaign encouraging Essex residents to get moving this June has been officially launched. Now in its third year, the 30:30 Essex movement is to encourage every Essex resident to take part in 30 minutes of movement every day in the month of June.

It is proven that an active lifestyle and regular exercise provides a range of benefits, such as improved energy and mental health as well as reducing the risk of heart disease and type 2 diabetes.

The current global situation has caused many Essex individuals to become more sedentary and less mobile, or less motivated due to being at home more than we were. The Active Essex led campaign hopes that June will become the motivation to get up and get moving.

Previous 30:30 Essex participant Adele Bovington, said: “Last year I used my 30 minutes each day to try as many new activities as I could. My children and I can’t wait to get started again this year! We have been enjoying the Keep Essex Active channel and can’t wait to keep trying new sessions.”

Essex residents can join the movement by following Active Essex on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram, joining the Keep Essex Active community group on Facebook and signing up to receive a resource pack at [www.3030essex.com](http://www.3030essex.com) to help keep you motivated and inspired and it even includes a selfie prop pack!

Azeem Akhtar, Chairman of Active Essex, said: “Now in its third year, the 30:30 Essex movement is back and we have already had fantastic support from local organisations, workplaces and individuals who want to use June as their motivation to keep moving. Especially during these difficult times, we know that movement and physical activity can all help physical and mental wellbeing. We look forward to having Essex get behind the campaign to together, keep Essex active.”

Cllr John Spence, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, said: “Essex County Council is pleased to support the Active Essex 30:30 challenge. Physical Activity not only improves physical health, but also mental health and it has a follow-on effect of taking strain of health services at this vital time. We are committed to improve the health of people in Essex and the 30:30 challenge is an effective way of achieving that aim.”

If you are taking part in this year’s challenge, share your stories on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram using the #3030Essex.

### **Essex County Council welcomes Government funding for cycling and walking to get the county moving**

The first tranche of a multi-million funding package that will help to transform the way people can cycle and walk in the county has just been announced by the Government.

The £1.9m from the Emergency Active Travel fund will allow Essex County Council to enhance current cycle lanes and pavements and create new ones. Everybody has the chance to improve the environment, create cleaner air and reduce congestion by, cycling and walking more, if they are able, using the car only if they have to or have no other means of transport over short distances.

At present, many town and city centre roads in Essex are empty or have dramatically less traffic, although as lockdown restrictions get gradually lifted it is anticipated that traffic levels will increase, but perhaps not back to pre-coronavirus levels. However many pavements and cycleways in Essex are too narrow to allow social distancing, so change is necessary to encourage new, healthier ways of travelling locally.

In order to prioritise pedestrians and cyclists more, Essex Highways is planning to utilise some road space by making temporary changes to the road network in Essex town and city centres to benefit users and residents.

The first tranche of funding from the Emergency Active Travel Fund, £1.9m has been received by Essex County Council. It is understood by the authority that this will represent approximately 20 per cent of the final funding which will be supplied by the Department for Transport.

Cllr Kevin Bentley, Deputy Leader of Essex County Council and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, said: “This is a real opportunity for people to change the areas where they live by improving the air quality and getting healthier. With the lockdown so many people have commented how much quieter areas are and how much fresher the air smells.

“While I absolutely recognise that many people will have to use their cars in the future, this is opportunity for people to think hard before they drive and ask themselves the question, can I walk or cycle? Our job is to make that as easy as we can given the size of the county.

“I am delighted with this announcement of £1.9m and I am expecting the Government to offer more given the importance of this issue and this opportunity to change the way we travel.”

“We have a responsibility to provide adequate physical distance in town and city centres to maintain social distancing and help prevent the spread of coronavirus.

“The Government’s advice is that people who can work from home should continue to do so and we will continue to remind employers of this.

“At the same time, for people who have no choice but to travel to work, journeys both on public transport and by car need to be managed and footways and cycle ways need to be safe and accommodate social distancing.

“We want to help people get back to work and we want to help the economy get back up and running – we can do that by making it safer for people to move around our busiest town centres.

“Our longer-term ambition is to maintain lower levels of private car use in urban areas, so that walking and cycling becomes the preferred choice for shorter journeys. We’ll be talking to cycling and walking groups in Essex to garner their input and this approach will also lead to an improvement in city and town centre air quality.”

### Infographic: Our response to coronavirus so far



We've been working to support residents, communities and businesses in Essex throughout the coronavirus pandemic.

Here are some key facts about our work so far:

- More than £260 million has been paid in grants to Essex businesses
- 21,000 businesses in Essex have received funding
- 237 businesses have been checked for compliance with lockdown regulations
- 500,000 items of PPE have been allocated to people and businesses around Essex
- [8 country parks](#) in Essex have safely reopened
- 5,805 residents have registered for support with the [Essex Welfare Service](#)
- 3,009 residents have registered to volunteer with the Essex Welfare Service
- 1,304 emergency food deliveries have been made to people in need
- 430 schools have remained open for children who are vulnerable or whose parents are essential workers
- 1,222 vulnerable children have attended school during the pandemic, while 4,404 children in total have attended school
- [15 recycling centres](#) are operational again for essential items

- 56,450 views of Essex Libraries' [Facebook videos](#) and 7,956 views on their [YouTube videos](#)
- Nearly 119,000 people have visited our [coronavirus hub](#) for information and advice
- We've reached 3.8 million people on [Facebook](#) and received 78,000 likes, shares and comments
- Our contact centre has taken 42,271 calls from residents

### **Essex County Council provides £250,000 funding to Citizens Advice service in Essex**

Essex County Council is providing £250,000 of funding to the local Citizens Advice network in Essex to help it in its response to individuals and small businesses in the county following the COVID-19 lockdown.

Each year, local Citizens Advice in Essex support thousands of people in financial difficulty and in recent year's this has increasingly included sole traders and small business owners

Most businesses in Essex are small – 91% have between 1 and 9 employees. Many small businesses, whether sole traders or limited companies, will have been hit by a loss of income during the COVID-19 lockdown and this will have an effect on many other areas of the business. The need for operational business support is expected to rise as the country comes out of lockdown.

The funding will be utilised in a number of ways, tailored to the needs of the locality. Firstly, all local Citizens Advice will be able to maintain or increase their overall service provision. Secondly, in addition to support to access operational help, local Citizens Advice will be on hand to also support smaller businesses, especially sole traders, to better manage their personal finances more effectively.

There are national support structures in place for small businesses but many directors of small firms and sole traders, working hard on their core business, may need help and expertise in accessing the help that is out there – that's where the Citizen's Advice service comes in.

The funding from Essex County Council will support Citizens Advice to offer additional capacity and more legal advice, such as specialist level employment advice, to small businesses.

The money will be provided to local Citizens Advice in Colchester, Basildon, Chelmsford, Braintree, Tendring, Epping Forest, Harlow, Uttlesford, Rochford, Brentwood and Maldon.

Cllr Tony Ball, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Economic Development, said: "Essex County Council already supports businesses to locate, grow and succeed in Essex and BEST Growth Hub provides free support and funding opportunities to grow businesses.

"Essex for Business offers funding opportunities and advice and Essex International helps businesses to find opportunities in China. On top of all this we want Essex to attract and grow large firms in high growth industries. We recognise that local Citizens Advice are a well-known and trusted organisation and want small business owners and sole traders to reach out for the support they need at this difficult time."

Cllr Susan Barker, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Customer, Corporate, Culture and Communities, said: "We know how important for people and businesses in our Essex communities to get the advice and support they need, and it's more important now than ever before. We are delighted that through our communities team we are able to support additional capacity through the Citizen's Advice service to support this work."

David Pickles, Chair of Citizens Advice Essex, the consortium body for the Citizens Advice network in Essex, said: "The Citizens Advice service is a known and trusted charity and relies upon income from grants and

contracts to survive. In these unprecedented times, trustees, volunteers and staff hugely appreciate the additional funding from Essex County Council, which will support their local office's response to the effects of Covid-19 in Essex."

### **Essex Welfare Service still available for those who need support**

Despite the easing of some Covid-19 restrictions the Essex Welfare Service (EWS) is still available to those who need to shield or might need to self-isolate over the coming months.

There is no change to the service the EWS is providing and vulnerable residents are encouraged to still access the support available if required.

Covid-19 is unlikely to just disappear and although restrictions are being eased for those shielding, residents are reminded to follow guidance safely and responsibly in order to protect each other and the most vulnerable.

The EWS is there to provide support around daily living tasks for those who are shielding, such as shopping and collection of prescriptions. In addition, the service has also expanded to meet a wider range of needs. Residents feeling isolated or vulnerable, regardless of their age, health or circumstance, can now access support on:

- Dementia care
- Mental health
- Parenting and family matters
- Learning disability/autism
- Caring responsibilities
- Physical wellness

You can register for support at [www.essexwelfareservice.org.uk](http://www.essexwelfareservice.org.uk) or call 0300 303 9988.

The revised government guidance for those shielding sets out how a shielded person can go outside once a day with members of their household or, for those shielding alone, with one other person from a different household. This is in accordance with evidence that the rate of transmission is much lower outside.

However, some important aspects of the guidance will remain the same. Apart from going outside once per day, as outlined above, a shielded person should continue to avoid all non-essential face to face contact. This means they should not go to places like supermarkets or to pharmacies. The support for shielded people remains in place and unchanged and this is why the Essex Welfare Service is reminding residents it is there to help.

Councillor David Finch, Leader of Essex County Council said: "While there will be many residents who will be delighted that they can now go for a gentle walk and take in some fresh air, we know there are many who are still shielding and who are not yet ready to step outside their front door. This is why I want to remind people the Essex Welfare Service is available, and our volunteers are ready to help and support anyone who feels isolated and vulnerable. There is no need to suffer alone. Please get in touch if we can help."

Simon Walsh

June 2020

**APPENDIX B – FINANCE STATEMENT**

LEPC June 2020 Finance Statement										
Precept	25,612							<b>Budget</b>	<b>Net Exp</b>	<b>Diff +/-</b>
								25,612	4,104	-21,508
Date	Supplier	Description	Invoice	FPO/DD	Min R	Rec	Credit	Debit	VAT	Net
<b>Opening Balance</b>							29,177.37	0.00		0.00
02-Jun	Haven Power	Electricity Lighting	866/867/523	DD		Y		94.09	4.48	89.62
11-Jun	Activ	Web services	3565	DD		Y		42.00	7.00	35.00
15-Jun	A&J Lighting	Street Lighting	34116	DD		Y		24.30	4.05	20.25
15-Jun	Haven Power	Electricity Lighting	7569/7574	DD		Y		47.86	2.28	45.58
24-Jun	MD Landscapes	Grass Cutting	407	FPO				156.00	26.00	130.00
24-Jun	Steve's Gardening	Grounds maintenar	Inv 3 & 4	FPO				355.00		355.00
24-Jun	EALC	Training Webinar	Inv 12850/12	FPO				96.00	16.00	80.00
24-Jun	A Dodsley	Zoom Subs	26129689	FPO				14.39	2.40	11.99
28-Jun	Employee	Expenses	Home Office	SO				26.00		26.00
28-Jun	Employee	Salary	PAYE	SO				404.73		404.73
<b>June</b>							29,177.37	1,260.37	62.21	1,198.17
<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>JULY</b>						<b>27,917.00</b>	0.00		0.00

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