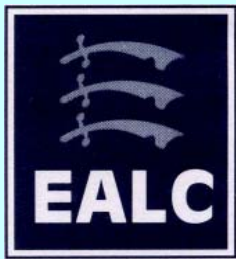


COUNTY UPDATE

Special Edition



ANNUAL REPORT 2015 - 2016

No. 139

Essex shines in the National Competitions 2015

Essex takes home Chair of the Year, Councillor of the Year and runner up in CALC Outstanding Project.

Chair of the Year goes to Cllr June Saltmarsh, Woodham Ferrers and Bicknacre Parish Council, Councillor of the Year goes to Cllr Derek Ailes, Chrishall Parish Council, Essex Association of Local Councils came runners up in CALC Outstanding Project of the Year with the Police Partnership Conference.



EALC Prestigious Awards 2015



Vaughton Council of the Year 2015, Congratulations to the winner Messing cum Inworth Parish Council.

Buckingham Palace Garden Party Award, Winner for 2016 - Cllr Brian Beale, Southminster Parish Council.

The EALC Gavel Award, Village of the Year Award goes to Felsted Parish Council.

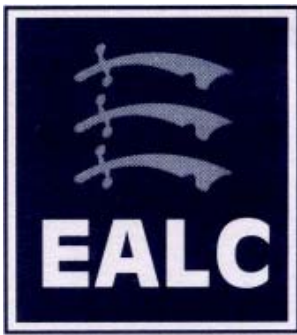
Innovative Development/New Projects Award Sponsored by Sheppard Electrical, Winner - Hockley Parish Council. The

Acumen Wages Service Award for Community Work, Winner - Loughton Town Council.

Special Achievement Award sponsored by A&J Lighting, Winner - Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet Parish Council.



Essex Association of Local Councils wishes to thank Essex County Council for the continued support and financial commitment to subsidise parish sector training.



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ASSOCIATION NEWS



Essex County Council

Essex County Council Funding and Support

The Essex Association of Local Councils wishes to formally record their sincere thanks to ECC for the support and funding it receives in the form of a grant, a premises grant and the Clerks Bursary Fund. Without this support the EALC would not be able to deliver services to the sector.

The EALC would also like to thank Cllr Mick Page who sits on the EALC Executive and supports the work of the Association. His views and guidance are extremely beneficial to the work of the Association. Cllr David Finch as Leader of ECC works incredibly hard for the sector, attending Parish Council meetings and offering support and guidance where appropriate.

Thank you to our Partners.



Transparency Funding

Working with 80 Councils with £25k or less income the EALC has secured £56k of funding to assist in meeting the challenges of the new Transparency Programme. These Councils have benefited by receiving funds for equipment, staff hours, web site design and broadband. The Funding from Government via NALC continues in the next financial year.

Meet your new Police & Crime Commissioner for Essex

Roger Hirst was declared the successful candidate on Friday May 6th 2016. He was then officially sworn in by Adrian Pritchard, the Chief Executive at Colchester Borough Council who acted as the Essex Police Area Returning Officer (PARO) for the PCC Election. The ceremony took place at Colchester's Charter Hall and was also attended by Essex Police's Chief Constable Stephen Kavanagh. Mr Hirst has experience as a Cabinet Member at Essex County Council and as deputy Leader at Brentwood Borough Council.



The Chairmans' Report to the EALC

EALC Annual Report 2016 Cllr John Gili-Ross

I remain immensely proud of being the EALC Chairman of what must be the most vibrant and successful County Association in England. Not only has the Association achieved 100% membership of councils in Essex but has been recognised by the National Association through a "Star Council Award". The many EALC achievements this year could not have been possible without the Members of Staff, the Executive Members who provide the District and Borough voice that guide the Association in its business and the many strategic partners the Association works with to provide real benefit to Member Councils.

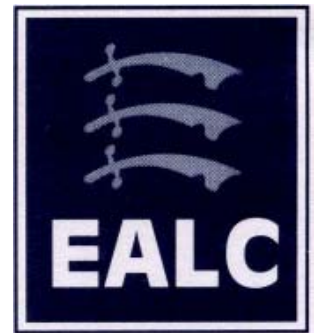


Change is ever present and continues to provide challenge and it is essential the EALC responds - nationally through statute and county specific through evolving Devolution planning. Through appropriate engagement the EALC provides the best of guidance to member councils with their interests coming first. My theme for last year was Improving Communication and this continues. For the current year the focus has been "Continued Added Value" which I believe every quality organisation must strive to achieve. This I believe is best achieved through active strategic partnership working and some of these partnerships include:

Working with the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner, National Association of Local Councils, Devolution Engagement with Essex Leaders, the Essex Rural Partnership, ECC Superfast Broadband Programme and the Parliament Engagement Programme – Engaging with our county MPs.

Providing training relevant to our sector remains an EALC top priority providing excellent networking, cross fertilisation, good practice and empathy with like-minded individuals with a desire to provide the very best for their communities.

I would like to thank both Cllr Peter Davey and Cllr Sheila Jackman my Vice Chairs for their work with our strategic partners as well as the Executive Members who do a great job in ensuring our Members voices are heard and acted upon. Finally my biggest thank you goes to Joy Darby, EALC Chief Executive who leads a diligent and enthusiastic team, which is 100% focused on delivering the very best of service to all member councils.



Executive Committee Members

Chairman

Cllr John Gili-Ross

Treasurer

Cllr David McPherson-Davis

Vice Chairmen

Cllr Sheila Jackman
Cllr Peter Davey

Committee

Cllr Keith Artus
Cllr Linda Belgrove
Cllr Stuart Berlyn
Cllr Peter Brown
Cllr Mandy Cohen
Cllr Helen Edwards
Cllr Valerie Morgan
Cllr Brian Hindley
Cllr Bryan Ledger
Cllr Roy Martin
Cllr Iain MacGregor
Cllr Hamish McIlwrick
Cllr Keith Miles
Cllr Richard North
Cllr Mick Page
Kathryn Richmond
Cllr Don Smith
Cllr Michael Talbot

President

Cllr John Jowers

Vice-Presidents

Margaret Grimster
Dominic Petre
Canon John Brown
Peter Martin

Individual Staff Achievements



During the year individual staff have achieved the following qualification ensuring that the EALC Staff continue with their professional development.

Carol Hartley (Finance Officer) ACCA qualification, Pitman Sage 50
Pearl Willcox (Training Officer) CiLCA, Food Safety (L2)
Sian Morris (Office and Training Co-ordinator) CiLCA, Food Safety (L2)
Linda Golding (Ass CEO) Food Safety (L2)
Kerry Wood (Office and Training Administrator), Food Safety (L2)
Amanda Brown (Parish Support Officer) First Aid
All Staff undertook Allergen Awareness Training

EALC 2015/2016 Highlights

2015 proved to be an extremely busy year for Training with over 60 Courses being run. We held 8 Councillor Training Days, Training 194 new Councillors. Chairman's Training days were doubled with 80 Councillors trained & 30 receiving their gavels.



We also introduced some new Courses into the Training Calendar. DIY Public Relations, Writing for the Web, 6 Vine HR Courses & the introduction of the Basic Playground Inspection Course. Risk Assessment with over 60 Trained. We also introduced a Health & Safety Course. Looking ahead for future Courses we will be introducing a Certificated Playground Inspection Course, 2 new Cemetery Courses & also a Course on how to use a defibrillator. We are also bringing back a couple that haven't been run for a few years, VAT and Greens, Commons & Open Spaces.

Gavels were awarded to Cllr Terry Flowers (Ashingdon) Kreon Wynn (Bradfield) Jo Clerk

(Billericay) John Clarke (Black Notley) Tony Belford, Jay Blissett (Canvey Island) Chris Argent (Canewdon) Jochen Culemann (Coggeshall) Terry Jack (Flich Green) Max Ford (Gosfield) Diane Greenwood (Great Saling) Mike Steel (Great Waltham) Lauren Shaw (Hawkwell) Nic Cooper (Little Baddow) Chris Audritt (Little Easton) Alan Walker (Marks Tey) Andy Duncan (Mayland) Jeanette Stilts (Maldon) Chris Evans, Tom Arnold (Nazeing) James Browning, John Reynolds (Ongar) Christine Callis (Rayleigh) Don Smith (Rayne) Dee Hyatt (Sandon) Ron Volkwyn, John Fennelly (Sible Hedingham) John Farron (Stapleford Abbots) Jane Goodwin (Stebbing) Alan Moor (Stisted) Roger Mannion (Tiptree) Ronald Dent (Tolleshunt D'Arcy) James Simms (West Hanningfield) Colin Fone (West Horndon) Jo Ann Williams, Thomas Pleasance (Witham) Joanna Symons (Woodham Walter)



The EALC continues to offer a large selection of courses for Clerks including a New Clerks Course, CiLCA Training by a Summer Intensive and the Essex Equals course which is run over 6 months. Clerks have passed the Clerks National Qualification

CiLCA 2013 Claire Waters, Tracy Wigmore, Abigale Howe, Kevin Money, Diane McCathy, Michelle Townsend Dawn Marriott, Liane Rowlands, Neil Williams, Kate Smiles, Valerie Holmes, Susan Barnes, Terrance Fostick. **New CiLCA 2015**—Keith Williams, Beverley Rumsey

Local Council Awards



During the year the staff at the EALC have supported Councils with the development of awards. These awards take time and effort to reach the high standard required by the Essex County Accreditation Panel chaired by Cllr Peter Davey. Councils achieving an award this year are as follows

Hullbridge Foundation, Quality and Gold, Wakes Colne Quality. There are 12 Councils currently developing applications.

Larger Local Councils Forum

The Larger Local Councils Forum is managed by Linda Golding Assistant CEO and Chaired by Cllr Keith Miles (EALC Executive Committee Member).

The Larger Local Councils met three times in the year, speakers included Tim Morris giving an interesting and amusing "Life at the Crematorium", Justin Griggs from NALC, The Community Warden at Canvey Island TC, PCSO's Essex Police, Web casting, Epping TC Youngest Councillor came to say hello, Waltham Abbey's First World War celebrations, Dunmow Flich Trials and Restorative Justice, Rodney Bass—Strategic Highways Essex. In addition at most meetings updates were provided by Cllr Peter Davey (NALC), Angela Balcombe - ECC (CIF Funding etc) Joy Darby (EALC) and Enid Walsh (SLCC).

Host Councils provided the venues and refreshments. These meetings are free to attend by any Essex Council if they have an interest on the agenda. The numbers attending have continued to remain steady throughout the year with numbers around 35 delegates.