

Essex Association of Local Councils

Larger Local Councils Forum

Meeting held at Mark Tey Parish Hall on 27th June 2019

In the Chair: Councillor Jim Devlin

Executive County Training Officer: Mrs Pearl Willcox

10.00 Opening Introductions by Chairman

Cllr Jim Devlin opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

10.05 Signing of Minutes from last meeting 28th February 2019

Apologies received: Mrs Pearl Willcox read the list of apologies.

10.10 Welcome from Marks Tey Chairman Cllr Allan Walker

Cllr Allan Walker welcomed those present on behalf of Marks Tey Parish Council. Marks Tey is a 2000 year old commuter village. The Romans came some 2000 years ago with the creation of the A12 and the A120. The village is cut in two by the A120. This poses challenges to the community on how we work today. The village hall that we are in today, is funded through precept.

10.15 Presentation: Roger Smith (Volunteer) from the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance

Volunteer 8 years with the Essex Air Ambulance – there are 350 volunteers undertaking a variety of roles within the organisation. These volunteers do a variety of jobs including working in shops, attending events, making presentation and acting as marshals.

The following represents

- 1996 Brian Shipley decided that we needed an air ambulance
- First helicopter in
- From 2011 it has been stationed at Earls Colne
- Hertfordshire Air Ambulance is stationed at North Weald airfield.
- During the 2nd world war Earls Colne was used by the Americans as their base

- The helicopter is a red design and originally designed for the American military
- Described as a small utility aircraft
- Four blades – can land at the hospitals
- This helicopter gets as close as possible to the patient
- 30 Knots
- 2 pilots (fly) and a co-pilot (navigation)
- A pilot/co-pilot, Doctor (registra level) and a paramedic can man the aircraft
- Paramedics are very highly skilled, however there is some things that they cannot do.
- Overhead cables are very difficult to see, and this is the responsibility the co-pilot
- The helicopter is a flying A & E department
- There are on average 2 – 3 call outs per day
- The Doctor are on a 3 year contract working a four day shift
- Competition is great and many Doctors apply
- Critically ill and injured
- Road traffic accidents
- 30% of people are airlifted to hospital
- The Doctor will decide what hospital is the most appropriate
- Specialist Hospitals are designated around the County or in London or in neighbouring counties
- Those that are not airlifted are then taken to the most appropriate hospital dependant on the patients' needs
- All staff are wearing the Air Ambulance clothing, which is flame resistant
- Patient Monitors cost £28,000
- Cost of the two Air Ambulances cost £9 million a year to fully run
- No government funding
- No lottery funding
- Air Ambulance is funded by legacies, wills, charity shops, donation boxes

Roger Smith answered a number of questions from those gathered.

11.00 NALC Update – Cllr Peter Davey Chairman of the EALC – NALC Representative

Cllr Peter Davey provided a written report and highlighted a number of important issues, including the following

- National Loneliness Week

- Essex visit and developments
NALC attended the opening of Ingatestone and Fryerning Parish Council's new Seymour Pavilion and Field in May.
- EALC launched the new Community Initiative Fund
- Microgrants
- Together with other community sector representatives NALC met with senior officials from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, to discuss a draft communities framework to help deliver the MHCLG's secretary of state, James Brokenshire MP's, vision of strong communities of place and the support necessary to build them. He wants "to ensure that community voices are heard, valued and produce change so that no community is left behind."
- NALC committee, Management Board, has agreed recommendation of an increase in affiliation fees to 7.2p per elector in 2020 capped at £1840.
- The Finance and Scrutiny Committee received the unaudited draft year end management accounts which showed a comfortable surplus as projected
- The budget for the new financial year was considered and adjustments made in the light of the year outturn, together with considering the recommendation to be made for the affiliation fee for 2020/21 – the committee agreed to recommend the increases discussed at last year's Annual General Meeting of 3% per year for the next three years
- Precepts media coverage - The average Band D precept increase in 2019/20 is actually 4.9% and not 5.7% as published in March
- Community Infrastructure Levy
- Neighbourhood planning.

The full report is available on the EALC website

11.05 SLCC Update – Mark Squire – Chairman Society of Local Council Clerks and Town Clerk to Loughton Town Council

Mr Squire made a short presentation including the following points

- In June the SLCC had the most well attended training day

- National

11.10 Presentation: Cllr Lesley Wagland, Deputy to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure (Cllr Kevin Bentley).

- The Highways portfolio is often considered the most difficult
- The service seemed to be disassociated from the Councillors and the highway users
- The challenge is to develop a more accessible service
- The importance was to change the ethos
- Build relationships
- Pothole initiative – each County Councillor could ask for the top 10 potholes and most of them have now been completed
- Over 6000 potholes have been fixed
- Any that are causing a problem – contact Cllr Wagland
- Accident data will drive changes to the road layout to make the roads safer.
- Local knowledge is important and County Councillors should be using parish council to gain the knowledge.
- Every County Councillor has a senior officer as a buddy, who is someone that they are able to contact.
- Emphasis has now shifted to footways and pavements; this is very difficult as the mapping of services is really difficult. Undertaking footway repairs is very costly. Each County Councillor has 5 to identify
- Overall budget will include the footway and pavements, and later residential areas
- Highway Panels priorities will be undertaken within 1 year or so
- Direct Delivery Teams – now dedicated to Highway Panels who will undertake small scale work
- Savings over 7 months have been 700,00
- Street Lights – LED rollout is expensive but necessary because the older style lamp bulbs are no longer made
- M11 junction 7a
- 5000 miles of roads – as much as Essex to the great wall of china
- Bridges are going to be an issue
- Commercial deliveries is adding to the issues
- Road surfacing is being looked at
- Diversions onto rural roads is causing issues
- Inform Highways when utilities are doing the work badly. If they run over a charge can be made. We can act as the eyes to inform ECC when there are problems
- Reporting – tell ECC what the quality of the work undertaken in your area – this will help measure satisfaction
- Normal route map, with parish councils reporting on the online tool. After 2 weeks this can be escalated to the ECC Member who will

contact the buddy. If this is still not sorted then it can be escalated to the ECC Member surgery

- Essex Safer Essex Partnership – Chaired by Cllr Lesley Wagland – to reduce deaths and serious injuries on Essex roads. For every 1 injury, there are 10 non injuries.
- 77 courses for speeding etc. The revenue goes into the Essex Safer Partnership
- Safer Partnership runs a ‘Surround a Town’ initiative which stops cars and Lorries. Common issues are tachograph offences, cannabis issues, seat belt, mobile phone offences etc.
- Safety work on schemes to improve road safety.
- Cycle and Pedestrian crossings now in Chelmsford.

Cllr Wagland answered a number of questions from those gathered. She emphasised the need to record matters.

11.55 EALC Update – Joy Darby Chief Executive Officer EALC

Mrs Darby made a presentation that included the following

- Introducing the new Health and Wellbeing Officer – Danielle Frost
- Mental Health First Aid Training
- J9 Training – Domestic Abuse Training
- ABC Training
- Looking for good practice to share
- Delivering courses to develop the skills within a Council to achieve greater community work, building community cohesion
- Courses will include workshops to develop ideas around engaging with the community
- Louise Gambardella continues to administer the CIF application
- Community Chest, micro grants delivering quick responses to community projects up to £500. Once an application is made it will take a maximum of 5 weeks if you are successful to receive the cheque
- Mrs Darby gave two examples of the poly tunnel and the marquee
- Church Funding continues to be a lobby consideration with the EALC working hard to try to resolve this matter

12.00 Open Forum Time

The following matters were raised

- A127 Variable Speed limits/ congestion charging.

A127 has failed the emissions on one part of the A127. Currently limiting

the speed to 50 mph is the favoured option. Other ways of travelling are required to take cars and lorries off the road. Main issue is by the round-about that is no longer used as a round-about.

Speed cameras are also an issue as cars slow and then accelerate.

- LED Street Lighting was raised at Great Baddow as a possible causes of cancer because of the lights. Cllr Wagland stated that this was not the cause. The matter has been referred to ECC. CLLR Wagland asked that this be provided to her for research.
- How to manage work by the Parish Council, and allowing work to be devolved to a Committee or a subcommittee. The need to remain within the law.

12.30 Chairman to Close Meeting

The meeting was closed at 12.30

Signed Date

Next Meeting – Heybridge Parish Council will be hosting the November LLCF on the 20th November 2019.

Those Present and Apologies

Barling Magna	Cllr Mandy Cohen	Apologies sent
Billericay Town Council	Deborah Tonkiss	Apologies sent
Billericay Town Council	Jo Clark	Apologies sent
Billericay Town Council	Cllr Jim Devlin	
Brightlingsea Town Council	Cllr Caroline MacGregor	
Broomfield	Mike Letch	Apologies sent
Buckhurst Hill	Liz Petyt-Start	Apologies sent
Canewdon	Kelly Holland	
Canewdon	Cllr Jane Craven	
Canewdon	Cllr Shirley Kirton	
Danbury	Stuart Berlyn	Apologies sent
EALC	Joy Darby	
Epping Town Council	Barbara Scruton	
Galleywood	Tory Melhuish	Apologies sent

Great Baddow	Clare Milligan	
Great Baddow	Val Chiswell - Chairman	
Great Dunmow TC	Cllr Phillip Milne	
Great Dunmow TC	Cllr Terry Moore	
Great Notley/SLCC	Suzanne Walker	Apologies sent
Halstead TC	Sarah Greatorex	
Harwich TC	Cllr Steve Richardson	
Heybridge	Mandy Hilton	
Heybridge	Simon Burwood - Chairman	
Heybridge	Ashely Jones - Vice Chairman	
Heybridge	Cllr John Harrison	
Hockley	Cllr Roy Martin	
Hockley	Cllr Sue Martin	
Hockley	Cllr Veronica Randall	
Ingatestone & Fryerning	Cllr Peter Davey	
Leigh on Sea TC	Helen Symmons	
Loughton TC	Mark Squire	
Loughton TC	Cllr David Wixley	
Maldon TC	Jeanette Stilts	
Maldon TC	Cllr Peter Stilts	
Marks Tey Parish Council	Cllr Alan Walker	
Saffron Walden TC	Lisa Courtney	
Shalford	Cathryn Carlisle	Apologies sent
Southminster	Cllr John Anderson	Apologies sent
Stanway	Cllr John Spademan	
Stanway	David Lines	
West Mersea Town Council	Petra Palfreyman	Apologies sent
Witham Town Council	James Sheehy	Apologies sent