

ESSEX ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Weekly Walk Through

Covid19



24th June 2020

Issue No. 11

Dear Chairman, Councillors, Clerks and Members,

June has been a very busy month for us all, with longer days to enjoy the evening sunshine we are all trying to make the most of this time.

The new Webinars for Risk Assessments have been successful with good feedback. Please keep checking the website for up to date information and as we all prepare for changing times ahead we will ensure to bring you the latest guidance as soon as we can.

The new legal enquiry process and procedure is working really well, we are allocating a number to your enquiry so we can be sure we do not miss any of your questions or concerns. Please ensure to send your enquiry to legal@ealc.gov.uk as you are important to us and we will endeavour to respond as soon as we can.

I do hope to see you soon on a Webinar or Clerks Forum.

Stay Safe and Best Wishes *Charles Slade*



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Deferral of VAT payments due to coronavirus

Temporary changes to the VAT payments due between 20 March 2020 and 30 June 2020 to help businesses manage their cash flow.

The VAT payment deferral period ends on 30 June 2020. This means you'll need to:

- ◆ set-up cancelled direct debits in enough time for HMRC to take payment
- ◆ submit VAT returns as normal, and on time
- ◆ pay the VAT in full on payments due after 30 June

Any VAT payments you have deferred between 20 March and 30 June should be paid in full on or before 31 March 2021. You can make additional payments with subsequent returns.

Contact HMRC:

- ◆ if you are unable to pay the VAT due and may need time to pay as soon as possible and before the payment is due
- ◆ for advice and information on other support available

UK Covid19 Alert Level is lowered to Risk Level 3

The CMOs for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have reviewed the evidence and agree with this recommendation to move to Level 3 across the UK.

There has been a steady decrease in cases we have seen in all four nations, and this continues. It does not mean that the pandemic is over. The virus is still in general circulation, and localised outbreaks are likely to occur.

Stage of outbreak		Measures in place
Risk of healthcare services being overwhelmed	5	Lockdown begins
Transmission is high or rising exponentially	4	Social distancing continues
Virus is in general circulation	3	Gradual relaxation of restrictions
Number of cases and transmission is low	2	Minimal social distancing, enhanced tracing
Covid-19 no longer present in UK	1	Routine international monitoring

Next phase of NHS coronavirus (COVID-19) app announced

The government has [announced the next phase of development](#) in building an app that supports the end-to-end NHS Test and Trace service. 

This next phase will bring together the work done so far on the NHS COVID-19 app and the new Google/Apple framework.



Parish Council Meetings Repeated as Important

It is still not possible to hold a Parish Council meeting in person at this time.

This is because the government is still prohibiting gatherings of people from more than one household. Whilst your councillors can social distance at a meeting, they are from different households. The other issue is you would not be able to limit the numbers of members of the public wishing to attend. The risks of bringing people together are not manageable under the current social distancing rules.



REMEMBER!

Government restrictions mean that councils **CANNOT** meet in person, even with social distancing arrangements.

Doing so would:

- ◆ Increase risk of spreading the virus
- ◆ Make the meeting inaccessible to the public
- ◆ Set poor example to local community





Week commencing 22nd June 2020

Well that was a great week and thank heavens for the rain, I was beginning to think my garden was going to turn into a savannah! We all achieved something last week whether it was a Brownie badge or being able to play a piano piece through to the end, baking bread or doing some decorating. Our town opened more of its shops and there was a real hopeful feel in the air. I went back to my list writing too! I am often ridiculed for the lists I write but there is something so satisfying with crossing off things you have done. Sometimes if the list looks overwhelming, I add a couple of already completed tasks, just so I can cross them off to feel purposeful and encourage me onto the next thing.



I read this really interesting article last week which resonated with how I have been feeling, so I thought I'd share it with you. [Corona virus hasn't gone away. So why are people acting as if it has?](#)

I did two Health and Wellbeing forums last week and it was so nice to get the lovely feedback from those who attended. Comments like *"Very informative, with some good advice"* and *"Thank you Danielle, this has been really helpful and informative. I appreciate you doing this training and look forward to the follow up."* There are a couple of spaces free on the 30th and I have released the 7th and 14th of July as two more dates. To book please contact Pearl at pearl.willcox@ealc.gov.uk

We have had some more plans come in too which is really lovely to see. These plans show the work the parish or town council has committed to do or is planning for the future. They also show any barriers or blockages which is something we feedback to ECC and other 3rd sector partners. Some of your councils may act solely as signposts for residents to access information and or support and this is absolutely fine. You can reflect this in your plan by expressing who you signpost to and why.

J9 Domestic Abuse training is now available online.

Sessions start on Thursday 2 July and will take place every **Tuesday at 10am and Thursday at 2pm** (and will continue online on these days and times until further notice.) The training will be hosted via Zoom and last for approximately 1 hour.

Prior to training you will be required to watch a 20 minute video made by Janine Mundy's family, whom the J9 initiative is named after. The link for this video will be sent to you one week before your training session. Following training you will receive a link to download the J9 Information Pack which contains useful information and contact numbers.

This training is free of charge and is very important as cases of domestic abuse have increased. Local councils can use the information to support their residents.

Please let me know if you are interested in the training. If you have whole council or a large number of applicants let me know and I will try to arrange that too.

danielle.frost@ealc.gov.uk



Danielle Frost

Health and Wellbeing Officer



Community Initiative Fund 2020/2021 Launch

This fund is aimed at individuals, voluntary organisations and community groups with a vision to boost their local communities and help make Essex a great place to live and work.

Grants of up to £10,000 may be awarded for either a Capital or Revenue (not core costs) project. One off grants will be decided by the Panel in October 2020.

Organisations can apply to the CIF if you have previously received funding in the past 3 years but not for the same project.

This fund excludes projects that deliver outside the administrative area of Essex County Council.

Please submit your pre application forms to Louise Gambardella at louise.gambardella@ealc.gov.uk by 5pm on Tuesday 30th June 2020.

For more information and pre application form please visit our dedicated webpage [HERE](#)

Useful Information

EALC Publications

If you wish to purchase any of the following publications please complete and return your order form to communicationsofficer@ealc.gov.uk

Local Councils Explained	£14.99 + £5 p+p
Good Councillor Guide	£3.99 + £4 p+p
Being a Good Employer	£3.99 + £4 p+p
Good Councillor Guide to Neighbourhood Planning	£3.99 + £4 p+p

Order Form 

NEW EALC LEGAL ENQUIRIES EMAIL

Don't Forget any legal, process or procedure enquires are now to be emailed to legal@ealc.gov.uk

NEW EALC COMMUNICATIONS EMAIL

Don't Forget any enquiries in relation to EALC Communications including Covid19 Updates, Weekly Walk Through, Job, Police and eBulletins, the website or social media are now to be sent to communicationsofficer@ealc.gov.uk



Essex Resilience Forum

Please see the attached latest Briefing Note



New guidance from Essex Highways

Guidance for placing of Covid-19 'Safer, Greener, Healthier' stencilling / tape / stick on / notices / posters on the public highway

New guidelines have been published by Essex Highways that Parish and Town councils may find useful. They offer advice on for placing stencilling / tape / stick on / notices / posters on- or over the public highway in Essex (during the response to the COVID 19 pandemic).

You can find the pdf document in the 'Documents' section at the foot of [the main Essex Highways 'Safer, Greener, Healthier' web page](#).



NHS Basildon and Brentwood, NHS Castle Point and Rochford, NHS Mid Essex, NHS Southend and NHS Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)

Please see the attached the 10th briefing for our external stakeholders to update you on the Mid and South Essex Health and Care Partnership response to COVID-19 (novel coronavirus).



Mid and South Essex
Health and Care
Partnership



Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Essex

Please see the attached latest update



PFCC
POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME
COMMISSIONER FOR ESSEX

EALC achievements during Covid19 Lockdown

The EALC wishes to thank our Membership for the support of Chairman, Councillors and Clerks during this difficult period.

Below you will see the achievements of the EALC staff with support of the EALC Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Executive members.

Thank you all so much for supporting us during this difficult time and paying your affiliation fees so quickly.

Legal enquiries

236

We are trying to complete all enquiries in a timely manner, please accept our apologies if your enquiry has been delayed.

COVID– 19 Updates

57

During the month we have refined the way we update you. We trust this is useful to you.

EALC Connections for Clerks

26

The Clerk Connection forums enable Clerks to get together share experiences and ask questions 228 Clerks attended.

EALC Connections for Chairman and Councillors

17

The Chairman and Councillor Forums have brought members together to exchange views and deal with common issues 212 Chairman and Councillors have attended these.

Webinars

2

The EALC have organised a Variety of training webinars for members including Agenda & Minutes, New Clerks Briefings, Risk Assessments, Councillor and Chairman Training. 14 Clerks, Councillors and Chairman have attended these.

Health & Wellbeing Plans Forums

5

The Health & Wellbeing Plans Forums for the present Covid –19 circumstances are an efficient way of letting residents know what Local Councils and volunteer groups are doing in the area. 44 Clerks, Councillors and Chairman have attended these.

Health & Wellbeing Updates

8

During COVID 19 it is really key for the EALC to keep you updated and help support the development of Health and Wellbeing Plans.

Weekly Walk Through Publications

10

Our newest COVID 19 publication – bringing to you good information in every edition.

Micro Grants Awarded

19

Grants were awarded to a number of community development projects and to some COVID 19 related projects

Emergency Foodbank Fund Awards

37

This is a new fund solely dependent on public donations.

All figures correct as given at time of publication