



Monthly Bulletin

Issue 73 December 2018



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FCN
THE FARMING
COMMUNITY
NETWORK

PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD THAT FCN IS HERE TO HELP

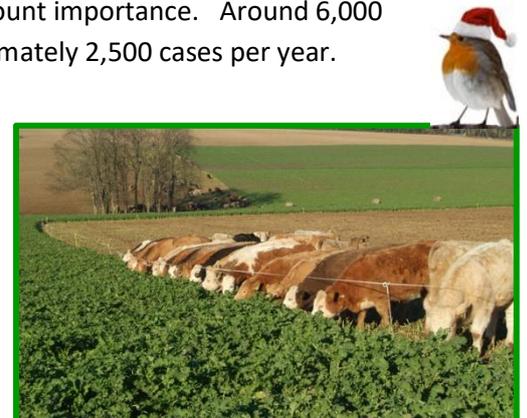
The Farming Community Network (FCN) is a charity that supports farmers and families within the farming community through difficult times.

In order to do this FCN have a helpline: 03000 111 999 via which you can speak to a sympathetic individual any time from 7am to 11pm. You can also email: help@fcn.org.uk

Many issues are dealt with over the phone but for those that are more complex or need the personal touch, FCN have over 400 volunteers nationally who are able to come out and visit you and be by your side until the problem or issue has been solved. Most people turn to FCN because of financial troubles, in particular, issues surrounding the Basic Payment Scheme and low market values, but increasingly FCN is helping people deal with a variety of issues, such as poor mental health, animal welfare, tenancy issues, relationship breakdowns and bereavements. FCN offers a discrete third party who farmers and their families can confide in and trust.

Farming in Essex is a tight knit community and so confidentiality is of paramount importance. Around 6,000 people a year benefit from FCN's service and our volunteers take on approximately 2,500 cases per year.

FCN rely on fundraising to cover the costs of the helpline and the mileage undertaken by our volunteers as they go about their work. FCN are a Christian charity, underpinned by Christian values, however they are non-evangelising and support is provided to anyone for as long as it is needed. Essex is fortunate in having an active and enthusiastic group of volunteers who spend their time promoting FCN by attending events and shows, fundraising and doing the casework to help people locally. FCN are very fortunate to have Rev'd Janet Nicholls as their FCN Chaplain for the group and if anybody is interested in getting involved with FCN, they can contact Janet or philip.wilson.fcn@gmail.com



FUTURE LIBRARY SERVICES IN ESSEX 2019-2024

Essex County Council (ECC) is consulting on its proposed strategy for library services over the next five years. In March 2018, Essex residents and library users were asked for their views on libraries and the feedback informs the strategy. ECC's priorities, with books and reading at the top, reflect the public's priorities. However, in the last six years, here in Essex and across the country, use of libraries has slumped. This means that, given the pressure on public finances, the service is no longer viable in its current form. The strategy sets out the priorities for library services. Have your say on the plans to shape a service that's modern, focused and fit for the way we live now and in the future. [Click here](#) for further information.



ESSEX RESIDENTS URGED TO HAVE THEIR SAY ON FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN FOR THE COUNTY

People who live or work in Essex are being asked for their views on the proposed priorities in the county's first ever Fire and Rescue Plan. Roger Hirst, the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex, is developing a Fire and Rescue Plan that sets out his vision and priorities for the delivery of fire and rescue services in Essex. The plan will run from 2019 to 2024 and will be the basis on which Mr Hirst holds Essex County Fire and Rescue Service to account for its performance. The document mirrors the Police and Crime Plan which sets the priorities for

policing in Essex.

Over the summer, Mr Hirst has been working with fire and rescue service employees, Essex partners, representatives from local authorities and other blue light organisations, such as the ambulance service and the police, to develop the themes and priorities the draft plan includes. He now wants to know what the public thinks and is urging people to complete a survey which was launched on Tuesday November 20.

The survey will be open for eight weeks, until January 15.

To find out more please [click here](#) To have your say please [click here](#)



FARMERS ARE READY TO EMBRACE ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE – NFU

Farmers are being urged to get on the front foot and explain to MPs and the general public the invaluable work they do to protect and enhance the environment. The NFU held its first conference to highlight the important environmental work carried out by farmers and land managers in shaping the

UK's iconic landscape. The event held in London also saw the launch of the [union's new report](#). The 20-page report celebrates some of the invaluable environmental work farmers have done under agri-environment schemes over the past decade. This includes the maintenance, management and restoration of 280,000km of hedgerows, ditches and stonewalls and planting the equivalent of 10,000 football pitches of wildflower habitat for bees and other pollinators.

NFU president Minette Batters said: "We want to rise to the challenge to be the first generation to leave the environment better off than how we found it. "Farm businesses play an irreplaceable role in shaping the countryside we all enjoy today. Every sector and every type of farm continues to carry out a huge amount of work to protect and enhance the landscape, encourage wildlife, benefit soil and water, and reduce the impact on the climate. But, crucially, farmers are food producers too... balancing the environment's needs while producing safe, affordable food is key." To read the full article please [click here](#)



AN UPDATE FROM THE COMMUNITY BUILDERS

Update from Les and Ollie: Our village engagements started in earnest in September this year although a few were undertaken before that, so far this has involved 19 villages within Uttlesford and Braintree with a further 5 planned before the end of the year.

To date we have knocked on over 1500 doors, booked almost 150 free Home Fire Safety visits which will include the fitting of free smoke alarms and have offered domestic crime prevention advice to over 300 households.

In the new year this programme will continue with 2 villages being visited each week until the end of March which is when this Rural Community Builder pilot is due to end. As yet we have not heard whether it will be continued, expanded, moved or ended.

Other work has included visiting just over 100 vulnerable adults who have had a safeguarding referral made for them, these referrals can be for many different reasons and can be sent in by either our fire crews after an incident or partner agencies who have engaged with the individual. We visit to provide information and advice as is necessary and where appropriate we will signpost to other agencies, local groups or direct to social services.

We also carry out a similar visits in partnership with Essex Police, these occur following a report of a crime in a rural area, Essex Police will carry out their investigation after which the victim is offered a 'TLC' visit from either Oliver or myself to provide advice (both fire safety and crime prevention) and reassurance as appropriate.

The final part of our role is to organise and attend events throughout Uttlesford and Braintree and so far to date we have been involved in 110 events of varied sizes at which we continue to provide fire safety and crime prevention advice as well as promoting initiatives from both Essex Fire & Rescue Service and Essex Police.



IT SUPPORT AVAILABLE

I-Tea Community360 will be providing an I-Tea Support Network which is a FREE service designed to help and support using and setting up laptops, tablets, phones for emails, internet browsing, shopping online and social media platform.

You are invited to bring your own device or use theirs! The support will be held on the following dates and locations:



<p>The Reading Room High Street Great Yeldham Halstead CO9 4ER</p>	<p>Meet every Monday 11am-1pm 7th January – 8th April 2019</p> <p>For further details please contact: 01376 550507</p>
<p>Baptist Church 27 Butt Lane Maldon CM9 5HD</p>	<p>Meet every Thursday 2pm – 4pm</p> <p>For further details please contact: information@community360.org.uk 01206 505250</p>
<p>One Colchester Shop Unit 81 Culver Street East Colchester CO1 1LF</p>	<p>Meet every Tuesday & Friday 11am - 1pm</p> <p>For further details please contact: information@community360.org.uk 01206 505250</p>



OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE FOR LET - THRESHELFORDS BUSINESS PARK, FEERING, ESSEX CO5 9SE

RCCE occupies a modern two storey detached office building (covering circa 4,000 square feet) on the Threshelfords Business Park in Feering. The building is completed to a high specification and benefits from suspended ceilings, perimeter trunking, gas central heating, sealed unit double glazed windows, a passenger lift, disabled WC, and kitchen facilities.

The building is part of a development of seven individually designed office buildings of roughly the same size in a parkland setting. Up to 1,340 square feet of space on the first floor of the building is immediately available to let.

In terms of transport links, Threshelfords Business Park is in close proximity to the A12, midway between Witham and Marks Tey. Chelmsford and Colchester (via the A12) and Braintree (via the A120) are all less than 20 minutes away by car, as is the A12 junction with the A130 to the south of the County. To the west, the M11 and Stansted Airport are 30 minutes away (via the A120).

The nearest train station is Kelvedon which is on the London Liverpool Street to Ipswich main line - the approximate journey times by train are 15 minutes to Chelmsford, 10 minutes to Colchester and 50 minutes to Liverpool Street. Trains in each direction run every half-hour. Kelvedon station is approximately 0.75 miles away from Threshelfords Business Park (a 20-minute walk). The nearest bus stop to the park is a 5-minute walk away. Buses run to a number of local destinations including Witham, Tiptree and Maldon.

All enquiries should be directed in the first instance to Martin Woodrow, Finance & Administration Manager at martin.woodrow@essexrcc.org.uk

EVENTS



Essex Rural Partnership meeting dates for 2019 will be announced in the next bulletin January 2019



**FINALLY ESSEX RURAL PARTNERSHIP WOULD LIKE
TO WISH ALL OUR MEMBERS AND READERS
A WARM AND WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY
NEW YEAR!**



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