

## WELCOME BACK

Here at the Essex Rural Partnership we hope you enjoyed the Christmas break, we would also like to thank you for your continued support as we embark on yet another year of interest and opportunities.

May I take this moment to say we welcome relevant news from you and are very happy to feature it in our monthly bulletin.

Please contact: Lizzie via email: [elizabeth.rose@essexrcc.org.uk](mailto:elizabeth.rose@essexrcc.org.uk)



## SUPERFAST ESSEX PROGRAMME UPDATE VISIT AN ESSEX SMART HOME TO SEE HOW TECH CAN HELP



Smart technology is helping to transform the lives of older people and people with disabilities in Essex - and it could help you or someone you know.

Digital Boomers has helped to install tech such as smart speakers, care tablets, video doorbells, motion sensors and panic buttons in Essex

homes to support people with care needs. It is helping them to live more independently, stay living in their own home for longer, feel safer, less lonely and more in control of their own lives, and giving their families peace of mind and reassurance, particularly if they don't live nearby.

Superfast visited three smart homes in Essex and captured their stories on film. Watch their videos and contact Digital Boomers to find out more about smart technology in the home or to arrange a visit to one of the smart homes to see the technology in action for yours



To access the full update which includes Essex business gets full fibre with voucher scheme and Gigaclear network grows in Braintree and Uttlesfords, please [click here](#)

## PAYING FOR POLICING #MAKEADIFFERENCE



Update from Roger Hirst Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex.

“Funding for Essex Police comes from two sources, central Government and local Council Tax. Taking these two funding sources into account Essex Police receives the second lowest funding per resident of any police force in the country and has one of the lowest Council Tax precepts for policing.

“Over the last two years I carried out surveys asking whether or not you would pay more to increase investment in policing in Essex. Last year 4187 people completed the survey and 71 per cent of the people who responded said they would be prepared to invest more in policing to help improve the service provided. As a result, we increased the policing element of Council Tax by £24 a year for the average household. The maximum permitted by the Government without a referendum.

“This extra investment is making a difference in Essex, helping us deliver an extra 368 officers, including:

- New town centre teams across the county
- More local policing
- More rural policing
- Growth in specialist officers to tackle gangs and drug related violence

“Combined with the 135 officers being funded by the Government as part of the first wave of the 20,000 extra officers they have promised nationally, it means we will be recruiting 503 extra officers by April 2021. Taking into account recent investments in technology and improved efficiency this will make Essex Police as strong as it has ever been.

“This extra investment is having an impact on policing in Essex and in recent years, we have seen a reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour, burglary and theft. However, we know that violent crime, domestic abuse and online crime are all increasing nationally and these effects are being felt in Essex.

“Like other organisations, the cost of policing is affected by inflation and the increased cost of goods and services. This year we are expecting some significant increases in our costs including a 2.5 per cent increase in police officer and staff wages.

“If we want to invest more in policing and crime prevention activities we need to invest more than inflation.

“Before we take those decisions, we want to know what you think.

Fill in the survey here." <https://essexpfcc.limequery.com/667238?lang=en>

## FORMER PFCC OFFICES IN CHELMSFORD GO ON THE MARKET

The former offices of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex will soon be on the open market for sale.

The two storey building in Hoffmanns Way, Chelmsford, is now empty after the small number of police staff based there relocated to Harlow at the end of November. The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner’s Office moved out of the Hoffmanns Way office in order to free up this valuable piece of estate so it could be sold, and the proceeds reinvested in policing.

Roger Hirst, Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex, said: “The capital value of the property is estimated to be around £1.4 million – money, which can be invested back into policing. “We need to deliver as much funding to frontline operational policing as possible rather than pour money into maintaining buildings that have long since ceased to be viable for the demands of modern policing.”

More details of the Essex Police Estates Strategy are available here <https://www.essex.pfcc.police.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Estates-Strategy-2018.pdf>

## ESSEX POLICE LAUNCH RURAL CRIME WEBPAGE



Rural crime is an issue for large areas of the country but it tends to go unreported. It can impact on insurance premiums, food prices and damage local communities. Find out what rural crime is and what can be done to prevent it. [Click here](#)



## TESCO TO HELP CUSTOMERS VISUALISE THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THEIR SHOPPING



As part of its collaboration with WWF, Tesco has produced a new metric which enables customers to track the environmental impact of some of its most popular products.

The metric will track the environmental impact of 20 of Tesco’s most frequently sold own-brand items across seven issues: climate change; deforestation; sustainable diets; sustainable agriculture; marine impact; food waste and packaging waste. Each of these impacts will be allocated a different weighting to give products an overall percentage score, with climate change given the highest (25%) weighting and packaging waste (8%) the lowest. By early 2020, Tesco and WWF will have analysed data and produced an overall score for each of the 20 products, which include milk, eggs, fruit, vegetables, tinned tuna, snack foods and pre-prepared lines. This information will enable the supermarket to set a date by which it believes its target of halving the impact of the average UK shopping basket can be reached. Tesco is hoping to deliver on this ambition by 2030 at the latest, by working with supply chains to combat issues such as deforestation, water mismanagement and soil degradation. Tesco’s chief executive Dave Lewis said the firm’s work with WWF forms part of its mission to provide shoppers with “good quality, affordable food that is produced in a sustainable way”.

Please [click here](#) for the full article

## CO-OP TARGETS 100% RECYCLABLE PACKAGING BY SUMMER 2020



The retail chain initially voted to target 100% recyclability for packaging across all own-brand products in 2017, setting a deadline of 2023.

But, after removing all black plastics from own-brand lines and rolling out [compostable carrier bags](#) last year, the Co-op has now said it is on track to achieve the ambition this summer.

In a blog post, the company's chief commercial officer for retail, Michael Fletcher, said the last big challenge in achieving the aim is tackling plastic film, which most UK councils will not collect at kerbside.

To overcome this obstacle, the Co-op will trial in-store collection points for all kinds of flexible plastics during spring, and install such points across its national retail estate by the end of the summer. Customers will be encouraged to deposit items such as crisp packets and bread, pasta and rice bags in the boxes, which will be collected for specialist recycling. To read the full article please [click here](#)



## FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK (FCN) IS HERE TO HELP

Following a report by ITV regarding the health and wellbeing of our farmers a survey of 700 farmers by the Farmer's Guardian showed that on average farmers take just 11 days off a year, with 1 in 10 saying they never take a day's holiday. In the survey's conclusion, they say that could be a danger - not just to their physical health but also their mental health.

FCN, runs a helpline for farmers, supporting them with issues from paperwork and financial problems to mental health. The charity takes on a thousand cases a year - more than a third of which deal with physical and mental wellbeing.

Phillip Wilson FCN Regional Director (Eastern Counties) had this to say: "When farmers don't look after themselves, they get stressed, anxious and that's when the mental health starts to suffer. Plus the fact that farmers are naturally a macho bunch they don't want to confess they're feeling down or in a low place and that is actually changing for the better."

The NFU agreed, saying farmers are beginning to break the taboo and speak out about their mental and physical health. To view the ITV article and short film please [click here](#)

The 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](mailto: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 their 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 on: [philip.wilson.fcn@gmail.com](mailto:philip.wilson.fcn@gmail.com). Please spread the word that FCN is there to help."

## EVENTS

### VILLAGE HALLS WEEK 2020: 20TH – 26TH JANUARY 2020



Village Halls Week is an annual, national celebration of rural community spaces and the people whose time and dedication keep them going. Organised by the ACRE Network (of which RCCE is a member).

The campaign runs in January and sees a huge variety of events happening across England.

Please [click here](#) for more information.

To register an event at your hall or to receive a media pack, please contact: Sue Gibson [sue.gibson@essexrcc.org.uk](mailto:sue.gibson@essexrcc.org.uk)

### PLOUGH SUNDAY – 12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2020

A poster for Plough Sunday. The top half shows a green tractor with a blue plough in a field, with a church interior in the background. Overlaid on the image is the text 'Plough Sunday' in a large, white, cursive font, and 'All welcome!' in a smaller, white, cursive font below it. The bottom half of the poster is a solid green background with white text. It features the logo of the Church of England in Essex and East London, Diocese of Chelmsford, which is a shield with a red cross and a white cross. Below the logo, the text reads: 'Please join us and the Thaxted Morris Men to celebrate Plough Sunday with a special service to support all those who work on the land followed by a Ploughman's Lunch'. The date and location are 'SUNDAY 12 JANUARY 2020, 11.00am THAXTED PARISH CHURCH'. At the bottom, it says 'with The Right Revd John Perumbalath, Bishop of Bradwell'.

## SAVE THE DATE!

### Essex Rural Partnership Future Meeting Dates:

**Date:** Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2020

**Time: Start time** 11am – 2pm

**Venue:** Essex Young Farmers Conference Centre, Whitbreads Farm Lane, Chatham Green, Chelmsford CM3 3LQ

### Launch of the Refreshed Essex Rural Strategy 2020-24

**Date:** Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**Time: TBC (PM)**

**Venue:** Chelmsford City Racecourse, Great Leighs, Essex



**IS HARE COURSING HAPPENING IN YOUR AREA?**

**HARE COURSING IS ILLEGAL**

**Please call 999 if you are witnessing criminal activity right now**

**If you have any information about hare coursing in your area, please let us know by:**

- Reporting online ([www.essex.police.uk/doitonline](http://www.essex.police.uk/doitonline))
- Calling 101
- To remain anonymous call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111



**ESSEX POLICE**  
[www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk)

**#OperationGalileo**



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