



ESSEX RURAL STRATEGY 2020-2024 - CONSULTATION NOW OPEN



Have Your Say on the Future of Rural Essex

Help shape the refreshed Essex Rural Strategy

What matters to you the people who live and work in our rural communities?

Public Consultation is open until 30/03/20

<https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/rci/essex-rural-strategy-2020-consultation/>



The refreshed Essex Rural Strategy will:

-  Set out a shared vision for the future of rural Essex
-  Highlight priorities for action over the next four years
-  Represent the needs of rural Essex to all levels of Government
-  Encourage greater collaboration between organisations working in rural Essex
-  Provide an evidence base for new initiatives for funding bids

The Strategy is being prepared by the Essex Rural Partnership which brings together a wide range of organisations to co-ordinate action on the major challenges facing the county's rural areas.



Registered Charity No. 1197081. Compulsorily registered in England and Wales No. 400634. Registered for VAT No. 155 6313 00

Online Public Consultation – Now Live!

The public consultation survey is live and will be open for responses until **Monday 30th March**. To access it please [click here](#)

The survey contains questions on a broad range of issues relevant to life in rural Essex today, as well as a specific section for businesses. We will be promoting it through the various Essex Rural Partnership and RCCE publicity outlets but **in order to maximise the response it would be really helpful if you could publicise it as fully as possible to your colleagues, members, networks, partners etc. throughout the period when it is live.**

FAREWELL TO JOY AND THANK YOU



Joy Darby will retire as CEO of the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) at the end of this month after 22 years in the post. Over this time, she has transformed the EALC, raising its profile and securing 100% membership from Parish and Town Councils in the county.

Always a passionate and highly effective advocate for the parish sector, Joy has also played a big part in the development of the Essex Rural Partnership (ERP) being involved ever since its formation in 2002.

She has served on the Steering Group and then the Strategic Board and contributed significantly to the preparation of successive versions of the Essex Rural Strategy. At its most recent meeting, the Strategic Board paid tribute to Joy, acknowledging her achievements with a special presentation.

Charlene Slade will replace Joy as CEO of EALC and will become a member of the ERP Strategic Board.

Joy Darby (third from left) pictured after the presentation with fellow Strategic Board members (from the left) Peter Davey (Chairman, EALC), Jane Gardner (Deputy Police Fire and Crime Commissioner) and Nick Shuttleworth (Executive Director, Rural Community Council of Essex).

DEFRA UPDATE



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Defra would like to inform you about some policy documents which have been recently published. These provide updated information about their work and explain how you can continue to engage with Defra and help shape future agricultural policy.

Defra has published [Farming for the Future: Policy Progress and Update on GOV.UK](#). This provides detail on the Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme and other planned schemes to support productivity, animal health and welfare. It also covers future support for innovation and research and development.

Also launched the [Environmental Land Management \(ELM\) Policy Discussion Document](#) on the Citizen Space website. This document sets out their initial thinking on the design of the new ELM scheme. **There are key questions**

in the document on which Defra would like your views. Feedback on this document will help shape the new scheme.

Please respond online through the Citizen Space site. If you're part of an organisation then please encourage other members to do the same.

You can also email elmfeedback@defra.gov.uk or write to Defra at:

FAO ELM Policy Discussion, Seacole 1, NE. 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF

The discussion is open for 10 weeks, until the first week of May.

SILVER AWARD FOR ESSEX POLICE



Awarded for their customer focus in respect of business and rural communities, congratulations you deserve this award!

We would like to thank you for your commitment, dedication and hard work with keeping rural Essex safe.

The annual Public Sector Transformation Awards allows iESE to identify, test and promote the latest innovations from across the UK.

To find out more about the iESE Public Sector Awards please [click here](#)

ESSEX VILLAGE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION 2020



Essex has a wide variety of villages, where local people are doing great things to strengthen community life. The purpose of the Essex Village of the Year Competition is to celebrate and reward these efforts. The competition has a proud tradition, but it continues to evolve with several villages competing last year for the first time ever. Any village in the county with a population of 6,000 or less can take part.

The 2020 Essex Village of the Year and all prize winners will be announced at our Annual General Meeting, which will take place on Wednesday 8th July.

Photographs: Peldon Village - Essex Village of the Year 2019

The entry deadline is Friday 24th April.

For more information please [click here](#)

RET CRIME FIGHTING FIGURES FOR FEBRUARY

Rural Engagement Team - Statistics - February 2020

Head of RET: Chief Inspector Terry Balding



You Said:

You wanted Police to tackle plant and agricultural theft and the travelling criminal

We Did:

We teamed up with Border Force and the Road Crime Team. We searched vehicles leaving the country and conducted a joint road policing op resulting 4 drug drivers arrested, 8 uninsured cars seized and 30 motorists prosecuted.

@EP_GTRET

SCAM WARNING



Coronavirus scam costs victims over £800k in one month

Since February 2020, the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) has identified 21 reports of fraud where Coronavirus was mentioned, with victim losses totalling over £800k. Ten of these reports were made by victims that attempted to purchase protective face masks from fraudulent sellers. One victim reported losing over £15k when they purchased face masks that were never delivered. Reporting numbers are expected to rise as the virus continues to spread across the world. We have also received multiple reports about coronavirus-themed phishing emails attempting to trick people into opening malicious attachments or revealing sensitive personal and financial information.

Watch out for scam messages:
Don't click on the links or attachments in suspicious emails, and never respond to unsolicited messages and calls that ask for your personal or financial details

Shopping online: If you're making a purchase from a company or person you don't know and trust, carry out some research first, and ask a friend or family member for advice before completing the purchase. Where possible, use a credit card to make the payment, as most major credit card providers insure online purchases.

Protect your devices from the latest threats:
Always install the latest software and app updates to protect your devices from the latest threats.

If you or someone you know is vulnerable and has been a victim of fraud, please call Essex Police on 101.

Report fraud or attempted fraud by contacting Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

Please be aware that criminals are looking to take advantage of the Coronavirus outbreak. These scams come in different forms, from fraudulently selling face masks, to claiming to be from the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) or the World Health Organisation (WHO). The advice to protect yourself from these frauds remains the same – whether an organisation or seller, ensure you have completed suitable research to confirm they are trustworthy.

GROWING COMMUNITIES



Healthy School Dinner FREE Prize Draw Winners

Four Lucky schools enjoyed the RHS GROW COOK EAT COURSE held at the gorgeous Hyde Hall, Chelmsford. The course provides the fundamentals of teaching children about the importance of growing food with a great practical session on bed preparation, how to sow various seeds through to taking snippets of plants repotting and the aftercare to ensure your plants survive!

Group Photograph: Bottom left Alison Findlay RHS, top left to right Gosbecks Primary School, Nicky Windmill Hill Farm, Runwell Primary School, Hadleigh Primary School, Messing Primary School and Lizzie Rose, RCCE.



The wonderful Alison Findlay guided the class through the gardening aspect with lots of inspirational ideas. The cookery session provided information on hygiene, using the correct safety utensils and cooking a very tasty tortilla from scratch! This was expertly presented by Nicky from the Windmill Hill Farm based in Bristol. A charity, that provides recreation, education and therapy using food, farming and the environment as a theme. The GROW COOK EAT course is provisionally administered providing a tremendous amount of practical information in relation to growing and cooking. It is highly recommended to anyone working/volunteering in schools and is passionate about teaching children about food provenance as a whole. Not to mention the beautiful location!




Thank you to the RHS for providing the course to the winning schools in support of the Growing Communities Healthy School Dinner Competition.

FINANCE ESSENTIALS FOR TREASURERS AND TRUSTEES

SATURDAY 28th March 2020 9.30am TO 3.30pm

At: RCCE Offices, Threshelfords Business Park, Inworth Road, Feering, CO5 9SE



Finance essentials for treasurers and Trustees

SATURDAY 28th March 2020 9.30am TO 3.30pm

At: RCCE offices, Threshelfords Business Park, Inworth Road, Feering, CO5 9SE

This will cover:

- What are the Charity Commission requirements?*
- What information should be on the Annual Report?*
- Are your Annual Accounts in the correct format?*
- What financial information do Trustees require for meetings?*
- Can we pay trustees?*
- Financial policies*
- Is there a Conflict of Interest?*
- Do we employ staff? Or are they self-employed?*
- What are the financial implications? And more.....*


Morning session 10am to 12.30pm: role of treasurer and trustee, governance requirements, Charity Commission register, bookkeeping, financial information for meetings, financial policy, reserves policy

Afternoon session 1pm to 3.30pm: Charity Commission requirements and reporting, annual account requirements, annual report, employment, payment of trustees and conflict of interest

TRAINERS: JAN STOBART & SUE GIBSON

Members: £70 full day inc lunch; £50 half day
Non members: £150 full day inc lunch; £100 half day

Arrival 9.30am for registration and refreshments



Rural Community Council of Essex: Registered charity No. 1097009.
A company limited by guarantee and registered in England & Wales No. 4609624.

X

Rural Community Council of Essex



FINANCE ESSENTIALS FOR TREASURERS AND TRUSTEES

SATURDAY 28th March 2020 9.30AM TO 3.30PM

At: RCCE offices, Threshelfords Business Park, Inworth Road, Feering, CO5 9SE

Please add your details below and return with your payment to:
Sue Gibson, Village Hall & Community Building Adviser,
RCCE, Threshelfords Business Park, Inworth Road, Feering, CO5 9SE
by Tuesday 24th March 2020.

PLEASE BRING A COPY OF YOUR TRUST DEED OR GOVERNING DOCUMENT WITH YOU

Name

Address

.....

Tel

Email

Representing Hall

Any special food or access requirements?.....

.....

Please make cheques payable to

'The Rural Community Council of Essex'; BACs details on request.

Data Protection Statement: RCCE uses personal data for the legitimate purposes of providing advice and services. Data may be retained for up to 7 years for account purposes and for longer where required by insurers. For more information visit: www.essexrcc.org.uk

MEETING DATES

Essex Rural Partnership Future Meeting Dates:

Date: Tuesday 28th 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 14th 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)
- Calling 101
- To remain anonymous call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

 **ESSEX POLICE**
www.essex.police.uk

#OperationGalileo 

This newsletter is produced and sent by Rural Community Council of Essex on behalf of the Essex Rural Partnership. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter in future please e-mail info@essexruralpartnership.org.uk with 'unsubscribe' as the email subject.

Compiled and edited by Lizzie Rose, Rural Community Council of Essex. Rural Community Council of Essex Registered Charity No. 1097009. Company registered in England and Wales No. 4609624