

ESSEX RURAL STRATEGY 2020-2024 CONSULTATION REMAINS OPEN UNTIL 29/05/20



Online Public Consultation – STILL LIVE!

The public consultation survey is still live and will be open for responses until **29th May 2020**. To access it please [click here](https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/rci/essex-rural-strategy-2020-consultation/)

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 appreciate the current unprecedented times of COVID-19 are far out weighing other matters for some. However this consultation is part of future proofing our Rural Essex. It takes approx. 10 minutes to complete please take the time out of your day and help shape a large part of Essex in fact 72%!



Essex Rural Partnership

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 NOW open until 30/04/20

<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. 287195. Company registered in England and Wales No. 400124. Registered in VAT No. 25121196

SOME HAPPY NEWS!

Congratulations to Boris Johnson and Carrie Symonds on the birth of their baby boy!



We must not forget that in these unprecedented times new life is springing up throughout the county indeed the country! Thinking of all new mums and dads in these testing times.

Help and advice for expectant parents can be found [here](#)

PICK FOR BRITAIN



Growers can now register their vacancies on Pick for Britain, a central, online recruitment hub, for this years harvest. Developed by government and the industry, the site helps to bring workers and employers together and ensures the UK can continue to deliver the best fruit and veg.

For further information please [click here](#)

Looking to work on a UK Fruit & Veg farm? From pickers and packers, to plant husbandry and tractor or forklift drivers, there are a wide range of roles available.

Please help spread the word through your networks and to any individuals you think may be interested.

LOOKING AFTER YOUR MENTAL HEALTH WHILE WORKING DURING THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK



Our working lives have been changing for a while now – but the emergence of coronavirus (COVID-19) has led to a massive change, more uncertainty, and new challenges for many of us. For advice and help from the Mental Health Foundation please [click here](#) The website also includes tips for home and remote working.

ARE YOU UP FOR A CHALLENGE?



The 2.6 Challenge is a new initiative to raise vital funds to help save the UK's charities whose fundraising income has been severely impacted by Covid-19 and the cancellation of events.

The Prince's Countryside Fund is inviting you to sign up to The 2.6 Challenge to enable the Fund to provide support to rural and farming communities, both now in a time of crisis, and to protect the British countryside for the future.

How you can take part:

The 2.6 Challenge launched on Sunday 26th April and will last for a week, but you can do your activity whenever is most convenient for you. You can take part in any activity of your choice based around the numbers 2.6 or 26 and fundraise or donate to support The Prince's Countryside Fund. Take part in your challenge in your own home or in your immediate local area and ask friends and family to sponsor you. Anyone can take part, get active and join in the fun. Simply dream up your own 2.6 challenge or take some inspiration from the ideas below:

- Walk or run 2.6 country miles
- Collectively run 26.2 miles with distances divided between you and a number of friends
- Squat a hay bale 26 times
- Run around 26 acres
- Host a virtual quiz with 26 questions. Ask friends & family to donate £2.60 each to take part

The ideas and options are endless! Just ensure you follow Government guidelines on exercise and social distancing. To take part and for further information please visit the [Princes Trust website](#)

HOW ARE THE PLANTS DOING....



An update on the Grow Cook Eat Course plants, I am happy to say the seedlings are doing well and ready to be potted. Still no joy on what the mystery seedlings are, which are taking longer to grow.



As advised by Alison Findlay of the RHS if the seedlings appear to have quite a lengthy stalk which I think mine are on the cusp of having I made sure that each seedling was planted a little deeper than usual in the compost to ensure a stronger stalk. The coriander has a wonderful aroma even at this early stage! I can almost taste that curry now... The mint is thriving and the chives well I accidentally left the pot outside overnight .. but still here!



HEALTHY SCHOOL DINNER PLOT COMPETITION WINNERS ANNOUNCED!

Once again Growing Communities is pleased to announce the winners of 2020, the judges had some very hard decisions to make given the fantastic entries that were received by entrants from primary schools all over Essex.

Schools Category 4-7 years

First Prize: *Erin, 7, "The Amazing Salad" Messing Primary School.*



The School's prize thanks to Erin's winning design:

£200 Horticultural Trades Association (HTA) Gardening Voucher to spend on allotment equipment for the school.

The opportunity to cook the winning design at their school with help from RCCE and the Barleylands Educational Team.

AND

Messing Primary School was chosen as overall winner and will receive a 'Field to Fork' educational trip to Barleylands Farm for the winning class!

Runner Up: *Oscar, 5, 'Jacket Potatoes and Vegetable Curry', Stanway Fiveways Primary School.*

Prize: £80 HTA Gardening Voucher to spend on allotment equipment for the school.

School Category 8-11 years

First Prize: *Ruby, 9, "Perfect Pasta" Shalford Primary School.*

Shalford Primary School is to receive thanks to Ruby's winning design:

- £200 HTA Gardening Voucher to spend on allotment equipment for the school
- The opportunity to cook the winning design at the school with help from RCCE and the Barleylands Educational Team.

Runner Up: *Jamie, 8, "Chaos Salad" Prettygate Junior Primary School, Colchester.*

Prize: £80 HTA Gardening Voucher to spend on allotment equipment for the school.

Highly Commended Certificates: Individual certificates will be awarded across both categories.

Congratulations to all the worthy winners! Due to the current COVID 19 lock down commencing shortly after the judging day in March, the schools have been notified. Growing Communities will ensure that the worthy winners will receive their prizes when it is safe to do with an update to follow.



Growing Communities would like to thank our wonderful judges:

Karen Watson Education Officer & Lizzie at Barleylands Farm, Andrew Tokely Horticultural Director at Kings Seeds and Nicholas Charrington RCCE Chairman.



We would also like to thank the support we received from The Augustine Courtauld Trust, Kings Seeds, The RHS and Barleylands Farm, without whom the competition would not have been available this year to the Primary Schools of Essex. The schools also play an enormous part in supporting the competition and without them well we definitely would not have a competition! So a big thank you for entering this year and taking an interest in the work of Growing Communities. We look forward to the next competition being mindful of how times have recently changed and will not return to normal for us all for quite some time. However the outdoors is still here and more so than ever a fantastic therapeutic platform to compliment learning within schools. Let's keep those little green fingers and imaginations thriving in such uncertain and overwhelming times for little minds.



Growing Communities Competition Winners and Runners Up for 2020



Winners

My School Dinner is called: *The Amazing salad!*

List of ingredients:

- Salad
- Carrots
- Onions
- Peas
- Pepper
- Tomato

Winner

Overall Winner:
Messing Primary School age 4-7 years

My School Dinner is called: *The veggie bowl*

List of ingredients:

- Broccoli
- Carrots
- Peas
- Pepper
- Tomato

Winner

Shalford Primary School Winner 8-11years

Runners Up

My School Dinner is called: *Salad potatoes*

List of ingredients:

- Salad
- Carrots
- Onions
- Peas
- Pepper
- Tomato

Winner

Stanway Fiveways Primary School age 4-7 years

My School Dinner is called: *Vegetable Salad*

List of ingredients:

- Carrots
- Onions
- Peas
- Pepper
- Tomato

Winner

Prettygate Primary School age 8- 11 years



COMMUNITY SPIRIT AT ITS BEST!



Copford with Easthorpe Parish Council is working closely with the local churches and The Alma pub have set up a dedicated Covid 19 volunteer help and support line.

This is coordinated by the Parish Clerk, Kate Palmer and so far has collected shopping for vulnerable residents, provided emotional support by phone for those who are isolated or just lonely, in addition prescriptions have been collected for residents who are unable to get out and where older residents need in home care or cleaning have tried to find external agencies to help.

A link is available to the helpline on the [Council website](#) which asks what help residents need and for volunteers some information about themselves. There is also a phone contact. Both local churches are supporting this initiative by signposting residents towards the helpline. In addition, The Alma, a popular local pub are supporting this work whilst at the same time running a local shop for basic commodities together with a pre ordered take away meal service.

Graham Barney
Chair, Copford with Easthorpe Parish Council



Update on Coronavirus (Covid-19) from St. Osyth Parish Council and St. Osyth Church

It seems a lifetime ago when the Parish Magazine was delivered to every home in St. Osyth with the distinctive orange cover. Its delivery was so timely, as we were able to inform everyone what was being put in place to support the elderly and vulnerable in our Parish at the beginning of the lockdown.

Since then there has been 307 grocery deliveries consisting of 767 bags/boxes delivered to front doors and 242 prescriptions. These figures will be much higher by the time this update is published.

Getting all this organised initially was a challenging undertaking, but with much help and the goodwill of so many, it has fulfilled its undertaking on the orange cover of the magazine to deliver groceries and prescriptions to the elderly and vulnerable.

There are over 30 volunteers who do this, headed by two co-ordinators, one for groceries and one for prescriptions, all of whom as they have told us have discovered new parts of our Parish! It might be of interest to know that in fact the Parish of St. Osyth covers 13.1 square miles, we are the largest in the Tendring District.

The back up team take the telephone prescription requests in the Parish Office and these are organised onto a spreadsheet and sent to the St. Osyth Pharmacy, highlighting urgent requests. A team of volunteers usually 3 each day, arrive at the Pharmacy at 4.30 pm to begin the delivery; the maximum in any day has been 22.

Groceries are initially phoned in to the Nisa and Premier Stores and a co-ordinator informs the rota volunteers how many deliveries they will be making. The maximum in any day has been 25 deliveries undertaken after 4.00 pm.

To achieve the efficient organisation and delivery of both the prescriptions and groceries there are in fact over 35 volunteers. All of whom give their time to help those in need. The Parish Council, the Church and the residents are enormously grateful to them all.

In addition to the deliveries made by our volunteers we are aware that many of our residents are looking out for each other. Neighbours, both young and old are ensuring that nobody is going without food, household essentials and medication.

The Spirit of Community which has arisen in the past few weeks is truly remarkable and we are all so grateful for it. We have all certainly recognised that: - "Alone, we can do so little, together we can do so much!"

St. Osyth residents are proving that. Thank you.

St. Osyth Parish Council and St. Osyth Church.



Rayne Parish Council holds Easter Poster Competition to re-educate irresponsible dog owners

Rayne Parish Council organised a poster competition during the COVID-19 Lockdown and Easter Holidays after receiving numerous reports of dog fouling in the village, particularly on pavements near to Rayne Primary School. Children were asked to design a colourful A4 poster that would provide a powerful message about how nasty it is to have dog poo left around the village or dog poo bags not deposited in the many dog bins.

Entries were split into age categories: 5 years and under; 6-9 years; 10 years and over. There were eleven entries in all, four winners received a commemorative certificate and a yummy Easter egg as their prize.

The Parish Council Chair, Ann Hooks said: "Dog fouling has been an issue that has blighted our village for many years, even with many dog poo bins sited around the village and the Parish Council providing free dog poo bags (donated by The Dogs Trust). I really thought that enough was enough. Too many times we have had reports of poo left on the pavements near the school and other locations around the village. So to create some community involvement, we launched a poster design competition for children, in the hope that seeing this kind of poster will prick the conscience of the small minority of people that don't pick up. We had some amazing, funny and beautiful entries and it was very hard for myself and Councillor Grace Meehan to pick the winners. I hope the winners will be proud when they see their posters up around the village and feel they are helping the community of Rayne to stay cleaner." The Clerk, Sarah Cocks, who presented the certificates and prizes (ensuring social distancing) said: "Once lockdown restrictions are lifted I will be laminating the winning posters and siting them in the main hotspots around the village. We hope this will prick the consciences of those irresponsible dog owners who think its ok not to pick up their dog waste and dispose of it safely in one of the many dedicated bins all around our village."

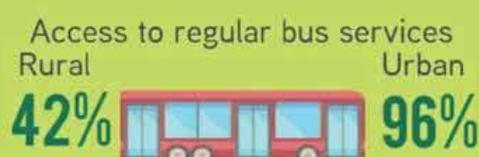


*If you are reading this and have a story to share about how your community is joining forces to help, then please do share it with me so that together we can lift spirits and show we will not be beaten.
Please email: elizabeth.rose@essexrcc.org.uk*

OUR CONTINUED THANKS TO ALL OUR KEY WORKERS AND NHS STAFF



FACTS ABOUT RURAL ESSEX



- 21% of deprived people in Essex live in rural areas.
- On average, people living in the most rural areas travel 45% further per year than those in England as a whole, and 53% further than those living in urban areas.
- A greater percentage of total annual mileage was made using a car in the most rural areas (58%) than in urban areas (49%).
- People living in villages and dispersed areas travel an average of 10,000 miles per year, compared to 6,400 miles for urban residents.

Source: Essex Rural Partnership Respecting our Past, Embracing our Future: A Strategy for Rural Essex 2016-2020

RELAX AND UNWIND WITH YOUR LIBRARY CARD



If you're looking for something to help you relax, unwind and relieve a bit of stress, or you're interested in learning a new skill, then why not try an online learning course. You can access over 500 courses with Universal Class free with your library card. Courses include [Yoga 101](#), [The Art of breathing](#), [Learn how to meditate](#), [Relaxation 101](#) and many, many more. Search for a topic that interests you and [select a course today!](#)

A NOTE FROM REVEREND JANET NICHOLLS - REFLECTION PRAYERS



I am writing a weekly reflection with prayers. If you or anyone you know, would like to receive this, please email me.

jnicholls@chelmsford.anglican.org

I will only retain personal email addresses for the duration of the crisis. The reflection should arrive in your inbox every Sunday morning to offer an alternative to church worship!

Keep safe and well. God bless

Janet

MEETING DATES

Essex Rural Partnership Future Meeting Dates:

CANCELLED

Date: Tuesday 28th April 2020

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

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

Date: Wednesday 14th October 2020

Time: TBC (PM)

Venue: Chelmsford City Racecourse, Great Leighs, Essex

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