

**COMMUNITY LED HOUSING IN ESSEX - Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March starting at 7pm until 8pm**



Eastern Community Homes (ECH) are hosting an online Question and Answer session about Community Led Housing in Essex. Laura Atkinson, Rural Housing Enabler and Community Led Housing Advisor for Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) and ECH will start with a brief introduction about what Community Led Housing is, and the work they have already done in the county with existing projects. This will be followed by the opportunity to ask questions and find out how it could benefit your parish and how to seek guidance with any housing problems. The online session will provide an opportunity for all Parish Councils, existing community groups and/or interested individuals from within communities across Essex to network, hear each other's stories and learn more about the support available from Eastern Community Homes. You can find full event information and register to attend by clicking [here](#).

**ESSEX VILLAGE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION – RETURNING IN 2024!**



Essex has a wonderful variety of villages but a feature common to all of them are the efforts local people make to strengthen and sustain community life. Up until the pandemic intervened in 2020, RCCE ran the Essex Village of the Year Competition annually to celebrate and reward these efforts.

We had hoped to relaunch the competition this year, but after careful reflection we've decided to delay for a further year and

relaunch it in 2024, as we feel the extra year will give us more time to review and refresh the competition and secure the support of sponsors.

We will bring you more information on our plans for Essex Village of the Year later this year. The challenges of recent times have brought out the best in our rural communities and we look forward to celebrating this with a revamped competition in 2024. In the meantime, does anyone recognise this chap from a village entry in 2018? Slight Hint: Eurovision 2022



**RURAL CRIME OPEN DAY – FRIDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

The public are invited to join the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Essex Police and Essex Rural Partnership at a Rural Crime Open Day.

The event will take place at the historic Layer Marney Tower, Nr Colchester on **10th March from 1pm-4pm**.

You can talk to specialist police officers, visits stalls, enjoy refreshments from the teasop and more! For further information about the afternoon please [click here](#). Rural Crime Plan 2023-2026 Launch [press release](#).



## LITTLE YELDHAM, TILBURY JUXTA CLARE AND OVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL CELEBRATES



Little Yeldham, Tilbury Juxta Clare and Ovington Parish Council are celebrating after being awarded £58,000 in funding from The National Lottery Community Fund, the largest funder of community activity in the UK.

They will use their funding to refurbish the Little Yeldham Village Recreation Ground where presently there are just two pieces of play equipment. This funding, together with funding from the Bruce Wake Trust, the East of England Co-op, generous donations from supporters and village fundraising will allow them to not only introduce new equipment but improve access making the area accessible to all irrespective of age and ability. The Parish Council are still arranging events to fundraise for maintenance and future improvements and their next event is a Spring Fayre in the Village Hall on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2023 when they hope to have more details about a start date for this exciting project. To find out more about funding please visit [www.TNLCommunityFund.org.uk](http://www.TNLCommunityFund.org.uk)

## CARING FOR ADULTS WITH DEMENTIA



Essex County Council (ECC), would like to talk with care home employees to find out how services can be improved and help employees to be better supported in their role. This survey will help ECC to better understand experiences in caring for adults with diagnosed and undiagnosed dementia, especially with residents who have distressed/challenging behaviors.

Furthermore, ECC want to find out where there are barriers and opportunities for making things better for residents and care home staff. This survey will be anonymous, we will not be able to identify anyone or places of work. To take part in the survey please [click here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact ECC by emailing [dementia.team@essex.gov.uk](mailto:dementia.team@essex.gov.uk)

## FREE MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING



Would you like to increase your knowledge and understanding around mental health? Would you like to feel more confident to have conversations about mental health, look after your own wellbeing and know how to signpost others to support?

Mid and North East Essex MIND are holding free **Mental Health Awareness** training sessions in Essex. between 10am-1.30pm, on the following dates:

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March (Braintree) - Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March (Colchester) - Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March (Chelmsford)**

### **Suicide Prevention Training:**

Would you like to increase your knowledge and understanding of suicide? Would you like to develop your skills to recognise the signs that someone may be at risk? Find out more about having compassionate conversations and how to support people. Mid and North East Essex MIND are holding free Suicide Prevention training sessions in Essex between 10am-1.30pm on the following dates:

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April (Maldon) - Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April (Chelmsford) - Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May – (Colchester)  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May (Braintree)**

To book either of these training sessions please email: [training@mnessexmind.org](mailto:training@mnessexmind.org) or call 01206 764600

## REMINDER: ESSEX RECYCLING CENTRE BOOKING SYSTEM ANNOUNCED



From Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023, residents visiting Essex County Council (ECC) recycling centres will need to book in advance.

A booking system will be trialled for all vehicles visiting ECC recycling centres to help manage waiting times, reduce congestion, and improve the customer experience.

The booking process has already been trialled for all vehicles using Rayleigh Recycling Centre, and also for large vehicles using the nine van-friendly sites. Both trials have been effective in smoothing the pattern of demand across operating hours and reducing queues and congestion both in and around the sites. Site users visiting by foot do not need to book a slot. Blue Badge holders do not need to book a slot. For more information and how to book a slot please [click here](#).

## EVENTS – SAVE THE DATE!

### Rural Community Council of Essex 2023 Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 4th October

6.30pm start

Layer Marney Tower, Layer Marney, Nr Colchester CO5 9US



## COMPETITION

### RCCE Growing Communities Bee Good Competition 2023



The Bee Good Competition is open to all primary schools in Essex, it is designed to encourage team work hence no age categories. What do the children have to do? I hear you ask... well your busy bee teams are tasked with designing and creating a Bee Good Plot specifically for our pollinators. They will also be asked to keep a diary

detailing their journey from the beginning of the project until the end showcasing their beautiful blooms and buzzy visitors. The plot can be any size as every little helps, and we encourage thinking outside of the box. All the necessary paperwork including the diary template will be provided to entrants.

There are some exciting prizes to be won this year including literature for the classroom, Bee Good Hotel and gardening equipment, the number one request from schools, identified via our Bee Good Survey, that supersedes all other needs! (actual prize may vary from the image shown)

Entry will require completion of the Bee Good Survey which will open on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March and close on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023. GC looks forward to receiving diaries brimming with colourful bee friendly blooms and bee facts! **WARNING: This competition involves, fun, laughter and fresh air.**



To find out more information and to enter your school please visit the Growing Communities page [here](#). Please share the competition details far and wide after all this is to help our British Bees and also help enrich our future generations' understanding of the environment.

## RCCE TRAINING



### Finance Essentials for Treasurers and Trustees

**Due to unforeseen circumstances this session has been CANCELLED**

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 9am registration, 9.30am to 1.30pm