

## AN INVITATION TO JOIN US FOR OUR 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



With just a few days to there is still an opportunity for RCCE members to join us for our 2023 Annual General Meeting which will take place in the historic surroundings of Layer Marney Tower (CO5 9US – between Colchester and Tiptree) on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October**, commencing at **6.30pm**.

### The meeting will feature:

- An update on RCCE's current activities and upcoming priorities.
- A special presentation on the Essex Wellbeing Service, recently established to provide a range of health and wellbeing services to Essex residents, and which includes RCCE's Community Agents and United in Kind services. Ellen Van Gemmert, Strategic Lead for the Essex Wellbeing Service, will join us as guest speaker.
- A buffet supper and refreshments with an opportunity to talk to RCCE trustees and staff including Community Agents and United in Kind coaches, and special guests.

The RCCE Annual General Meeting is well established as an important meeting point for people concerned with the future of the county's rural areas. We do hope you will join us this year. All members will have received a copy of the agenda and papers for the AGM, but to book your place please [click here](#) for the booking form.



## UNLOCKING THE MAGIC INGREDIENT



In September 2023, English Rural published some research by UCL about the unlocking potential of Rural Exception Sites (RES). These small bespoke sites are an exception to planning policy and provide affordable housing prioritised for local people in perpetuity. Full details and link to the please [click here](#).

To achieve a rural exception site in your parish you need to establish if your parish needs one. It is not always obvious that your parish has a local housing need so the first step would be to undertake a **Housing Needs Survey**.

Please do get in touch with our Rural Housing Enabler if your parish council is interested in finding out more about this process and your options. Click [here](#) to watch a case study video.

Laura Atkinson, RCCE's Rural Housing Enabler: [laura.atkinson@essexrcc.org.uk](mailto:laura.atkinson@essexrcc.org.uk); 01376 574330.

[www.essexrcc.org.uk](http://www.essexrcc.org.uk)

## ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT COMMUNITY-LED PROJECTS?



**Do you have professional skills in housing?**

**Would you be prepared to offer your time and experience as a Trustee?**

Lavenham Community Land Trust, in Suffolk, is seeking to appoint a new professional trustee to join their experienced board and to help steer them forward at a very exciting time.

They have already delivered a new build scheme, Peek Close, which created 18 homes for rent or shared ownership in Lavenham and are seeking to deliver similar developments in the near future.

In 2022 they sponsored a Housing Needs Survey to provide a strong evidence base for their way forward and enjoy a good working relationship with the local authority Babergh District Council. Trustees with special skill sets will help to innovate and lead the delivery of LCLT activities alongside our volunteers. Meetings are held in Lavenham around 6 times a year.

Further details about us and our Peek Close development can be found on our [website](#). To have an informal chat, please phone our chairman Carroll Reeve on 01787 247674.

## THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE, SO HAVE YOUR SAY!



The Essex Waste Partnership (EWP) has set out how they plan to manage waste in Essex over the next 30 years in a draft strategy. Now, they want you to tell them what you think about it. What we throw away each day comes at a cost, not just for us but for the environment too. So, we all need to rethink waste. This means reducing what we buy, reusing items and recycling them when they are no longer needed.

The draft strategy, which has been produced by the Essex Waste Partnership, is deliberately ambitious but achievable. It reflects a joint commitment from councils in Essex to reducing the impact of waste management on climate change. The proposals will also help to conserve resources and save money in the long-term. This money could then be used elsewhere.

There is lots of positive work happening to reduce waste in Essex already and the EWP want to build on this, by working together and making small changes, we will see a big difference.

Don't waste the chance to have your say. Find out more about the strategy and the free, information events being held please [click here](#).

## TRAINING

### RCCE FINANCE ESSENTIALS TRAINING FOR TREASURERS AND TRUSTEES



**Date:** Wednesday 18th October 2023

**Time:** 9am registration, 9.15am to 1.30pm

**Trainers:** Jan Stobart and Danielle Frost

**Venue:** RCCE offices, Threshelfords Business Park, Inworth Road, Feering, CO5 9SE  
or online via ZOOM TBC

**Cost:** Members £65, Non-Members: £130

For the full details and to book a place please contact Danielle Frost:

[Danielle.frost@essexrcc.org.uk](mailto:Danielle.frost@essexrcc.org.uk) or alternatively complete the [booking form here](#).

## EVENTS

A flyer for an event. The background is a colorful geometric pattern. The text is white on a dark grey background. It reads: 'ESSEX ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS', 'Rural Affordable Housing Briefing—Exploring your Options', 'Delivered by', 'Laura Atkinson from the Rural Community Council of Essex', '£50.00 + VAT', 'Delivered on Zoom', 'Briefing available on following dates', 'Monday 16th October—1.30pm—3.30pm', 'Thursday 19th October—7.00pm—9.00pm'.

Delivered by Laura Atkinson, RCCE, Rural Housing Enabler & Community Led Housing Advisor.

For further information please contact Pearl Willcox at Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC):

[pearl.willcox@ealc.gov.uk](mailto:pearl.willcox@ealc.gov.uk)