

ENTER RCCE'S ESSEX VILLAGE OF THE YEAR & RURAL COMMUNITY AWARDS 2024



RCCE's Essex Village of the Year competition has returned after an absence of four years, accompanied for the first time by a series of Rural Community Awards for village halls, community enterprises and community and voluntary groups. Essex has a wonderful variety of villages where local people are doing great things to sustain and strengthen community life, much of it through the efforts of volunteers.

RCCE wants to celebrate and reward these efforts, especially given the challenges presented in recent years by the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis.

It is easy to enter and there is just time to do so, please [click here](#).

INTERESTED IN JOINING US AND USING YOUR SKILLS TO SUPPORT RURAL COMMUNITIES IN ESSEX?



RCCE is always keen to hear from anyone interested in joining its Board of Trustees (governing body), especially if you share our passion for rural communities, have time to give and can bring skills, knowledge and experience that will help us to develop our work.

A trustee is a voluntary, unpaid position although reasonable expenses are covered.

To find out more about the requirements of the role and what we are looking for click here for our Board of Trustees – guidance for applicants.

RURAL COMMUNITIES MUST NOT BE LEFT BEHIND



Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) is urging politicians of all persuasions not to forget the needs and circumstances of people living and working in the countryside in the run up to the general election.

The charity claims that for too long, governments have overlooked the challenges that rural residents face, including diminishing public services, inadequate infrastructure, and housing which has become increasingly unaffordable resulting in hidden poverty and ageing communities. To access the full article and ACRE's new suite of policy recommendations for the next government please [click here](#).



GRANT FUNDING

Neighbourhood Planning

All groups undertaking a neighbourhood plan or neighbourhood development order are eligible to apply for up to £10,000.

Now open for applications for grant and Technical Support. DLUHC have extended the support for a seventh year (2024/2025). The Neighbourhood Planning Support Programme will continue to offer grants and Technical Support packages. Please apply via the [Apply page](#) of the Neighbourhood Planning website. The anticipated high demand for neighbourhood planning support means that it will be necessary to prioritise applications. The process for prioritising Technical Support applications will be determined by DLUHC, taking into account Government priorities such as housing, regeneration, climate change and environmental improvement. For further information please [click here](#).

ESSEX LOCAL NATURE PARTNERSHIP – COMMUNITY



Committed to raising awareness of the nature crisis in Essex and finding ways our county can work together towards nature recovery, the Essex Local Nature Partnership (LNP) brings together those with a passion for the natural world around us. These partnerships can make a powerful difference in the delivery of change and make it possible to see positive outcomes for the environment.

Discover local nature recovery community groups in your area.

Explore the interactive map to find information about projects, visitor centres, volunteering opportunities and more happening across the county.



Essex Local Nature Partnership

To view the interactive map and find out more please [click here](#).

The Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) is set to go to public consultation this summer.

Everyone's voice matters with the LNP seeking your views on the draft strategy at a public consultation this summer. If you would like to be notified when the public consultation is live, please [click here](#) to register your details.

For more information on the Essex LNRS please visit the [Essex Local Nature Partnership](#) website where you can also contact the team directly.

TENDRING4GROWTH BUSINESS AWARDS



TENDRING4GROWTH

Do you know of an outstanding business or individual who deserves recognition?

Tendring District Council is proud to announce the return of the

Tendring4Growth Business Awards in 2024! Over 400 nominations were received across seven categories in 2023, and with brand new categories for 2024, we are expecting more nominations than ever before! The awards ceremony will take place on Thursday 3 October 2024 at the Princes Theatre, Clacton-on-Sea. The Economic Growth Team look forward to once again hosting an entertaining evening, with dinner and local entertainment, to recognise local business' hard work. The window for nomination's is open and will close on 30th June 2024.

For further information please [click here](#).

READY STEADY GET READY FOR SCHOOL



Libraries

Between now and September, every library will be running a Big School Meet Up session. These are fun, relaxed sessions with a storytime, activities and a chance to meet other families whose children are also starting your school in September. Open to all children who will be

starting school for the first time in September, this fun challenge is to help children practice skills they will need to help them feel confident and ready to start school. To find out more please [click here](#).

PRINTABLE ID FOR TREES



Woodland Trust's printable tree ID guides are a fantastic way to help children learn about trees. Take them outside and use them in your garden, school grounds or local wood. They cover all four seasons so youngsters can discover how trees change throughout the year. Use them to identify leaves, winter twigs, spring blossom and autumn fruits. They are also a hands-on way to connect children to

our wonderful natural world. To access this fantastic resource please [click here](#).

RCCE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024



Date: Wednesday 3rd July

Time: 6:30pm

Venue: Oaks Pavilion, Rivenhall Oaks Golf Centre, CM8 2FX

Guest Speaker: James Blake, Chair, Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE)

Featuring: Presentation of the Essex Village of the Year & Rural

Community Awards 2024. **Full details will be circulated to members shortly.**