

## MALDON DIVISION MONTHLY UPDATE – COUNCILLOR JANE FLEMING

### COMMUNITY 360 – COMMUNITY TRANSPORT PROVIDER IN THE MALDON DISTRICT

Community 360 are the Community Transport provider which ECC financially supports in the Maldon District. Community360 have shared with ECC that they have/will be:

- a venue to park a full-time minibus from 1st November
- printed leaflets to inform the residents of the Maldon District of their service
- two drivers ready to serve passengers
- been promoting for volunteers to help Community 360
- asking Broomfield Hospital whether they can support Community 360 in any way
- taking delivery shortly of two new lease buses which will allow for more residents to join the scheme in future

### COMMUNITY TRANSPORT WEEK 14-18 OCTOBER

Community Transport Week celebrates the vital role that Community Transport plays across Essex and beyond. It shines a spotlight on the exceptional efforts of staff, volunteers, drivers, and coordinators, all of whom provide essential transportation for those facing mobility challenges or who lack access to traditional transport options.

Volunteers are the backbone of these services, and their contribution extends far beyond transportation—they help build connections and foster a sense of community.

Find out more about Community Transport Week and how to become a volunteer [here](#).

### TRAVEL ESSEX WEBSITE FOR SIXTH FORMERS & COLLEGE PUPILS

As the new academic year begins, have you thought about your daily commute? Travelling by bus can be a convenient and eco-friendly option, but finding your nearest bus stop might seem tricky.

Don't worry! Visit the [Travel Essex website](#) to easily locate your nearest bus stop and plan your journey.

### NEW COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVES FUND

Charities, community groups and voluntary organisations can receive thousands of pounds towards their ideas to improve community safety across Essex.

The Community Safety Initiatives Fund (CSIF) by Essex County Council offers £500 to £2,000 for new or existing projects keeping communities safe, protecting people from harm and aiding crime prevention.

This can include initiatives which inspire public confidence, raise awareness and support community events.

The CSIF aims to reduce crime, including anti-social behaviour, by tackling its root causes through community cohesion.

Applications for the CSIF 2024 are open from 3pm on 8 October to 11:45pm on 24 November [via the council's website](#).

## **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & DISABILITIES SUPPORT ACROSS ESSEX**

The [Essex Local Offer roadshows are returning](#). These in person events are for parents and carers who may:

- be new to SEND
- feel their child needs help
- have questions about the support they already receive
- want to find out about parent carer support
- want more information on available support

The roadshows are an opportunity to discover local services and support. This includes support groups and education, health and social care services.

## **JET PATCHING IN THE MALDON DISTRICT**

Earlier this year, £3 million of extra funding was announced for pothole repairs. Improvements are [being made by Jet Patchers](#), known for speed and efficiency. The jet patchers will be out and about until October, especially in rural areas. They have already carried out repairs in Maldon and Uttlesford.

## **ADDITIONAL £25M TO BOOST ROAD REPAIRS**

Road surfacing works in Chelmsford, Rochford, Colchester, Braintree, Maldon, Castle Point and Epping Forest have all been undertaken following the launch of Essex County Council's £25 million Priority One campaign.

Twenty-one new road surfacing schemes have been undertaken in the first weeks of Essex County Council's £25 million Priority One campaign.

Announced in August, the Priority One investment will see additional crews and resources pumped into highways maintenance across the county. Crews will tackle road surfacing, vegetation clearance, drainage, signs and lining.

The funding is in addition to existing maintenance budgets and is the single largest investment into improving our highways Essex County Council has ever made.

The £25 million investment comes after £12 million of extra investment was announced earlier this year for highways. £8 million of this supports the Members' Highways Initiative, where County Council Members prioritise the issues they want Essex Highways crews to repair. A separate £39 million was also set aside this year for the county's annual resurfacing programme.

For more information on the Priority One campaign, visit [www.essexhighways.org/priority-one](http://www.essexhighways.org/priority-one).

## ACTIVE ESSEX

As the colder months approach, it's time to take action to protect your health and the health of your loved ones. Together with the NHS, we're encouraging everyone to be prepared for winter by following key health advice early in the season.

Winter is a high-risk time for illnesses like flu and Covid-19. Vaccinations are a simple, effective way to protect yourself and others. A balanced diet and regular physical activity are also crucial for maintaining a strong immune system. Even in colder weather, try to incorporate fruits, vegetables, and exercise into your daily routine. [Discover physical activity and sport opportunities near you](#) with Active Essex's Activity Finder.

## THE NEW LIMBROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Eco-friendly schools are becoming the norm and the 420-place Limebrook Way Primary School and Nursery, is leading the way. The school opened in September 2024 with solar panel arrays, air source heat pumps, thermal walls and more to reduce carbon emissions. Adding to its green credentials, a wildflower meadow has been planted next to the sports field, enhancing the school's natural surroundings. [Watch the Infrastructure Delivery Team video](#).

## MEASURES TO TACKLE FLOODING, FLOOD RISK CHECK & PFR GRANT

More than 24,000 drains have been cleared across Essex as highways crews prepare for heavy rain this autumn and winter. Drains are cleared all year round to ensure every part of the county is

addressed, with more clearance carried out in the summer before the wet and windy weather arrives.

Essex Highways cleared a total of 24,633 drains this summer alongside normal road repairs and resurfacing, helping the road network withstand harsh conditions.

Landowners are also being asked to cut back their vegetation in the autumn to prevent it overgrowing onto roads and pavements. This includes trimming overhanging trees to avoid damage and disruption during storms, while ditches on private land near roads can be cleared to prevent flooding.

Essex Highways encourages residents to report any blocked drains or flooding concerns using the [online Tell Us tool](#). The Tell Us tool helps inspectors address issues quickly and prevent potential hazards from worsening.

Residents are also encouraged to [check whether their homes are at risk of flooding](#). If eligible, they can apply for the Property Flood Resilience (PFR) grant.

The PFR grant offers up to £8,000 for flood protection measures like self-closing air bricks, reinforced flood doors, non-return valves, pumps and flood barriers.

Essex homeowners can [check their property's flood risk online](#) to see if they are able to apply for the PFR grant. This may include residents living in critical drainage areas.

## APPRENTICESHIP SUPPORT FOR BUSINESS & YOUNG PEOPLE

Essex businesses can get up £2,000 funding per apprentice to support their apprenticeship. This can be used to support an apprentice in a number of ways. Don't miss out, [apply for the apprenticeship support fund](#) now and invest in your future workforce.

Do you know a year 11 or 13 student interested in an apprenticeship or considering further education? Then [join the free online session by the Apprenticeship Hub on degree apprenticeships](#). This online session for parents and young people will also include speakers from UCAS, Morgan Sindall and HSBC.

## RESIDENT FEEDBACK

Our User Research team are conducting research to gather feedback from residents about their experience of getting in contact with us. The main purpose of this is to understand how we can improve the contact information that we are providing to residents on our website.

[Share your experience of contacting the council](#) by completing a quick survey. There is also an opportunity to sign up for a follow up one-to-one online research session to discuss this in more detail. Residents that take part in the one-to-one session will receive a £30 gift voucher.

## WIN TAILORED MARKETING SUPPORT FOR BUSINESS

Ready to take your business to the next level?

Launched by business support service [BEST Growth Hub](#), AdVantage is a free competition designed to give Essex businesses the digital boost they need!

10 lucky businesses are being given the chance to win a bespoke marketing support package tailored to their needs and worth up to £2500.

Whether you need help with SEO, social media, or creating a solid marketing strategy, this competition is your chance to get expert support—for free!

[Enter now](#) before the deadline on 15 November.

## BESPOKE BUSINESS DRIVING TRAINING FROM THE SAFER ESSEX ROADS PARTNERSHIP

The [Safer Essex Roads Partnership \(SERP\)](#) has just launched Business Driving in Essex, a training programme designed for business owners and managers to improve road safety.

Tailored to your company's needs, it covers essential road safety legislation, helping reduce organisational road risk for drivers and vehicle maintenance staff.

With over a third of serious road incidents involving commercial vehicles, protecting your workforce is critical.

SERP's experienced trainers deliver both practical and theory sessions at a location that suits you.

Learn more by visiting the Safer Essex Roads Partnership (SERP) and [book your bespoke training](#) today.

Over a third of those killed or seriously injured on Essex roads were undertaking work trips, and the SERP has urged businesses across Essex to undertake Business Driving in Essex training, to keep their employees safe on the road, reduce risk, protect organisational reputation and ensure compliance of health and safety laws.

Business Driving in Essex training promotes the importance of understanding road safety legislation to business owners, directors, and managers, allowing organisations to be aware of the need for well-defined safe working practices, for anyone driving or maintaining vehicles within their business, this will help them lower organisational road risk.

The Business Driving in Essex's experienced fleet trainers work to create a bespoke training package, tailored to each company's needs, from sales representatives to commercial drivers, and can facilitate both practical and theory sessions, at a convenient location.

Businesses will be trained on a range of important topics, including hazard awareness, perception, and defensive driving.

For more information on how Business Driving in Essex can save on costs, and improve performance, visit: [Business driving in Essex - saferessexroads.org](https://www.saferessexroads.org).

## **PUBLIC HEALTH ACCELERATOR BIS**

A total of £495,551 has been awarded to four projects through the council's Public Health Accelerator Bids (PHAB) major grants programme. The latest successful bids were chosen following an expression of interest process and assessment by a panel of experts.

The four successful projects are:

- Home Start Essex, Basildon, Braintree, Castle Point, Epping Forest and Harlow: to support a project which assists families to take a proactive role in improving their mental and physical health, enabling them to make better, informed and healthier lifestyle choices.
- Sport for Confidence, Basildon, Braintree, Brentwood, Castle Point, Chelmsford, Colchester, Epping Forest, Harlow, Maldon and Tendring: to support the Essex Learning Arena, which will provide learning opportunities to integrate physical activity into daily practice across workforce sectors.
- The African Well Woman Project CIC, Chelmsford and Colchester: to support a project focusing on the health needs of Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) men, offering culturally sensitive and appropriate support.
- Braintree District Council: to launch Beat the Street in the district, a mass participation behaviour change programme which transforms activity level

Supporting the aims of the [Essex Wellbeing, Public Health and Communities Business Plan](#), PHAB funded projects aiming to tackle the health inequalities experienced in Essex.

Grants from PHAB were awarded across two funding streams, small grants less than £7,500 and major grants over £15,000.

Through the programme, more than £4.6 million of grants were awarded. The projects support the aim of improving the mental and physical health of Essex residents.

*Cllr Jane Fleming*

Member for the Maldon Division

(Maldon Town and Parishes of Woodham Walter, Woodham Mortimer with Hazeleigh, Purleigh including Cock Clarks, Cold Norton, Stow Maries, North Fambridge)

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