

THE ESSEX LOCAL NATURE PARTNERSHIP (LNP) COMMUNITY FUND 2025



A funding opportunity designed to empower local communities to take action in Essex for nature.

Community groups, charities, schools and other local organisations can apply for grants of £500 to £2,000 to support nature-based projects that contribute to local nature recovery and community wellbeing.

Applications close on 31st December 2025.

To find out more and apply please [click here](#).

AWARDS FOR ALL – ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME



Voluntary organisations and Parish Councils can apply for up to £20,000 over 24 months to help people connect with and care for nature in their area and make a positive difference to the environment. The deadline for applications to this dedicated Environment strand of Awards for All is on **17th December 2025**.

RESIDENTS INVITED TO SHARE VIEWS ON LOCAL BUS SERVICES IN ESSEX

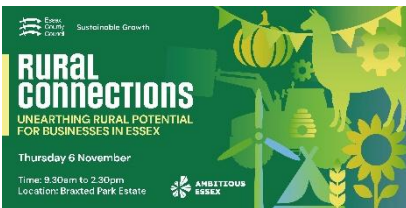


Residents are invited to share their views on local bus services in Essex. To ensure the bus network provides value for money and can cope with future demands, we are currently reviewing our support for 41 local bus services paid for by the taxpayer. This includes many services serving rural communities.

To inform our decisions, feedback is now being invited on these bus services via a public consultation survey.

The consultation is now open, and you have until Monday 27th October [to have your say](#).

RURAL CONNECTIONS EVENT – UNEARTHING RURAL POTENTIAL!



Essex County Council (ECC) FREE business event

Essex businesses: join Ambitious Essex for **Rural Connections** this November to discover more about the future potential of our rural economies and communities.

Date: Thursday 6th November 2025

Time: 9.30am to 2.30pm (lunch served at 1pm)

Location: The Pavilion, Braxted Park Estate

Join ECC for free to connect with thought leaders and likeminded business owners and explore:

- Practical ways to diversify your rural business offering
- New pathways to success and sustainability
- Latest technological innovations set to transform the rural sector
- Rural skills and opportunities to develop workforce
- The potentials of tourism in the rural landscape
- And much more!

Keynote speakers include Mike Holland (Holland Land & Property Ltd), Dale Symons (Clayhill Vineyards) and Professor Klaus McDonald-Maier (Versatile Robotx) who will be showcasing his world-leading fruit-picking robot prototype.

Find full event details, and book, on ruralconnections.eventbrite.co.uk – come and join the discussion. For ALL enquiries, please get in touch: ambitiousessex@essex.gov.uk

RCCE HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY



Here at RCCE we know how important it is to keep our rural communities sustainable and thriving, and we're here to help you do just that. One of the most powerful ways a parish council can support its residents is by understanding the housing needs of their local community. A Housing Needs Survey (HNS) is a simple but effective way to gather local evidence about what kind of homes are needed, whether it's for young families, older residents looking to downsize, key workers or people who want to stay in the village they've grown up in.

This information can then be used to explore the possibility of a Rural Exception Scheme, a way to deliver affordable homes specifically for local people, in partnership with housing associations. These schemes are designed to meet genuine local need and can help ensure that villages remain vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable for generations to come.

By engaging with RCCE, your parish council can:

- Shape the future of your village based on real local data.
- Support families and individuals who want to stay in their community.
- Strengthen community bonds by ensuring housing reflects local needs.
- Access expert and impartial guidance on planning and delivery.
- Champion local voices in conversations about development and growth.

Whether you're ready to start a Housing Needs Survey or just want to explore the possibilities with a no obligation conversation about your local circumstances, we're here to support you every step of the way. To find out more please contact: enquiries@essexrcc.org.uk

PFCC TACKLES RURAL CRIME CONCERNS RAISED AT RURAL FORUM



Local councillors, landowners, rural campaigners and community safety partners gathered at Ugley Village Hall on Friday 12th September 2025, for the latest Rural Crime Forum, jointly hosted by Roger Hirst, Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex, and Kemi Badenoch, MP for North

West Essex and Leader of the Conservative Party.

The quarterly forum, organised by the PFCC, provides a vital platform for those living and working in rural areas to raise concerns, share insights and help shape the policing response to rural crime. This meeting focused on key issues including hare coursing, speeding on rural roads and police response times. To read the full article [please click here](#).

DID YOU KNOW?



Rural Community Council of Essex are helping Affinity Fuels to meet your heating oil needs!

We're excited to have this opportunity to support our rural communities, offering a reliable, cost-effective solution for heating oil.

What is Affinity Fuels?

Affinity Fuels is a UK-based company that supplies domestic heating oil to rural communities, making the purchasing process easier and more cost-effective. It operates as part of the AF Group, the UK's largest agricultural co-operative, supporting over 3,000 farming businesses nationwide.

Interested in joining? Register by calling the team on 01603 881888 (Monday to Friday, 8am – 5pm).

PREVENT AWARENESS TRAINING FOR VENUE HIRE STAFF



Prevent is at the heart of safeguarding children and adults. It aims to provide early intervention to protect and divert people away from being drawn into terrorist activity. All venues run by authorities covered by the Prevent Duty are expected to have measures in place to ensure their

facilities are not exploited by radicalisers.

Training dates are as follows, all sessions will be held via MS Teams

- Tuesday 28th October 2025, 10:00am -11:00am
- Wednesday 26th November 2025, 10:00am -11:00am

For the full information please [click here](#).

RCCE WEBINARS AND EVENTS – Dates for your diary



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING – REGULATION 14 AND BEYOND

Date: Monday 20th October

Time: 7pm until 9pm

The stages and timings of 'Reg 14' and the role of the parish council; Submission under 'Reg 15', 'Reg 16', the Examination and the Referendum. For further information please [click here](#).

This is a free event for RCCE members only.

To book a place please email: enquiries@essexrcc.org.uk

FINANCE ESSENTIALS FOR TREASURERS AND TRUSTEES

Date: Thursday 13th November 2025

Time: 9am registration, 9.15am to 1.30pm

Venue: RCCE offices, Threshelfords Business Park, Inworth Road, Feering, CO5 9SE

Trainers: Jan Stobart and Danielle Frost

Cost: Members £65, Non-Members: £130

Booking required by Thursday 9th November 2025

To book your place please email: enquiries@essexrcc.org.uk

Course Content:

This comprehensive training session will cover the role of the treasurer and trustee, governance requirements, Charity Commission register, bookkeeping, financial information for meetings, financial policy and reserves policy.

It will also discuss Charity Commission requirements and reporting, annual account requirements, the annual report, employment, payment of trustees and conflict of interest.

This will be an interactive session, and numbers are kept small as there is an opportunity to ask questions and work through examples.

VILLAGE HALLS CONFERENCE – (Date for your 2026 diary!)

Date: Saturday 21st March 2026

Time: 9.00am for 9.15 start to 3.00pm

Venue: Alresford Village Hall, Ford Lane, Alresford, Essex. CO7 8AT. Parking at the hall, or local residential roads.

Public Transport: Sunshine Coast Line (Greater Anglia) in Alresford and a 10min walk.

Target Audience: All village hall and community building trustees and management committee members. Parish and Town Councils who manage community buildings either as part of their local government responsibility or as Sole Trustees.

Delegate fees (including buffet lunch): RCCE Members £25, Non-members £50

Contact: enquiries@essexrcc.org.uk

RCCE

RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF ESSEX

FREE EVENT FOR RCCE MEMBERS

TRAINING

REG 14 AND BEYOND ... NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WEBINAR



MONDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2025
7:30pm – 9.00pm



Webinar

About Our Event!

THIS WEBINAR is for
Neighbourhood Plan groups who
are finalising their pre-submission
draft plan.

To book your place please email:

enquiries@essexrcc.org.uk

A link to the webinar will be emailed to
participants on 16th October 2025

Webinar contents

The mechanics of the 'Regulation 14'
statutory consultation, the stages and
timings and the role of the parish council

Understanding the processes for
environmental assessments SEA and
HRA;

Dealing with consultation comments and
the preparation of documents for
submission under 'Regulation 15'

The processes for 'Regulation 16'
statutory consultation, the Examination
and the Referendum



Contact us
enquiries@essexrcc.org.uk

Website

www.essexrcc.org.uk



Registered office: RCCE House, Threshelfords Business Park, Inworth Road, Feering, Essex CO5 9SE. Registered Charity No: 1097009 Company registered in England and Wales No: 4609624