

District Councillor Monthly Report Lawford, Manningtree & Mistley August 2021

Coronavirus

The below links provide some Government data (at 3rd August) at national and local level:

Latest information on coronavirus: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

National lockdown: what you need to know:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know>

Coronavirus cases: <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk>

High Street, Mistley

I have again chased ECC regarding the impassable temporary footpath in the High Street. After the demolition of the old buildings adjacent to Mistley Quay, the temporary structure was erected and remains in place. It is inadequate for use as a footpath and is now also overgrown with weeds.

Although we have a glorious view of the river (through the fencing), this structure of concrete blocks and wire fencing has been in place for around two years and is an eyesore.

The latest response to my questions, received on the 19th July, is copied below:

Good Morning Alan,

Further to my email on Friday, I have now received an update from the Structures team. I'm afraid things have not progressed further as the developer's designer has been very slow in communication.

The Structures team had a meeting with the designer on 14th June, where he agreed to provide further information. The Structures Engineer chased him 3 weeks ago and he informed him that he will be issuing a response by w/e 09/07; but unfortunately, they still haven't heard from him. They will continue to chase him, but until they come back with the information the Structures team have requested, they cannot progress this any further.

Hope this helps and sorry it wasn't good news.

Kind regards

Strategic Development Engineer

Carlo and I have discussed this issue (again) and we are seeking an urgent meeting with the County Council Portfolio Holder for Highways, in order to explore how some pressure can be brought to bear. Otherwise, the prevarication will seemingly continue forever.

TDC Housing Estates

Carlo and I have been working with residents of TDC Housing in both Manningtree and Mistley regarding concerns they have about uncontrollable and unacceptable numbers of pets, festering litter and anti-social behaviour.

It is clear from our enquires that there has been a systematic failure to manage these areas by council officers, or to consistently apply the TDC policies appertaining to council tenancies.

We continue to be in regular contact with senior managers responsible for these areas of housing and a meeting date has been scheduled. We hope to have these matters resolved soon.

District Plan – Section Two

The Planning Inspector who conducted the hearing has recommended a series of main modifications to Section Two to ensure it meets legal and national policy requirements – with most of the modifications put forward by TDC following a previous consultation and to ensure the plan was kept up to date.

It is these modifications, which will be subject to a six-week consultation, which began on 16th July.

Comments will go directly to the Planning Inspector, who will then issue a final report hopefully allowing the council to formally adopt Section Two of the Local Plan.

A Local Plan is a strategic blueprint document setting out how development should take place across the district for the future, with the emerging Local Plan for Tendring covering the period until 2033.

Section One of the Local Plan, submitted jointly by TDC along with Colchester Borough Council and Braintree District Council and looking at strategic planning matters, has already been examined, approved and adopted.

The consultation on the modifications to Section Two will run from Friday, 16 July until 5pm on Tuesday, 31 August. To have your say go to www.tendringdc.gov.uk/localplan/section2 or, for those not online, call 01255 686177 to request details of how to take part.

Tesco, High Street, Manningtree

Those who live nearby will be aware that during their refurbishment, Tesco have installed new cooler units at the rear of the shop. The units are huge and noisy. Carlo is pursuing this through the District Planning Department

TDC to end provision of leisure services

Leisure services provided by Tendring District Council at Manningtree Sports Centre (Lawford) ended on the 1st August.

The school will keep the facility open for community use outside of school times.

Alex Porter, TDC Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism, said the move was hopefully the start of a new chapter for the site.

“While our leisure team run excellent services at Manningtree Sports Centre, having a facility such as this run by the community – and crucially the organisation which owns the building – can be a real positive,” Cllr Porter said.

“Although the school has decided to do this, I must be clear that we support their decision and we are really pleased that the school will continue to offer community use of the facilities.”

Sally Morris, Manningtree High School (MHS) Headteacher, said the transition would lead to an enhanced offer.

“Over the last two years the facilities at MHS have been enhanced by the building of a performing arts centre which contains a dance and drama studio,” Mrs Morris said.

“The multi-use games area is already being hired out for public use, with football, netball and cheerleading groups currently using the various amenities here, as well as holiday schemes and a music school.

“MHS is making all its facilities available for community hire for sports and leisure activities. The dance studio is ideal for fitness, yoga or martial arts classes, while the two sports halls are bookable for sports groups and our new drama studio is a first-class rehearsal space.

“We want our buildings to be a community resource and feel we can enhance our offer by managing the lettings ourselves.”

Honeycroft, Lawford

The District Council is planning to build 20 new one and two bedroom bungalows on the now vacant land. These bungalows will be available for older residents in the area who are registered on the TDC Housing Register.

The main site at Honeycroft was closed as a sheltered housing scheme in March 2018, and demolition was carried out earlier this year.

The homes will also be built to be as energy efficient as possible, making use of modern methods of construction in order to minimise carbon emissions. The new properties will meet local housing demand for older persons and provide an opportunity for those in larger houses to downsize whilst remaining in the same community – in turn freeing up larger properties for families.

The total cost of the scheme could be in the region of £4million, which would be met by long-term borrowing from the Housing Revenue Account – with the potential for some grant funding from Homes England for the scheme.

The final decision to go ahead with the project, including to submit a planning application, will be taken once tenders have been received and the cost confirmed.

New Housing Register System

A new housing register and allocations system has been introduced by Tendring District Council, as part of TDC’s overall Transformation Project. This is helping to make council buildings, services and working practices more efficient. The new system will enable applicants to apply for a place on the housing register online, rather than using the current paper based application process.

Those who are on the old register will need to re-apply to be placed on the new system, however applicants will remain in the same place on the housing register once their application has been submitted. No one will be disadvantaged by the changeover. Letters to all those affected by the change are in the process of being delivered.

Voter Information confirmation by Text

Every year, each home in the UK is asked to check their electoral register details – and the process starts now for Tendring residents.

A letter will be coming through letterboxes as Tendring’s Electoral Registration Office updates the information it holds – to ensure those who are eligible to vote are registered to do so. Letters, emails and text messages will go out asking those who need to, to update or confirm their details.

Those who receive a white letter do not need to respond, provided all of the details are correct. Households which receive a yellow letter, need to confirm their details, and submit any changes if required.

Ian Davidson, Electoral Registration Officer for Tendring, said it was important people check all their details are correct, including their nationality, whether or not they are on the open register, and if they have a postal or proxy vote.

“Your vote matters and it is important you don’t lose it – so please make sure you confirm details for your household, and update them, if needed,” Mr Davidson said.

“If you do need to confirm or make changes, then doing so online is best – and I would ask households to respond by the end of August so we can avoid unnecessary reminders.”

While text and online is the most efficient means for residents to confirm or update their details, households can still complete the canvass form by phone or by post. With text or online options residents will receive an immediate confirmation of their response. To reply by post residents will need to provide an envelope and stamp.

Flight times for Clacton 150 Anniversary Flights Revealed

The Red Arrows and Battle of Britain Memorial Flight (BBMF) will grace the skies over Clacton on two days this summer as the town celebrates its 150th anniversary.

The timings of the flights are as follows:

Thursday 26 August

14:45 – 15:00 BBMF

15:15 – 15:45 Red Arrows

Friday 27 August

12:45 – 13:15 Red Arrows

13:30 – 13:45 BBMF

Those coming to watch the flights will be able to spread right along Clacton’s long coastline with wide beaches, promenades and grassed areas.

Viewings of the Anniversary Flights are subject to the latest Government guidance on Covid-19 events.

World-famous, the RAF Force Aerobatic Team the Red Arrows team is made up of nine fast jet pilots, engineers and support staff with frontline, operational experience. As the public face of the RAF, the team assists with recruiting into the Service, contribute to defence, diplomacy and support wider national interests by representing the United Kingdom and its industry.

Meanwhile the BBMF has been a regular visitor to the skies above the town and will include the Lancaster, Spitfire and Hurricane. The aircraft are regularly seen at events commemorating the Second World War and on British State occasions, and the team commemorates the past of the RAF’s Air Combat Power, Lest We Forget.

Local Planning Appeals and Applications

Land South of Long Road, Mistley – Appeal against refusal – Construction of Medical Centre & Car Parking.

Appellant – Tendring Farms Ltd.

Appeal submission closure date 10th August 2021

Appeal Reference - APP/P1560/W/21/3270727

Trinity Road, Mistley – Appeal against refusal - Erection of up to 65 Dwellings. Appeal submission closure date 18th August 2021.

Appellant - Mr R Brooks and Family

Appeal Reference - APP/P1560/W/21/3268225

Anchor Inn Mistley – Appeal against refusal – Change of use to Residential.

Appellant – Mr Tom Newman Ankerinn Ltd.

Appeal submission closure date 25th August 2021

Appeal Reference - APP/P1560/W/21/3269838

Land to the North of Stourview Close, Mistley – new Access Road & 72 Dwellings

Appellant – Mr W Vote (on behalf of the landowner)

Appeal Hearing Date – 7th September 2021

Appeal reference - APP/P1560/W/20/3253050

Anyone wishing to attend the virtual Hearing via Microsoft Teams or telephone must make that interest known to the Planning Inspectorate Case Officer, Milena Opolska, as soon as possible prior to the Hearing. This should be done primarily by email

(VE.RT@planninginspectorate.gov.uk), but if e-mail is not possible via telephone message (0303 444 5000

(1) **Land South of Harwich Road, Lawford** – (20/01608/FUL) Erection of a Flexible Electricity Generation Facility with associated ancillary infrastructure, access and boundary treatment. This application has been “called-in” by Carlo and is still awaiting the Planning Committee Agenda Date.

(2) **Mistley Place Park** – (21/00453/FUL) McCarthy & Stone - Planning Application to construct 42 apartments and 11 bungalows to provide “Retirement Living”.

I have ‘Called-In’ the application, so that if recommended for approval by Planning Officers the decision would have to be made by the Planning Committee, to which the public could make representations.

Mistley Parish Council has formally opposed this application in its present form.

McCarthy & Stone has since requested virtual meetings with both the Parish Council and Carlo, Val and me. The Parish Council has declined the invitation.

In order to not be accused of ‘failing to engage’ at the Planning Committee or any subsequent appeal hearing, which gives weight to their application, we as District councillors, have an obligation to hear what information McCarthy & Stone wish to discuss.

We have met virtually and listened to McCarthy & Stone’s change proposals. We did offer to pass on those proposals to the Parish Council; however, they declined to meet and discuss this information.

On the 23rd July, McCarthy & Stone again contacted us and reported that they were making progress on amending their plans and resolving concerns. They are requesting a further meeting in the next couple of weeks to outline the changes.

(3) **Tops’l House, High Street, Mistley** – (21/00040/FUL & 21/00046/FUL) Two applications for change of use. The first floor to a dwelling and the ground floor to a restaurant. I have “Called-in” this application and it is still awaiting the Planning Committee Agenda Date, if not refused under delegated authority.

(4) **Land South of Long Road / West of Clacton Road, Mistley** – (21/00197/DETAIL)The Reserved Matters application for 485 dwellings, two hectares of Employment Land, Public Open Space and Infrastructure. I have 'called-in' this application and it is awaiting the Planning Committee Agenda date.

The architect for City & Country requested a meeting with District Councillors to explain further modifications to their plan, in response to the previous written comments made by us. We met, virtually, on the 18th June.

Mistley Parish Council declined a meeting in order that we could update them on what we had learned. City & Country are providing another Virtual Update to Carlo, Val and me on the 9th August.

Kind Regards

Alan Coley – District Councillor

District Report on Behalf of:

Alan Coley, Carlo Guglielmi & Val Guglielmi

4th August 2021

In an emergency which requires TDC's assistance residents can contact the council's Control Centre on 01255 222022, available 24/7.

Fly Tipping - If anyone witnesses any fly tipping occurring, please contact TDC's Waste Management Team on 01255 686768.

To report a missed bin collection visit <https://tendring-self.achieveservice.com/>.