



District Councillor Monthly Report

Lawford, Manningtree & Mistley – October/November 2023

Sixth Windrush Day Grant Scheme

Earlier this month (1 November), [DLUHC announced the opening of the sixth Windrush Day Grant Scheme 2024](#).

Councils, community groups and charities can bid for a share of up to £500,000 for educational, arts and sporting projects in the run up to Windrush Day on 22 June 2024.

Grants will fund commemorative and celebratory events and activities in recognition of the contributions the Windrush generation and their descendants have made to UK society. Some previous examples of events funded by the grant include celebratory parades, art exhibitions, and choir groups.

[Applications must be completed using this form by 17 December 2023](#).

Councils are encouraged to share this information as appropriate.

Personal safety for Councillors webinar

As part of the Local Government Association's (LGA's) Civility in Public Life Programme, it is holding a webinar on councillor personal safety and handling online abuse and intimidation. The programme has been devised for councillors who want to improve their awareness of personal safety.

[The LGA is holding a webinar from 10:00 – 11:30am on 30 November](#). Built around the role of the elected member, the session will offer practical advice and guidance. It will reference surgeries, canvassing, home visits and managing unexpected doorstep visitors.

Postal Voters advised of changes following new legislation

Postal voters in Tendring are being advised of changes to election processes following the introduction of new legislation.

Changes being brought in by the Government through the Elections Act 2022 are being phased in over time, with the introduction of Voter ID at this year's elections in May being the first significant change.

Now, from the end of October 2023, extra security measures around postal voting came into effect. Electors will now need to have their identity verified as part of the application to vote by post.

Most voters will be able to do this online, through a new national portal, using their National Insurance number and a picture of their signature. Anyone can apply to vote by post.

Voters without a National Insurance number can use other approved forms of identification to support their application, while paper applications – using an updated form – will still be accepted for anyone not online.

In addition, postal vote arrangements will now only be valid for three years – whereas previously postal vote arrangements were permanent, with a signature refresh every five years. In the future, people wanting to keep their arrangements for the long-term will need to re-apply for a postal vote every three years.

These changes only apply immediately to new applications – electors currently registered for a postal vote can keep those arrangements until January 2026, provided their details do not change, for example by moving home.

Ian Davidson, Electoral Registration Officer for Tendring, said while postal voters did not need to act now, they should be aware of the changes.

“If you currently have a postal vote then you do not need to worry for now, but please bear in mind the new registration requirements are coming,” Mr Davidson said.

“Anyone looking to register for a postal vote now, or who changes their details, will need to go through this new process – so remember to have your National Insurance number handy.”

Further changes coming from the Elections Act 2022 include removing the 15-year limit on eligibility for overseas British voters.

Mr Davidson added: “We will communicate to registered voters about these changes as they are introduced or, otherwise, as and when they need to take action.”

Tendring electors with questions or who is struggling with the online portal should contact the Tendring District Council Elections team at elections@tendringdc.gov.uk or call [01255 686575](tel:01255686575).

Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's (PFCC) precept survey

The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's (PFCC) precept survey for 2024/25 has now launched. This is the chance for all Essex residents to have their say on future funding for Essex Police and Essex County Fire and Rescue Service. The survey seeks to identify appetites for investing more in Essex Police and Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, understanding what county residents feel would be a reasonable level of additional investment and how they would like to see any extra investment spent.

You can complete the survey here: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/MVKC3H/>

The survey closes at midnight on Tuesday 21st November, 2023, but may be extended.

Get first glimpse at PANTO with preview show of Aladdin

Tickets are on sale for the preview performance of this year's pantomime at the Princes Theatre.

The cast of Aladdin first take to the stage this season on Friday, 8 December – and tickets cost just £11 per person for the preview of the pantomime, staged by Anton Benson Productions.

Taking place before the official opening of the show at the Princes Theatre – run by Tendring District Council (TDC) – the preview is the first chance the stars get to run the performance before a live audience.

Mick Barry, TDC Cabinet Member for Leisure and Public Realm, said the preview was a fun show to watch.

“Although the cast put hours of effort into rehearsals, there's nothing like that first show with an audience to gauge how the whole thing comes together,” Cllr Barry said.

“So not only do you get to be the first to see Aladdin, but you might also witness some real gems never to be seen again.

“At just £11 per ticket the preview is great value for money – so why not book now to enjoy this unique offer?”

Aladdin features a stellar cast including former Eastenders star 'Nasty Nick' John Altman, pop sensation Cleopatra Higgins, and Britain's Got Talent semi-finalist Graeme Matthews as Wishee Washee.

Tickets are available from the Princes Theatre website at princetheatre.co.uk or by calling the Box Office on 01255 686633 (Option 1).

Terry Barrett – District Councillor

District Report on Behalf of:

Terry Barrett, Matthew Bensilum & Carlo Guglielmi

15/11/2023