

District Council Annual Report March 2018

Local Plan

The Local Plan (2013-2033) was submitted to the Secretary of State in October 2017 and Part 1 has undergone its Examination in Public in January 2018. The Inspector has yet to announce his decision but it is hoped that it will be agreed as being sound, and then Part 2 can be examined. It is anticipated that this will take place later this year, and the Plan hopefully adopted by TDC in early 2019.

On 21st November 2017 TDC announced that it had a 6.2 year Housing Land Supply, however since then several Planning Inspectors have stated either that TDC do NOT have a 5 Year HLS, or do, but not as much as stated.

Planning Matters

As you are all no doubt aware there are currently two planning permissions for up to 660 new homes on neighbouring plots of land in Lawford and Mistley. These include up to 360 homes on a site east of Bromley Road, measuring 22.76 hectares, for which there has been a detailed application for 120 homes approved, and for up to 300 homes on land south of Long Road and West of Clacton Road. The Long Road site currently has a detailed application submitted for the first phase of the development for 96 homes. There is also a further outline application from the same developer for up to 500 homes, an increase of 200 homes.

There is also an application by Gladman Homes for up to 110 dwellings in Grange Road, on a site that includes the Scheduled Monument, and also a recent appeal has been allowed for 67 Homes to be built between New Road and Green Lane, Mistley.

Recycling & Waste

The contract for this is for renewal in 2019. The proposal is for TDC to go to a two weekly collection for general waste, using Wheelie Bins. There will be no change to the Recycling, Food Waste will still be collected weekly, and alternate weeks for cardboard/paper, cans/plastics.

Recently there was a four week consultation on the above proposal, to which 483 people took part, with 53% supporting the plans, 35% against, and 12% not expressing a view either way.

A report went to Cabinet on 23rd March recommending that this proposal be approved.

Sheltered Housing Schemes

Last year I reported that a full review was being undertaken into two sheltered housing schemes (Honeycroft, Lawford & Spendalls, Walton) run by TDC. In October checks within Honeycroft revealed that there was a high risk of Legionella, and that short term measures were put in place to ensure the safety of the residents. Unfortunately it was also discovered that there was asbestos within the roof areas, and the decision was taken to move those residents to other schemes within Tendring.

A consultation was then undertaken including residents, both Lawford Parish and Walton Town councils, and the Ward Councillors. As a result of this consultation no residents were against the closure of either scheme. A report went to Cabinet on Friday 23rd March with a recommendation that the schemes both be closed.

One of the concerns expressed by the residents of Honeycroft was that they would not be coming back. They, as well as I, have been given assurances, on more than one occasion, that they will have 'first choice' of whatever is proposed. The most likely option, hopefully, is that Honeycroft will be knocked down, and up to 21 one and two bed roomed bungalows constructed on the site. I will certainly hold the council to live up to that promise of first choice.

Awards – 2017

Tendring District Council (TDC) scooped a gold achievement award for the way it handles information about addresses across the area. The award is recognition of the management of the Council's address information database and was presented at the GeoPlace annual conference and Exemplar Awards ceremony at Leeds United Football Club.

Staff at Tendring District Council (TDC) have been recognised for their on-going efforts to tackle a wide range of important community issues on their streets. The Council has 32 employees who can give out fixed penalty notices for offences such as anti-social behaviour, dog fouling, graffiti and littering. TDC was one of the very first organisations to join the Police Community Accreditation Scheme and it has now received a plaque to mark ten years membership. The Council has the second highest number of officers accredited of any local authority in Essex, only behind Chelmsford City Council.

Eight car parks in Tendring have been given top marks following an independent safety check. The sites run by Tendring District Council (TDC) have scooped national awards having been crime free for the past 12 months. The checks were carried out by The Safer Parking Award Scheme Park Mark® and the sites involved passed with flying colours.

The Council has become the very first in Essex to achieve the nationally recognised status as a Disability Confident Leader. It is the highest accolade any employer can reach and recognises that the authority is positive about employing disabled people.

And finally once again the Pride of Tendring Awards were held on Friday 23rd February, to recognise a number of people who have made a difference to others in the community. The awards highlight and reward those from many walks of life who make a real difference to their community and all the recipients are all nominated by Tendring District Councillors.

Restoration Project at Princes Theatre

An on-going restoration project at Clacton's Princes Theatre has meant that £40,000 was spent on new seating. The 20-year-old seats in the tiered section were ripped out and replaced – along with hand rails being installed for the first time. There were also improvements to the dress circle area as part of the scheme. In the future improvements will be made to both the ladies and mens toilets.

Boundary Commission Review

As from the local council elections in May 2019 the number of Councillors at Tendring District Council (TDC) will be 48. Most ward boundaries have been redrawn, and for us locally the Ward will now consist of Lawford, Manningtree & Mistle with three District councillors.

Tourism - Clacton Air Show , Seafont Team & Tour de Tendring

In 2017 yet again over 250,000 people made it to the District for the Clacton Airshow, and many stayed for the night flights on the first day. This year the Air show will be on Thursday 24th and Friday 25th August, with night flights again taking place on the evening of the first day. There will again, in conjunction with Clacton Pier, be a firework display after the night flights. The Airshow was closer to breaking even with costs driven down by £20,000 on the previous year. The overall income from the airshow was around £82,000 which came from the sale of trade stand space, £31,000 from selling programmes and bucket collections as well as £9,500 from sponsorship. An economic impact study for this year's event still has to be completed but previous reports show that it has brought

about £5.5 million into the Tendring economy. I would encourage everyone to try and visit for the displays.

Budget – Savings & Investment

TDC has now taken a radical approach to having to make potential £3.4 million pounds of savings by 2020, by now having a 10 year Financial Plan, which would mean taking a long term view on savings and investments. Despite those savings the Council is set to invest in priorities such as tourism, health, leisure and regeneration . £7.5 million has been identified to fund a number of projects such as £2 million for the Garden Communities Project, £1 million for a public realm project in Harwich, £500,000 for housing in Jaywick Sands, £1.5 million for Office Transformation and Channel Shift, £2million on regenerations and economic development projects, and nearly £600,000 on repairs to key assets.

RESIDENTS' FREE PARKING SCHEME

The popular residents' free parking scheme operated across Tendring will continue, and without those already registered having to do nothing, as their parking permits will be renewed automatically. Apart from two sites within the District, residents can park for nothing for 10 months of the year for free (remember July and August is NOT included unless you pay for a permit for those months). TDC are one of the only councils in Essex to provide our residents with free parking.

Funding made available for Community Led Housing Schemes

A cash pot of more than £700,000 is to be used to help meet local housing needs for communities across Tendring. Tendring District Council (TDC) has been awarded the money from the Community Housing Fund for the first year of a five year programme. In years two to five community groups will have the chance to bid directly for a mixture of additional capital and revenue funding for individual schemes, such as affordable housing. The fund was launched by the Department for Communities and Local Government in December 2016 and finance is being given to 148 local authorities across the country out of £60 million per year.