

ECC / BDC Cllr Peter Schwier report for 8th. July 2021 meeting

A12 Chelmsford to A120 widening statutory consultation – 22 June to 16 August 2021

You can respond using one of the following methods:

- Online via the response form at www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A12
- Complete the consultation response form available from the pick-up points listed below and return the form to **FREEPOST A12 WIDENING**
- Email your response to A12ChelmsfordA120wide@highwaysengland.co.uk
- Write to us at **FREEPOST A12 WIDENING**

New website to help find suitable residential and nursing care homes for older people

A new website has launched to help people in Essex find a suitable care home for themselves or a loved one.

- Essex County Council, working in partnership with the NHS, has launched a new website to help people find a suitable care home for themselves or a loved one.

The new website is www.essexcaresearch.org

- Essex Care Search can be used to find residential, nursing, dementia or respite care home vacancies for older people within Essex.

You can search for vacancies by location, cost, type of care and facilities in the care home.

The site has detailed information on all the homes that are registered including contact details, CQC ratings and photographs.

Whether you are looking for short term care, longer term care, a central location with specialist room features, or an en-suite bedroom in a home by the coast, Essex Care Search can help you to find a care provider.

- Cllr John Spence, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, said: “Enabling residents to have access to a choice of quality care facilities in every part of the county is a key objective for us. We hope this new website will make that access still easier”.

Go to www.essexcaresearch.org and start your search.

Guidance and an easy step by step video to guide you through the website, can be found here <https://www.essexcaresearch.org/Home/About>

Essex County Council strengthens business support through Backing Essex

Business service

Free advice and support for small and medium businesses is now available from Essex County Council

Businesses across Essex are encouraged to take advantage of dedicated advice and guidance being offered through Essex County Council’s refreshed support service ‘Backing Essex Business’.

Essex businesses can access fully funded support to help them grow, improve productivity, develop new products or services, or to consider their options for the future and develop a longer-term business strategy.

Backing Essex Business supports a range of needs, from staffing and financial support to marketing and supply chain management. Support is being delivered through a variety of programmes including Peer 2 Peer Learning, workshops, and up to 12 hours of free 121 business support, from experienced specialists.

Backing Essex Business builds on the existing help Essex County Council has funded over the last year, which has assisted more than 700 businesses and safeguarded and created more than 600 jobs.

Bespoke tailors, Samuel Brothers, approached Let's Do Business Group, to respond to the change in market forces, during the pandemic. The company received a bespoke business package, that guided them through the pandemic, which included a financial review, a marketing plan, and an export evaluation.

Lee Dawson, director of Samuel Brothers, commented: "As an SME, there are very few people outside our own businesses that can offer advice. At a busy time, I have appreciated the sincerity of staff who have taken the time to learn about our business, and consequently they understood and appreciated our business challenges."

Graham Marley, Chief Executive of Backing Essex Business, commented: "Let's Do Business Group are delighted to be continuing to work with Essex County Council to support businesses across Essex, through the enhanced service, Backing Essex Business.

Over the last 12 months, we have worked with over 700 businesses, helping them to navigate the most challenging business environment in a generation, and we look forward to helping many more to navigate the economy's choppy waters, but also to support business growth – there are still many opportunities that businesses can seize."

Cllr Lesley Wagland, Cabinet Member for Economic Renewal, Infrastructure and Planning at Essex County Council, commented: "Over the course of the last 12 months, Essex County Council has been actively engaging with the Essex business community to understand the type of business support that they need to grow and prosper. We are therefore thrilled and excited to launch our ambitious Backing Essex Business Service, which will support the growth of our important business sectors and help generate new jobs and opportunities for our residents."

For more information on the Backing Essex Business service, from Let's Do Business Group, please visit: www.backingessexbusiness.co.uk, or contact: 0800 970 8981

Go wild in Essex libraries this summer!

Essex Libraries launch popular Summer Reading Challenge for young people.

Libraries in Essex are calling for children to sign up to read six books this summer as part of Wild World Heroes – the Summer Reading Challenge 2021.

This year, the Challenge takes place in Wilderville, where the Wild World Heroes live. Wilderville is a pretty cool place, but our heroes have been noticing some problems. They're ready to take action to save the natural world – but they need the children of Essex to help them.

To take part in the challenge, all children need to do is sign up at their nearest library, where they will be given a collector folder to keep a record of their Summer Reading Challenge journey. Then, they are asked to read six library books. As they read, they will collect transformation stickers to add to a fold-out map of Wilderville. Their stickers will fix the environmental problem in each area and make Wilderville a better home for everyone. After reading six books they will earn a certificate and medal.

Wide World Heroes is presented by The Reading Agency in association with the World Wide Fund for Nature. It launches in libraries across Essex on 10 July and runs until 31 August.

I like getting the stickers. I also enjoy that I can read any type of book I like. – Summer Reading participant age 9, 2019

Cllr Louise McKinlay, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Community, Equality, Partnerships and Performance, said: “Our libraries are valued by us and our residents for many reasons, not only as spaces where community groups can come together but places to encourage and support reading and learning for children and young people.

“Investment in many of our libraries across the county is bringing forward new facilities ,buildings and initiatives, meaning that younger generations in Essex will be able to enjoy their much loved libraries, for many years to come. It will also see initiatives like the Summer Reading Challenge continue to flourish, helping the county’s children and young people embrace and develop a love of reading.

“This year our libraries are running the Summer Reading Challenge again. In 2019 almost 32,000 children took part and we hope that with the additional 500 volunteers we have recruited, this year’s challenge will be even bigger and better.

“Finally, later this year, I will be publishing an updated Library Strategy, which will underline our commitment to the service across the county. We have some good opportunities to expand the use of libraries and upgrade the facilities and offer. I am keen that we place libraries at the heart of our communities and I look forward to sharing the plans accordingly.”