

# Ardleigh Parish Council

Hello from your Parish Council! See below for a quick overview of current activities. Full details of the services provided by our Parish Council, meeting agendas and minutes plus contact details and campaign updates are available on our website [www.ardleigh.website](http://www.ardleigh.website).

Our January meeting started with a minute's silence in memory of James Blyth who served as a Councillor until shortly before his death in December 2025. James' contribution to the Council and the Ardleigh community was significant and was formally noted by the Council.

## **Infrastructure Projects and Planning**

The Norwich to Tilbury project and windfarm/substation plans would be devastating for Ardleigh should they go ahead (see separate article for more details) and this remains a major focus of our work.

Our Planning Infrastructure Working Group, made up of Councillors and members of the public- and including Little Bromley councillors- continues to meet regularly and has reviewed many hundreds of pages of documents. Our consultation responses and submissions to the Examining Authority can be found here <https://ardleigh.website/pylons-and-substations>

Thanks to your generosity we have been able to engage Simon Bell, Barrister, to ensure that the specific issues facing the Ardleigh and Little Bromley Area (sometimes referred to as the ALBA in the documents) are raised. It's not too late to contribute

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/ardleigh-legal-fund-against-pylons-substations> or email [legalfund@ardleigh-pc.gov.uk](mailto:legalfund@ardleigh-pc.gov.uk).

The large warehouse proposed for Old Ipswich Road/ Wick Lane- which we opposed and sought judicial review on in 2023/4- continues to be closely monitored- including recent applications for discharge of conditions and non-material amendments.

Tendring District Council's Local Plan has been open for consultation regarding preferred sites, with minimal housing changes for Ardleigh, largely due to the existence of our Neighbourhood Plan and the plans already in place for the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community. However, large employment sites are proposed within Ardleigh. Councillors met with Tendring District Council's Planning Policy Team Leader on 12 March to better understand the proposals prior to commenting. Colchester's plan is also in development. Significant housing is proposed in neighbouring areas, including around St Johns in Colchester (close to Fox Street), Langham, and Great Bromley — all of which could impact Ardleigh.

We continue to review planning applications and comment to Tendring District Council (TDC), who is the decision maker.

We have also been notified that the formal Planning Applications for the first part of the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community have been submitted and will be considered at a future Parish Council meeting. Funding for the remainder A120/A133 Link Road has also been announced.

There is still no decision on the proposed asphalt plant close to the intended new Country Park at Crown Quarry. Our concerns include odour, traffic and environmental impact. If the planning officer recommends approval, the application will go to TDC's Planning Committee.

### **Highways & our Environs**

We have a different contractor to fill the floral displays around the centre of the Village. Tubs will be replaced with new summer planting in early June.

Residents are encouraged to report highways issues direct to Essex Highways

<https://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us>

At the March Parish Council meeting, a representative of one of the landfill site operators attended and provided a statement in connection with the odours coming from the Slough Lane landfill sites. It is understood that the Environment Agency have been working with the operator to make changes to manage the odours. The full statement is elsewhere in the Chronicle:

Please keep reporting concerns to the Environment Agency

**Phone:** 03708 506 506 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm)

**Email:** [enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)

**Online:** <https://report-an-environmental-problem.service.gov.uk/>

### **Village Hall & Amenities**

A new early-years provider has been secured for the Village Hall from September 2026, subject to contract. Please look out for updates and details of an open day on our website and social media.

Results from the survey about Yew Trees at the entrance to the church were split between those who supported their removal and those who wanted to try to rejuvenate them. The Church have agreed to seek funding for their removal, meaning that the Parish Council will not be expected to fund this. Planning permission will be sought by the Church from TDC. This will allow TDC's Principal Tree and Landscape Officer to review the application and give his advice. The Parish Council and residents will be able to comment formally on the proposals.

A new defibrillator has been fitted in the phone box on Colchester Road thanks to grant funding from Essex Locality Fund. Bleed kits have also been purchased and will be available in both village defibrillator cabinets (the existing cabinet is at the Village Hall). Other ideas for the

phone box such as a community book exchange can also be considered. Let us know if you would like to get involved.

Larger bins have been purchased for two existing locations (replacing small dog waste bins) and a new location close to the bus stop at Home Farm Lane. We expect these to be installed before the end of March.

Repairs have been carried out on the car park and entrance road at the Recreation Ground. The potholes in the Village Hall car park should be fixed next. These car parks are for Village Hall and Recreation Ground users, and for the Mill's longterm leaseholders. We kindly ask local residents and businesses not to use them while at home or work.

Two new pieces of springer play equipment have been installed at the Colchester Road play area, and an existing springer has been refurbished.

We recently had the trees in the Parish surveyed. You may see our contractors working on the trees in next few weeks to ensure their health and longevity.

### **Land for Community Use**

The purchase of protected Local Green Space at Harwich Road has not been finalised. If we are able to secure the land, we will protect it from future housing development and keep it for community use (eg allotments, community gardens and possible cemetery extension).

### **Vacancies**

We have two Councillor vacancies. Please get in touch if you have time and energy and might be interested. [www.bit.ly/Become-a-Councillor](http://www.bit.ly/Become-a-Councillor)

### **How You Can Get Involved**

Join us! Whether it's litter picking, volunteering for Speedwatch, sharing ideas for community spaces, or becoming a Councillor, we'd love to hear from you.

Our Parish Council meetings are held on the second Monday of most months. Meetings are open to all and residents have the opportunity to speak for up to 3 minutes.

Please note the start time for Parish Council meetings is now 7pm- at the Village Hall with Teams option. 2026 dates are – 13 April, 11 May (annual meeting), 8 June, 13 July, (no meeting in August), 14 September, 12 October, 9 November, 14 December.

We are part of the team planning the Family Fun Day on 27 June and Councillors and Officers will be in attendance. Please come and say hello!

### **Contact us**

**Email:** [info@ardleigh-pc.gov.uk](mailto:info@ardleigh-pc.gov.uk)

**Website:** [www.ardleigh.website](http://www.ardleigh.website)

**Tel:** 01206 414989

**Follow us:** Facebook @ardleghpc Instagram @ardleighnp

### **Quick Links**

Report a highways issue: [www.essexhighways.org/tell-us](http://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us)

View planning applications: [www.tendringdc.gov.uk/planning](http://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/planning)

Our website: [www.ardleigh.website](http://www.ardleigh.website)

Become a Councillor: [www.bit.ly/Become-a-Councillor](http://www.bit.ly/Become-a-Councillor)