

Ardleigh Parish Council Report

Our Parish Council usually meets on the second Monday of most months at Ardleigh Village Hall with a remote option for members of the public. Our meetings are open to the public, and there is a slot at each one for 'public participation' where residents can speak for up to three minutes. Outside this slot, members of the public are only permitted to speak if invited by the Chair. **The next meeting will be Monday 8 April 2024, 7.30pm.**

The main March meeting was attended by Cllr Carlo Guglielmi, our Essex County Councillor and Cllr Zoe Fairley our Tendring District Councillor. Six members of the public attended in person and one Councillor online. Issues raised during the 'public participation' section were:

- **Pylons and substations** – the Parish Council continues to campaign against National Grid's plans, co-ordinating with the Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons Campaign. The next Statutory Consultation will be at the end April/ beginning of May. The council plans to hold another public meeting to fully inform residents.

For those who haven't already done so, please sign up to this campaign www.pylonseastanglia.co.uk and/or you can sign up for updates from Sir Bernard Jenkin MP. You can visit <https://ardleigh.website/pylons-and-substations> to download our responses so far to all the relevant consultations etc.

National Grid recently announced that we need to re-register with them to continue to receive email updates direct. To register again, email contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com with your First Name, Last Name and Email Address.

- **Neighbourhood Plan** - the Examiner's suggested changes to our plan were considered minor apart from the Garden Community being excluded from the Plan, effectively leaving Crockleford without representation and which the Council objected to. All the comments received by TDC on the proposed changes will now be considered by the Examiner. More details <https://ardleigh.website/our-plan>
- **Minerals Plan – New Quarries proposed for Ardleigh by Essex County Council** – the recent drop-in session was discussed. An estimated 100 people attended with numerous comments made, almost all of which were in opposition. Residents' concerns focused on too many proposed developments and the cumulative impact that would be felt by everyone in the Village. (See more details below about these plans). The consultation has been extended to 5pm Tues 9 April
- **D-Day Commemoration – as part of national events** the Ardleigh beacon (on the Recreation Ground) will be lit on 6 June at 9.15pm and church bells will be rung. There will be a Village event on 8 June on the Millennium Green organised by a working group of members of the public and Councillors. The Council will provide some financial support for the event.
- **Dead Lane/Colchester Road** - matters were raised related to signage, ditches, flooding, and drainage. Further issues of street lighting along **Colchester Road** were mentioned.

Minerals Plan – New Quarries proposed for Ardleigh by Essex County Council

The consultation date has been **extended to 9 April** due to considerable public interest. For more information on the mineral extraction sites and to have your say on-line see Essex County Council information on their website



<https://www.essex.gov.uk/replacement-essex-minerals-local-plan-review-2025-2040>

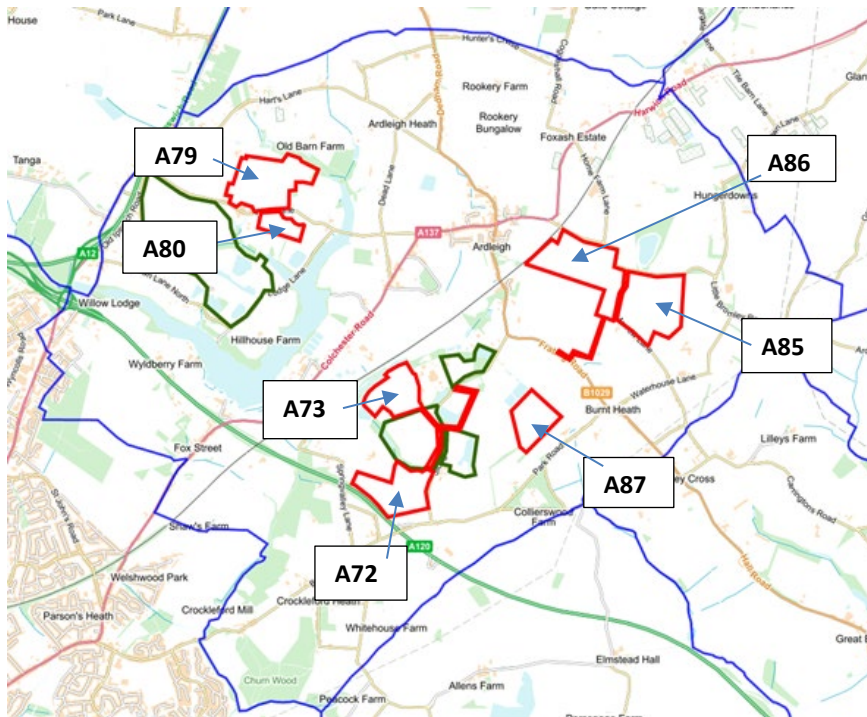
You need to click on: 'Submit a comment on our consultation portal' <https://www.essex.gov.uk/replacement-essex-minerals-local-plan-review-2025-2040/tell-us-your-views> and then find the link to **Assessment of sand and gravel sites report** here <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/planning/rmlpr-2024/>

For more information from Ardleigh Parish Council including updates following the public drop-in session on Friday 1 March see <https://ardleigh.website/news>

These are the new Mineral Extraction (Quarry) sites proposals in Ardleigh. **An Essex County Council review includes 7 new potential sites (total 124.82ha) around Ardleigh, in addition to the 4 existing quarries.**

Green shows the existing sites.

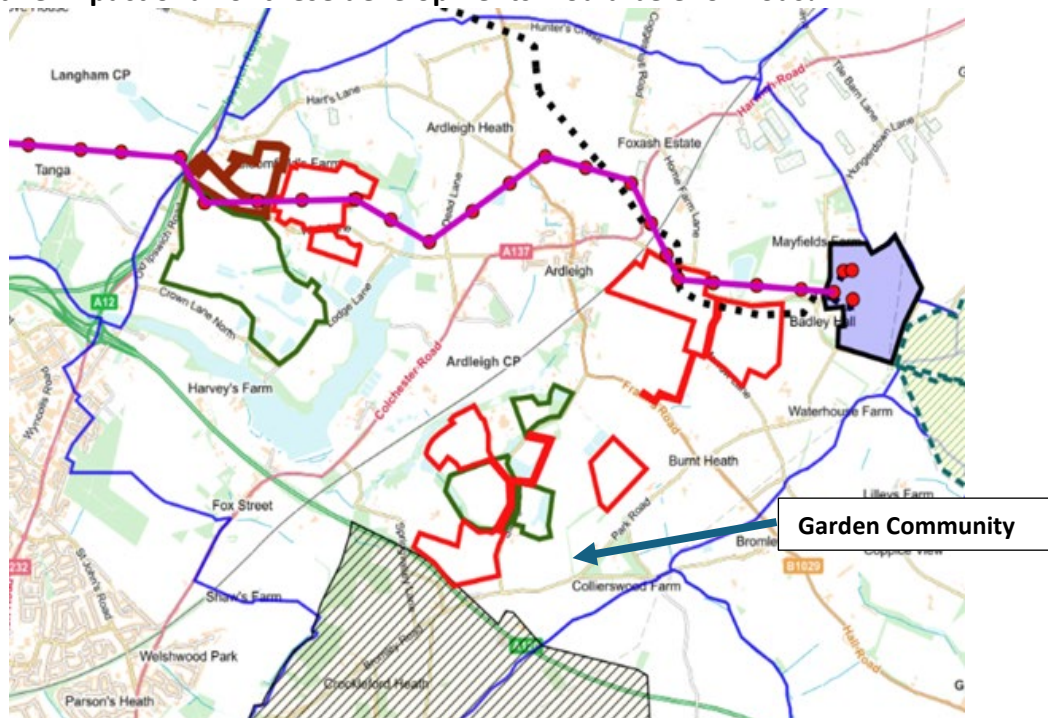
Red shows the proposed sites.



The map below includes other current proposals which are affecting the Parish of Ardleigh:

- **Purple line** is the proposed pylons route
- **Black dotted line** is proposed undergrounding route
- **Mauve block** is the proposed substation for National Grid
- **Light green block** is the proposed substation for Five Estuary / North Falls
- **Brown** is the proposed site for the Surya Warehouse

The cumulative impact of all of these developments would be enormous!



Judicial Review The oral permissions hearing regarding Tendring District Council planning decision to approve the huge food storage and distribution facility adjacent to Wick Lane (20/00594/FUL) took place on 29 February. Unfortunately the Judge did not give permission for us to proceed to a full Judicial Review. That Judgment has now been appealed – confirmed at an extra ordinary meeting of Ardleigh Parish Council on 6 March 2024. Should the appeal be granted, then more funds will be needed to argue our case at a full High Court hearing. We are grateful for the substantial donations which have enabled us to proceed to this position and are continuing to appeal for pledges of further support. Please email us if you can assist or would like more information.

Tendring/Colchester Borders Garden Community The Examiner will begin final consultations into the Garden Community plans in early May. The council has registered to attend to make representations on behalf of residents. There will also be an A120/A133 Link Road Phase 1 hearing shortly. We understand that the route of the road has begun to be staked out around Allens Farm.

New Deputy Clerk Rachel Edwards has been appointed to the permanent part time position of Deputy Parish Clerk having worked with us in a temporary position since September. Rachel has previous experience working as a Clerk in a smaller Parish and has recently completed the Certificate in Local Council Administration. She joins two existing part-time staff, Rachel Fletcher, Parish Clerk, and Sue Mutimer, Village Hall Caretaker.

Planning See <https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/planning/planning-applications> for current applications. A summary of recent and ongoing applications and extracts from our comments can be found below, excluding tree works. Where appropriate, our responses to TDC include reference to the emerging Ardleigh Neighbourhood Plan Policies and updated Village Design Statement. Full details are available by searching here <https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/planning/planning-applications>

[24/00214/FUL](#) Extension to existing building to provide shop, restaurant and bin store, first floor restaurant terrace. Reduction in size of existing detached shop, to be used as store. Prettyfields Vineyard Ltd, Dead Lane, Ardleigh, CO7 7PF. Council **resolved** to support the application.

[24/00255/FUL](#) One x 2 bedroom and two x 3 bedroom dwellings (in lieu of Class Q prior approval for one x 1 bedroom, one x 2 bedroom and one x 3 bedroom dwellings). Re-Submission of withdrawn application - 23/01152/FUL. Gods House Farm, Harts Lane, Ardleigh CO7 7QQ. Council **resolved** to object.

[24/00017/FULHH](#) Erection of garage to serve existing bungalow. Bungalow rear of Woodland Lodge, Spring Valley Lane, Ardleigh CO7 7SD. Council **resolved** to support the application.

[24/00269/LUEX](#) Application for Lawful Development Certificate for Existing Use or Development for erection of the building and its use for joinery purposes. Holly Tree Nursery, Hungerdown Lane, Ardleigh CO7 7LZ. Council **resolved** not to object.

[24/00201/WTPO](#) Cut back overhanging branches on maple tree. Ash Lodge, Mary Warner Road, Ardleigh CO7 7RP. Council **resolved** not to object.

[24/00213/FULHH](#) Alterations -new bay windows, new entrance door, and first floor extension including balcony. Erection of front boundary wall with gates. Laburnum Plains Farm Close, Ardleigh CO7 7QU. Council **resolved** not to object. Comments to be made in respect of the design of the wall and gates.

[24/00331/COUNOT](#) Prior Approval Application under Part 3, Class Q of the Town and Country Planning Order 2015 (as amended) for the conversion of an agricultural building into a dwelling. Nevada, Harts Lane, Ardleigh CO7 7QH. Council **resolved** to object.

The Lion Public House The Council discussed the work being done on site. Residents are asked to contact Tendring District Council's Planning Department should they have any comments to make about this matter planning.services@tendringdc.gov.uk

Ardleigh Practical Action for Climate and Environment (APACE) will be getting involved in 'Ardleigh Spring Clean' 8th to 14th April. Members of APACE will be out and about during the week, litter picking and generally tidying up Ardleigh and want to encourage everyone in the community to get involved and do the same. Send photos of your 'Ardleigh Spring Clean' activities to ardleighpace@gmail.com or find them on Facebook and Instagram. Prize for the best photo.

The items below were included in Articles submitted to the Advertiser for the February and March editions which were not published and have been updated were indicated. The full articles can now be found on the Parish Council website <https://ardleigh.website/ardleigh-advertiser-items>

Village Hall and Recreation Ground Car Park A meeting was requested to try to alleviate parking issues following reports of problems parking at the Hall and Recreation Ground, as well as along the road and pavement by the Hall. At this point, we are not able to update you, however, the Parish Council continues to ask residents and businesses to ensure that cars are parked in suitable authorised locations with full regard to the safety of residents and road users.

The Street Essex County Council were contacted about the surfacing works due to take place in The Street last year and queried whether the drainage problems in The Street could be rectified at the same time as the surface patching. Pictures were supplied by our Clerk. The request was put through by our County Councillor to the County Council maintenance team but unfortunately the engineer in charge advised the works were delayed due to other priorities. No alternative date has been announced. When the Council is updated with new dates, we will update our social media.

Dog Waste It has been reported that a significant amount of dog waste is being left on the playing fields and Millennium Green. **Please clear up after your dog.** There are several waste bins provided; this is not a dog problem, it is an owner problem! Please take note of what your dog is doing and **Bag It and Bin It.**

Maintaining Hedges/ Clearing Ditches It was mentioned previously that the Parish Council had received several complaints about footpaths being obstructed by hedges and hedges growing into roadways. This causes safety issues for both pedestrians and motorists. The Council sent a letter to householders/ landowners to request action be taken by them to mitigate these problems. **Thanks to those who received this letter and have subsequently cut back overgrown verges and hedges.**

Complaints about overgrown hedges causing problems to footpaths or roadways should be reported to Essex Highways via <https://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us> **Please cut your hedges back as this helps keep roads and pavements safe for residents and road users. (Update: but also please be aware of guidance relating to nesting birds)**

The Council has also received complaints about flooding from several residents with ditches being blocked. **Please clear ditches as necessary. Local floods are preventable if landowners keep on top of ditch and hedge maintenance.** Flooding should be reported to Highways <https://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us>

Village Hall The recent survey thankfully indicated there is very unlikely to be RAAC present at the hall. We are looking into potential grant funding for maintenance/ improvements (e.g. solar panels & roof repairs). We use Community Halls in Partnership (CHIP) to manage the bookings of the Village hall and promote to a wider audience. For booking enquiries please contact CHIP on 01206 870266 or ardleigh@community-centre.org.uk

Highways The cause of ditches overflowing causing flooding in Coggeshall Road has been located. Water pipes had cracked; the water company has dealt with this which should resolve the flooding issue.

Cemetery Clearance work has been undertaken and new wildlife initiatives have been built. Please see Facebook or our website for more details. Thanks to Cottage Landscapes for their help.

Dates for your diary The next Council meeting is **Monday 8 April 2024, 7.30pm at Ardleigh Village Hall.** All meetings take place there with a remote option for most meetings. **Agendas** for Parish Council meetings are posted on the noticeboard at the entrance to the Village Hall, and on the website, at least three days before each meeting. All **Minutes** are also on the website and we provide a summary within the Ardleigh Advertiser each month.

Contact us Email us info@ardleigh-pc.gov.uk Write to us Ardleigh Parish Council, PO Box 12865, Colchester, CO7 7EZ. Telephone (answerphone) 01206 414989 (please leave a detailed message). We are on social media. Website www.ardleigh.website Facebook (@ardleighpc and @ardleighvh for the Village Hall) and Instagram (@ardleighnp).