

Ardleigh Parish Council Report

The Parish Council is delighted to see the return of the Ardleigh Advertiser this month. Several members of the public have asked Councillors if the magazine would be printed – they were unable to help as it is not a Parish Council publication – but now, like everyone else, they are glad to see its return. ***Many thanks to those responsible for production for bringing it back to print.***

In the period when the Advertiser has not been available the Council published its articles on the Parish Council website and will continue to do this. They can be found at: <https://ardleigh.website/ardleigh-advertiser-items>

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 9 September 2024 at 7.30pm - there is no meeting planned for August.** The July meeting was attended by Cllr Zoe Fairley, our Tendring District Councillor and Cllr Carlo Guglielmi our Essex County Council Councillor. No members of the public were present.

A lot has happened since the Advertiser was last published. Ardleigh continues to be the subject of major planning issues in and around its boundaries.

- **National Grid – Pylons and Substations**

The Council has continued to work hard to object to National Grid’s plans for Ardleigh and submitted an objection document of more than 120 pages and 30,000 words. Huge thanks to the National Grid Working Group which comprised the Clerk and some of the Councillors, together with three members of the public. Their dedication led to an extensive and detailed document being put forward to the Statutory Consultation; this document will be available on the Parish Council website.

During the process the Parish Council agreed to instruct Simon Bell, Barrister, to review our submission and to ensure that the legal arguments and the case for mitigations were as robust as possible. The next stage is likely to be a full planning application by National Grid, which will be considered by the Planning Inspectorate. We would expect to be represented at such a hearing and we hope to retain Simon to represent Ardleigh’s interests and will be asking residents for financial contributions to enable this to be funded. If you can help, please email us.

The Council wishes to thank all residents for their participation in submitting comments and attending meetings, consultation events and webinars. The Statutory Consultation has now closed. We will report back when any new information is received. Information about the Norwich to Tilbury plans and National Grid’s projected timelines can be found on their website: www.nationalgrid.com/norwich-to-tilbury

For those who haven't already done so, you can still sign up to the regional campaign www.pylonseastanglia.co.uk. Our Parish Council continues to support Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk Pylons and considers that we are stronger as part of a larger campaign.

You can visit [Pylons and Substations \(ardleigh.website\)](https://ardleigh.website) to download our responses so far to all the relevant consultations etc plus the full Council submission to the Statutory Consultation that closed in July 2024.

- **Neighbourhood Plan**

The referendum was delayed due to the General Election. We now understand that the referendum will be held on 12 September. All electors will be eligible to vote and the referendum will be run by Tendring District Council elections team.

If approved, this document becomes part of local planning policy and will provide some protection from unwanted developments in our Parish in the future. We already refer to the ‘emerging’ plan in our planning comments and in the recent the National Grid objection, as pylons are proposed close to what would become new protected local green spaces. For more details, please see

<https://ardleigh.website/our-plan> or <https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/sub-content-pages/ardleigh-neighbourhood-plan>

- **Tendring/Colchester Borders Garden Community**

There have been no updates since the final consultations with the Examiner were held in May. The change of government following the General Election in July may affect the Garden Community. It is hoped the agreed timetable would be adhered to which would lock in housing numbers until 2040, subject to review every 5 years. The Parish Council will continue to closely monitor the situation and comment on future planning applications as they arise, especially in view of the expected issues with travel/infrastructure and on Crockleford in particular.

- **Village Floral Displays**

The floral displays mentioned in our July article are blooming through the Village adding beautiful colour throughout. Many thanks again to the sponsors whose donations in 2023 have also funded this year's flowers: SRC Group, Chaselet Ltd, P Tuckwells Ltd, Cox Landscapes, James Blyth Farming, Philip Liverton Ltd, JRW Law Ltd, Cottage Landscapes, R H Coppeard, Fearnley Motors and Dean & Co Interiors. Thanks also to Craft Nurseries Garden Centre for the planting and Cottage Landscapes for the watering.

- **Car park at Recreation Ground and Village Hall**

The issue with car parking continues with complaints being received about cars parking at the Village Hall and Recreation Ground for long periods without apparently using our facilities. These car parks are strictly for users of the Recreation Ground, Millennium Green or Village Hall - plus an area allocated to Shore Engineering.

Please DO NOT park at the Village Hall/Recreation Ground unless using the Village Hall, play areas or Recreation Ground/ Millennium Green.

Please be considerate of others. It is unacceptable that residents wishing to use these areas are unable to park because of those parking long-term, effectively blocking spaces. The Parish Council continues to monitor the situation and is seeking advice should enforcement become necessary.

- **Dogs on the Recreation Ground and Millennium Green**

The Council has received complaints about dogs being walked off lead in both these areas. Although many dog owners are conscientious of others, the open space is for all users, and some people find dogs off lead intimidating. Signage asks for dogs to be kept on lead. ***Please be considerate and keep your dog on a lead.***

There is also an issue with dog waste. Please clear up after your dog. Unless your dog is exceptionally well-trained, this is the responsibility of the owner! Lack of care brands all dog owners as irresponsible which is not the case. ***It's your dog, so it's your poo to clear up! Please use the bins provided.***

- **Parish Council Play Equipment**

Repairs mentioned in a previous article have been made to several items of equipment across the three playgrounds on the Millennium Green, Recreation Ground and Colchester Road. Overgrown trees and vegetation have also been removed. Quotes are being obtained for some replacement equipment and further repairs at these areas. The Ardleigh-based company Noah's Oak offered to undertake some fencing work and replace a ramp at the play areas as a gesture of goodwill; this is due to commence in September. The Council thanks them again for their generosity. A local contractor has been engaged to repair the Teen Shelter at the Recreation Ground; work should begin in the next few weeks. The contract for the refurbishment of the galleon/sand pit on the Recreation Ground was also awarded to a local contractor and work should take place in August, subject to weather conditions. Please do not try to use the equipment or enter the site(s) whilst workers are there. Also, please do not disturb or remove any barriers erected whilst the work is being done. Thank you.

- **Village Hall**

The Council continues to investigate potential grant funding for maintenance/ improvements (e.g. solar panels & roof repairs) and quotes are being obtained. We use Community Halls in Partnership (CHIP) to manage the bookings of the Village Hall and promote it to a wider audience. For booking enquiries, please contact CHIP on 01206 870266 or ardleigh@community-centre.org.uk

- **Footpaths and Pavements**

Several residents have contacted us about overgrowth covering or obscuring footpaths and pavements. Unfortunately, the Parish Council have no jurisdiction over these; Essex Highways, part of Essex County Council, has responsibility for maintenance of pavements and footpaths. Any issues can be reported direct using their 'tell us' tool. The link to the pavements section is <https://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us/road-pavement-and-surface-issues/pavement-issues>

It is advisable to give as much information as you can when reporting problems, and include pictures, if possible, to show the problem areas. This gives a clear indication to Essex Highways of the issues and may expedite action. You will be given a report number (sent by email). Please forward this to us; if necessary, we can ask the County Councillor to look into the matter if it is not addressed within a reasonable timeframe.

- **Community Speedwatch**

Community Speedwatch has been active in the village over the last few months acting as a deterrent and recording speeding drivers to help make roads safer. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Cllr Helen Fontaine at helen.fontaine@ardleigh-pc.gov.uk for more details.

- **Judicial Review**

The Parish Council appealed the decision made in February not to allow a full Judicial Review into Tendring District Council's planning decision to approve the huge food storage and distribution facility adjacent to Wick Lane (20/00594/FUL). The decision is still pending and there are no updates. 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. Please email us if you can assist or would like more information.

- **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 and discharge/ variation of conditions and items for information. Where appropriate, our responses to Tendring District Council (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>

Planning from the **July** meeting (Abridged, see Minutes on Council website for all applications):

[24/00774/FUL](#) Extension to hotel: additional bedrooms, alterations to the car park and associated works. Premier Inn, Ipswich Road, Colchester CO4 9WP. Council **resolved** not to object.

[24/00925/FUL](#) Replacement of existing garage/store. Former Packaging Shed at Morrow Lane Nurseries, Morrow Lane, Ardleigh CO7 7NG. Council **resolved** to comment that the building must only be used for purposes stated on the application.

[24/00767/FULHH](#) Single storey flat roof conservatory. 1 Redbury Cottages, Colchester Road, Ardleigh CO7 7PQ. Council **resolved** not to object.

[24/00922/LBC](#) and [24/00921/FULHH](#) Listed Building Consent and Householder Application - remove cement render, lime plaster replacement. Repair wet rotted woodwork as necessary. Install 2 skylights. Bloomfields Farm, Wick Lane, Ardleigh CO7 7RF. Council **resolved** not to object.

[24/00987/FULHH](#) Proposed single storey annexe outbuilding. 6 Fox Street, Ardleigh CO7 7PP. Council **resolved** to comment that proposed annexe must be used in conjunction with main dwelling.

Appeals: [24/00035/FUL](#) Proposed one dwelling in lieu of approved application 22/00359/COUNOT Barn A to the rear of 5 Hunters Chase, Ardleigh CO7 7LW. Planning Committee Agenda, 9 July 2024, 5pm, with site viewing in the afternoon. Council **resolved** to reiterate previous objections.

- **Dates for your diary**

The next Council meeting is **Monday 9 September 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.

- **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).