

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 12 February 2024, 7.30pm.**

The December meeting was attended by Cllr Carlo Guglielmi, our Essex County Councillor and Cllr Zoe Fairley our Tendring District Councillor. Unfortunately, they were unable to attend in January. Members of the public also attended both meetings raising issues relating to littering and maintenance of verges/ green space, flooding and drainage and HGV damage and the pylons and substations campaign.

Budget and Council Tax 2024-25 The draft budget (and associated Council Tax/ Precept requirement) for 2024-25 was discussed at the December and January meetings considering both the need to keep any increase low due to the continuing cost of living crisis, while meeting the needs of the Parish. The Council managed to set a balanced budget and agreed to a Precept of £81,077, which will cost a Band D household £70.13 per year, up £3.34 per year on last year, less than 7p extra per week.

Judicial Review The process to challenge the Tendring District Council planning decision to approve the huge food storage and distribution facility adjacent to Wick Lane (20/00594/FUL) continues. Our specialist Planning Barrister, Simon Bell, will represent us at an oral permission hearing. This will be held in London on 29 February 2024 at a public hearing at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, WC2A 2LL. The time of the hearing will be published in the Cause List the day before the hearing (available online from 2.30pm that day). <http://www.justice.gov.uk/courts/court-lists/list-rcj> Tendring District Council (the Defendant) and Flying Trade Group (the interested Party) have also instructed planning lawyers.

Should permission be granted for a Judicial Review at the conclusion of the oral hearing, 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 are able to assist or would like more information.

Ardleigh Neighbourhood Plan The long awaited further consultation is now open and will run from **Monday 22 January** and will close at **5PM on Monday 4 March 2024**. The details below have been provided by Tendring DC.

'Focused Regulation 16 Consultation 2024

Between May and June 2023, the Regulation 16 consultation of the Ardleigh Neighbourhood Plan took place. On completion an Examiner was jointly appointed by the Parish and District council.

Once the Parish and District Council had responded to the Examiner's Interim Note, the Examiner raised a number of issues that needed addressing before the Examination could continue.

The specific matters are listed below and are now open for a focused public consultation:

- 1) Schedule of Proposed Significant Changes document - the Examiner has proposed a number of significant changes as well as other modifications to the Neighbourhood Plan in order to ensure it meets the basic conditions.
- 2) HRA & SEA combined documentation. A Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report was prepared by Essex County Council Place Services on behalf of the District Council in support of the Neighbourhood Plan. The three statutory consultation bodies (Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency) were not formally consulted on the Screening Report and no formal decision by the District Council was made on the Screening Report. A consultation was held between 16th November and the 18th December 2023 where comments from Natural England and Historic England were received. The District Council was therefore able to publish our formal decision as Competent Authority stating that the Screening Report now meets the requirements of the Regulations set out in regulations 9(2)(b) and 12(5) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

- 3) NPPF - on 20th December 2023 Government published a new version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Comments are invited on this revised NPPF with regard to how the Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions.

You can view and make comments on all 3 matters via the Consultation Portal <https://tendringdc.oc2.uk/> Alternatively, you can write to TDC at – Planning Policy, Tendring District Council, Town Hall, Station Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 1SE. Hard copies of the documentation can be viewed at reception in the Town Hall during office hours.

The consultation will run from Monday January 22nd for 6 weeks until 5pm on Monday 4th March. Please note: This consultation is a focused exercise, relating only to the above-mentioned matters. Previously submitted comments still stand and do not need resubmitting or confirmation from Tendring District Council that these representations have been received. They are not receiving any further representations on any other matters.'

Tendring/Colchester Borders Garden Community. Latimer, the developers of the Garden Community have indicated they will submit the first of their planning applications this summer. The design and number of dwellings in the initial phases may change from earlier proposals. You can view the latest documents and consultation boards via <https://www.latimer.community/feedback>.

Our Council has been advised that the consultation has been re-opened on planning permission applications for compulsory purchase orders relating to the A120/A133 **Link Road**. You can view the latest documents on the scheme website which is <https://www.essexhighways.org/highwayschemes-and-developments/highway-schemes/a120-a133-link-and-rapid-transit> or at Greenstead Colchester and Wivenhoe Libraries. The Orders are open to objection and representation until 25th February 2024. Note: If you have already made an objection, it will still be taken into account, and you do not need to re-make it. If you want to make an objection or a supplementary objection, please follow the directions in the notice. Our Parish Council has already commented and will not be making any further representations at this time- see <https://ardleigh.website/formal-documents> and scroll to 'downloads'.

Pylons, Substations, Windfarms There continues to be significant press coverage and activity relating to the campaign including two new developments which our Parish Council has commented on

- 1) Sealink consultation <https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/sealink/about-sea-link>. Following a discussion in the December meeting, the Council reaffirmed its position to continue to push for offshore options for the whole route.
- 2) At the January meeting, the Council agreed a proposed submission to the East Anglia Study being undertaken by National Grid ESO (Electricity System Operator). The Council wishes to thank Martin Snook who has spearheaded this excellent submission with input from several residents and Councillors. More information can be found using this link: <https://www.nationalgrideso.com/future-energy/projects/offshore-coordination-project/east-anglia-study>

We are aware that Sir Bernard Jenkin had a meeting at the end of last year with ministers and has made positive statements about the potential success of the campaign. It is noted that government funding had been released to explore offshore options- we referred to this in our Sealink response mentioned above.

For those who haven't already done so, please sign up to the Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons 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.

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>

[23/01641/FUL](#) Appearance and layout amendments of one dwelling granted under planning application 21/01769/FUL. Guide Post Farm, Dead Lane, Ardleigh CO7 7PF *the design may not comply with the emerging Neighbourhood Plan and Village Design Statement.*

[23/01555/COUNOT](#) Conversion of agricultural building into one dwelling. The Barn, Chapel Lane, Ardleigh *The Council wished to object and to highlight the importance of alignment with local planning policies.*

[23/01710/FULHH](#) Proposed alterations and conversion of existing outbuilding to residential annexe for the ancillary use Kalm Oaks. Kalm Oak Nursery, Hunters Chase, Ardleigh, CO7 7LW *The Council wished to object.*

[23/01716/COUNOT](#) Prior Approval Application for change of use from restaurant (Class E) to single dwelling house (Class C3). Restaurant and Premises, Fox Street, Ardleigh CO7 7PP *Comments in relation to the neighbourhood plan as residents wanted more restaurants in the village. No objection to single dwelling.*

[23/01758/FUL](#) and [23/01763/FUL](#). Single storey side extension and new storage unit within the southwest corner of the existing workshop. The Pod, Old Ipswich Road, Ardleigh CO7 7QL *No objection or comments.*

[23/01778/LUEX](#) Application for an Existing Lawful Development Certificate for change of use to the permanent stationing of 7 mobile homes for occupation by agricultural workers, mid-Feb to mid-Nov. Holly Tree Nursery, Hungerdown Lane, Ardleigh CO7 7LZ

[23/01645/FUL](#) Retention of six mobile homes for occupation of up to 24 seasonal workers. Wallings Nursery Ltd, 38 Harwich Road, Lawford, Manningtree CO11 2LS

Both the above applications were discussed. Comments related to length of time employees would be on site and the need for compliance and monitoring. The Council raised no objection but comments were made on the applications relating to these issues.

[23/01789/FUL](#) Change of use of a commercial unit from Class E/B8 to a beauty clinic (Sui generis). 23 Mayfly Way, Ardleigh CO7 7WX *No objection or comments.*

[23/01822/FULHH](#) Erection of detached annex with veranda ancillary to host dwelling. Blenheim, Bromley Road, Ardleigh CO7 7SF *Objection, over development of the site. Must remain ancillary to main dwelling.*

[ESS/59/23/TEN](#) Continued use of the site for landfilling to now allow for an extended time scale to complete reinstatement. Martells Landfill Site, Slough Lane, Ardleigh, CO7 7RU *The Council requested further clarification from Essex County Council planning.*

Meeting with our MP – Members of the Council had a very useful meeting with Sir Bernard Jenkin on 1 December 2023 to discuss some of the major issues affecting Ardleigh including Pylons, Substations and Windfarms, previous issues with the A12 diversions, the cemetery expansion, the Garden Community and Neighbourhood Plan, the Judicial Review and the extension of time requested by Martells Quarry to complete the new country park and reservoir extension.

Defibrillator/First Aid Training The training arranged by the Parish Council in November was very successful and well attended. Manningtree First Responders carried out the training; all those there agreed it was a very worthwhile session with hands-on practice at resuscitation and using a defibrillator. Thanks again to the First Responders team for the excellent session. Various questions were raised and there was a suggestion for the Parish to have a second defibrillator. These points were discussed at the January meeting and will be considered further at the February (or later) meeting. If you have suggestions or wish to attend a similar training evening, please email info@ardleigh-pc.gov.uk

Community Speedwatch If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Cllr Helen Fontaine at helen.fontaine@ardleigh-pc.gov.uk for more details.

The Lion Public House The Council agreed to support the campaign by a member of the public to designate The Lion as an Asset of Community Value. The idea is that it would be kept for community use. Further developments at the site will be watched with interest.

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 by a member of the public, and by a councillor, 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 a number of 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.**

Ardleigh Recreation Ground A community tidy up and litter pick is planned for 24 February at 10am meet in the car park. Please wear suitable gloves and come with secateurs and litter pickers if you have them, bags will be provided.

Ardleigh Cemetery Christmas wreaths and other items need to be cleared from the cemetery. This will take place on 26 February. Email us if you are able to help.

Please take care in the cemetery around the headstones that have been laid flat on safety grounds. It was noticed one of these headstones had been repositioned in an unsafe manner. This should only be done by a qualified person. If you have questions or concerns please contact cemetery@ardleigh-pc.gov.uk.

Maintaining Hedges/ Clearing Ditches It was mentioned in November 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 decided a letter may be sent to householders/ landowners if a complaint was received to request action be taken by them to mitigate any problems.

Please cut your hedges back as this helps keep roads and pavements safe for residents and road users.

Complaints about overgrown hedges causing problems to footpaths or roadways should be reported to Essex Highways via <https://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us>

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 also be reported to Essex Highways via <https://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us>

Village Hall A survey has been done recently at the Village Hall in respect of whether there is RAAC present. An update will be given once the Council has received the results of the survey but we are led to believe there is no obvious RAAC. We are also looking into options and potential grant funding for energy efficiency measures (including solar panels and roof repairs)

We use Community Halls in Partnership (CHIP) to manage the bookings of the village hall and promote the hall to a wider audience. For hall booking enquiries get in touch with the CHIP team on 01206 870266 or email ardleigh@community-centre.org.uk

Dates for your diary The next Council meeting is **Monday 12 February 2024, 7.30pm at Ardleigh Village Hall.** All meetings take place there with a remote option for most meetings. **Saturday 24 February 10am** Community Clear Up, Recreation Ground (meet Village Hall upper car park).

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).