



Ardleigh Parish Council Newsletter

The Parish Council has produced this newsletter to keep our residents informed about upcoming events, as well as updates on all the Council has been doing.

Sadly, those responsible for producing the Ardleigh Advertiser have been unable to do so for some months. Several members of the public have asked us whether the magazine would be printed but it is not a Parish Council publication. We, like everyone else, would be glad to see its return.

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>

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

• **Ardleigh Neighbourhood Plan Referendum Information**

‘On Thursday, 12 September, Ardleigh residents will be able to vote on the village’s proposed Neighbourhood Plan. Voting will be open from 7am until 10pm at the polling station at St Mary’s Church.

Polling cards have been issued to eligible voters, along with postal votes to those who have applied for one by the deadline. Postal voters are reminded their ballots will be counted if returned by hand to the polling station by the close of poll.

Voters will be answering the question “Do you want Tendring District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for The Parish of Ardleigh to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”.

The plan has been developed by a local steering group and included a period of consultation.

If approved by a majority of votes it will then trigger formal adoption by Tendring District Council as the Local Planning Authority and becomes part of the legal planning framework to be taken into account when determining planning applications.

Once adopted a Neighbourhood Plan has the same legal status as the district wide Local Plan and will be used alongside it in deciding planning applications that fall within its area.

The full Plan and other relevant documents can be found on the Tendring District Council website at www.tendringdc.gov.uk/sub-content-pages/ardleigh-neighbourhood-plan

For details on the referendum visit www.tendringdc.gov.uk/content/ardleigh-neighbourhood-planning-referendum.

In addition to being able to check the documents using the web links above, one set has been placed on reception at the address below and another can be viewed on request to Ardleigh Parish Council (info@ardleigh-pc.gov.uk 01206 414989).

Issued by the Counting Officer for the Referendum, Town Hall, Station Road, Clacton-on-Sea CO15 1SE’

• **National Grid – Pylons and Substations**

Our Council worked hard to prepare a detailed objection to National Grid’s plans for Ardleigh covering some 130 pages and more than 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 extensive and detailed documents being put forward to the Statutory Consultation.

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

You can visit <https://ardleigh.website/pylons-and-substations> to download our responses so far to all the relevant consultations etc plus the full Council submission to the latest Statutory Consultation.

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.

• Judicial Review

An order has now been issued on the Judicial Review relating to the huge warehouse application on Old Ipswich Road/ Wick Lane. Our application was for 'permission to appeal, against the refusal of the High Court to grant permission to apply for judicial review, the order of Lang J dated 29 February 2024.'

Decision: 'Permission to appeal is refused.'

We are grateful for the substantial donations which enabled us to take the case this far. We will now focus on ensuring that all of the conditions attached to the planning permission are met by the developers before any building work begins.

• Village Floral Displays

The floral displays are blooming around Ardleigh Village centre 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.

• Parking in and around Ardleigh

Parking at the Recreation Ground and Village Hall

The issue with car parking continues with complaints being received about 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.

Parking on Station Road

There have also been several complaints about parking along Station Road itself with parked vehicles causing obstructions, creating hazards with lack of visibility and fears that cars may become stranded on the railway crossing due to poorly flowing traffic. The Council is looking into working with other agencies to mitigate this situation. In the meantime, please park considerately of others and reflect on whether you are causing difficulty and hazards which could be prevented. Please consider using the free car park at the centre of the Village instead, if there is space.

Old Ipswich Road

Following numerous incidents of vehicles being parked on blind bends and close to junctions in this 60mph area, causing serious problems, Essex County Council has deemed this area a 'Red Route' which prevents stopping and parking under any circumstances. If vehicles are seen doing this, please send details to North Essex Parking Partnership (<https://north.parkingpartnership.org/>) to allow action to be taken which may result in prosecution. Thanks to our Essex County Councillor, Carlo Guglielmi, for assisting with action in this area.

• 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. This is particularly important near the sandpit area on the Recreation Ground as the gates have been temporarily removed for safety reasons. Not that dogs should be off lead anyway! Thank you.***

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.***

Tendring District Council have implemented a district-wide Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO), targeting dog fouling and nuisance dogs off leads. The new powers have been brought in to tackle the small minority of irresponsible owners. It came into effect on Thursday, 1 August and allows authorised council officers to request a dog is put on a lead; and issue fines to owners who do not comply. ***It also allows officers to issue increased on the spot fines of £100 to those who do not pick up the poo, or use a lead where indicated.*** New signs stating these restrictions will be installed in Ardleigh in the coming weeks.

• Play and Exercise Equipment

Repairs 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. The gates were removed around the galleon/sand pit area on the Recreation Ground for health and safety reasons – particularly the hazard of trapping toddlers' fingers. They are in the process of being restored and we thank you for your patience whilst this is actioned.

• Footpaths, Pavements, Hedges

Several residents have contacted us about overgrowth covering or obscuring footpaths and pavements as well as issues such as potholes. Unfortunately, the Parish Council have no jurisdiction over these; Essex Highways, part of Essex County Council, has responsibility for maintenance of roads, 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 expediate 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 escalate the matter. **Note that urgent matters CAN now be reported online.**

• 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.

WHAT IS EACH COUNCIL RESPONSIBLE FOR?

These lists are not exhaustive but give you an idea of where to seek help with any issues you may have.

Ardleigh Parish Council

www.ardleigh.website 01206 414989
info@ardleigh-pc.gov.uk

Representing viewpoints and needs of Ardleigh to other bodies.

- National Grid proposals (pylons, substations, plus windfarms)
- Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community
- Consultee on Planning Applications

Management and maintenance of

- **Ardleigh Village Hall** - bookings 01206 870266
ardleigh@community-centre.org.uk
- **Ardleigh Recreation Ground**
- **Ardleigh Cemetery**
- Footway street **lighting** (10)
- Some **bus stops** (6), benches, noticeboards, bins and other street furniture.
- **Play and gym equipment** (Colchester Road, Recreation Ground and Millennium Green)
- **CCTV** (Village Hall and surrounds)

Maintenance of

- Millennium Green (agreement with Millennium Green Trust)
- St Mary's (closed for burials) Churchyard
- Some grassed areas and most highways verges (excluding A roads)
- Some trees on public land or on land managed by the Parish Council.

Plus

- Small **grants to local groups**
- **Neighbourhood Plan**
- Support to Village Archivist
- Support to community **events** (eg beacon lighting, Community Showcase)

Tendring District Council

www.tendringdc.gov.uk 01255 686868
https://tendring-self.achieveservice.com/report_it

- Car parks and permits parkingservices@tendringdc.gov.uk 01255 686969
- Rubbish and recycling, litter bins <https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/services/rubbish-recycling> 01255 686788 recycle@tendringdc.gov.uk
- Planning planning.services@tendringdc.gov.uk
- Dog wardens dogwardens@tendringdc.gov.uk 01255 686766
- Council tax, business rates and benefits
- Housing
- Community assets
- Environmental health and noise nuisance
- Licencing
- Trees and tree protection
- Food hygiene and safety
- Business, economic development
- Leisure centres, parks and beaches, tourism

Essex County Council

www.essex.gov.uk 0345 743 0430

- Highways issues www.essexhighways.org/tell-us
- Roads and pavements, public rights of way, street lights, road signs
- Recycling centres
- Births, ceremonies and deaths 0345 603 7632
- Minerals and waste planning
- Children, young people and families
- Adult Social Care 0345 603 7630 socialcaredirect@essex.gov.uk
- Essex Wellbeing Service 0300 303 9988
www.essexwellbeingsservice.co.uk/
- Schools and learning 0345 603 2200
- Libraries (including mobile)
- Bus passes and blue badges