

Ardleigh Parish Council



Hello from your Parish Council!

Since our last report, we have had to sadly accept the resignation of Cllr Chris Whitfield. He was a highly valued member of the Council and will be missed. We thank him for his service and commitment. Fortunately, Chris has agreed to remain as the Chair of our Planning and Infrastructure Working Group, and we will continue to benefit from his expertise and diligence.

Parish Council Meetings

Our Council meetings are usually held on the second Monday of every month apart from August when the Council does not meet. Dates can be found on our website and on all our noticeboards. Meetings are open to the public with a remote meeting option. Details are found on the monthly agenda which is published online and displayed on the Village Hall noticeboard a few days before each meeting.

Members of the public can participate during an allocated time slot at the beginning of each meeting. Outside of this, as these are formal meetings, people may speak only if invited to do so by the Chair. Please note there is no obligation to remain for the entire meeting after the 'public participation' slot, so don't let this deter you from joining our meeting and raising your issue.

The next Parish Council Meeting is on 12 October 2026 at 7pm in Ardleigh Village Hall, with a remote link available. Minutes and agendas can be found on our website

www.ardleigh.website.

✖ PLEASE NOTE – The defibrillator at the Village Hall is Out of Order. There is another one in the old phone box, adjacent to 2 The Terrace, Colchester Road, Ardleigh. ✖

If a local business or resident would like to sponsor a replacement defibrillator for public access at the Hall, please contact us –

info@ardleigh-pc.gov.uk. Thank you.

Infrastructure Projects and Planning

- The Norwich to Tilbury project and related windfarm and substation proposals remain a major concern for Ardleigh. Closing statements to the National Grid Examining Authority were made for Ardleigh and Little Bromley Parish Councils by our Planning Infrastructure Working Group, working alongside our barrister, Simon Bell, on 4 August 2026. The examination ended on 10 August 2026. The Examiners

have three months to make their recommendation to the Secretary of State, whose decision is expected by February 2027.

Details of all submissions made can be found here <https://ardleigh.website/pylons-and-substations>

If the project is approved by the Secretary of State, our barrister will be consulted for advice relating to further action. Thanks to generous public support we have been able to obtain legal and planning advice where needed. It remains possible to contribute <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/ardleigh-legal-fund-against-pylons-substations> or email legalfund@ardleigh-pc.gov.uk.

- Following the meeting held with representatives from Tarchon who are bringing forward plans for an Interconnector Project between the UK and Germany, the Council submitted our response to their second non-statutory consultation. We await the next stage in this project. Our responses can be found here <https://ardleigh.website/pylons-and-substations>
- The Council continues to liaise with Five Estuaries in relation to their plans for a substation in the Ardleigh area. Further meetings are planned with us, and other interested parties to discuss the scope and design of their project.
- Responses have been made by the Council to further applications linked to the Flying Trade warehouse development at Old Ipswich Road and Wick Lane. We await response to these, and to the latest legal action we have taken against the project. We remain confident these are necessary steps to attempt to stop commencement of the huge storage and distribution facility that received over 200 objections from members of the public.

If you can contribute to our legal costs to help continue this fight, please email legalfund@ardleigh-pc.gov.uk.

- As in August, 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 Tendring District Council (TDC) planning officer recommends approval, the application will go to TDC's Planning Committee.

Should this happen, one of our Councillors, and our District Councillor, Zoe Fairley will speak against the application. The public are welcome to attend the Planning Committee meetings and demonstrate to the Committee the strength of community feeling.

Information about the TDC Planning Committee can be found here <https://tdcdemocracy.tendringdc.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=162>

- Tendring District Council is carrying out a review of the Tendring District Local Plan following increased housing targets. The Plan will help shape development across the district up to 2043. They are now at the third and final consultation stage.

There are five Local Plan consultation drop-in events to find out more about proposals. The nearest one to Ardleigh is at **Lawford Venture Centre on 2 October between 3pm and 7pm**. Details of all the events are below:

- 21 September - Homelands Free Church, Walton-on-the-Naze - 3pm to 7pm
- 24 September - Brightlingsea Parish Hall - 3pm to 7pm
- 28 September -1912 Centre, Harwich - 3pm to 7pm
- 30 September - Weeley Village Hall - 12pm to 4pm
- 2 October - Venture Centre 2000, Lawford - 3pm to 7pm

Even if you commented previously, you'll need to respond again during this final consultation stage if you want your views to be considered by the independent Planning Inspector. Comments close at 5pm on **Monday 19 October 2026**.

More information, and the Submission Version consultation document are available online at: <https://tendringdc.oc2.uk>

- The Council met with John Pateman-Gee, the Tendring District Council Head of Planning and Building Control, to discuss the increase of applications seen in the Old Ipswich Road area, as well as other applications in the Village. This was a positive meeting allowing a good exchange of views and will be repeated in the future.
- We continue to review planning applications and comment to TDC, who make the final decisions. During August and September, the Council commented on a wide range of planning applications and continue to refer where appropriate to Ardleigh's Neighbourhood Plan and Tendring District Council's Local Plan. Full details of planning applications are available at <https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/content/view-planning-applications-and-comment>.

Parking in the Village

We have received several complaints relating to parking in the Cross Roads car park in the centre of the Village. There is particular concern from those attending the doctor's surgery, as well as from the church. The Council discussed this at length at their latest meeting on 14 September.

Although there is no immediate solution; many of the vehicles appear to belong to staff working for a business in Station Road. Councillors have already approached the business in question to ask them to find ways to mitigate the situation. The Council do not wish to have additional cars parked in the Village Hall and Recreation Ground car parks as this prevents

those who wish to use the facilities and the Millennium Green, from doing so. It also creates safety issues if the cars park along Station Road.

A couple of possible sites for additional parking have been identified by the Council and we will be investigating these. In tandem, Councillors will again approach the business to discuss this further.

Village Hall and Recreation Ground Car Parks

Please remember these car parks are **ONLY** for users of these facilities, and the Millennium Green, plus the Mill's long-term leaseholders. We need to ensure those who wish to use our facilities can do so.

Please note that **overnight parking is strictly prohibited** and that CCTV cameras monitor this area. Please remember to smile!

Ardleigh Village Hall

- Yellow Brick Rd Nursery Ltd, the new providers of Early Years care at the Village Hall, held an Open Day in August and had their first intake of children in early September. We wish them every success.
- The Council continues to implement upgrades to the Hall. Following a safety inspection a new boiler system has been installed which should provide much better heating and hot water supply than under the old one.
- Watch this space! – the Council plan to hold a community fundraising quiz at the Hall soon. We hope to give more details in the next issue of the Chronicle.
- Sound attenuation panels – we have several panels available for free. Please contact the Council on info@ardleigh-pc.gov.uk if you are interested.

How to Book the Village Hall

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

Changes to waste and recycling collections

Changes to recycling collections will start across the district on Monday 5 October 2026. From that date you will be able to recycle a wider range of items in your green kerb side boxes. Additional boxes are in the process of being delivered by Tendring District Council together with a recycling guide, collection calendar and information leaflet.

From **5 October**, these will include glass bottles and jars, plastic pots, tubs and trays, Tetra Pak (juice cartons), clean aluminium foil, metal, and plastic tubes, e.g. toothpaste tubes.

Collection days and/or calendar weeks for both refuse, recycling and garden waste all remain unchanged and refuse collections remain fortnightly for properties serviced by a wheeled bin and weekly for those serviced by black bags.

Odours & Flies

- **Flies** appear to be much less of a widespread issue across the district. TDC's Environmental Health Team issued a further briefing on 10 September 2026.

Their report concludes the most affected areas are Ardleigh, Little Bromley, Great Bromley, Elmstead, and Alresford. There remains no definitive source of, or reason for, the fly increase. Their latest summary of the situation is:

- Muck/biosolid (manure) spreading is a possible factor, but there was no current evidence confirming it was taking place.
- The extent to which other agencies — particularly the Environment Agency, DEFRA and UKHSA may need to investigate or respond will continue to be reviewed if new information becomes available.
- With the expected turn in the weather, it is likely that we will see a gradual decline in fly numbers. We are planning for next year in accordance with the agreement reached at the recent meeting between the Gt Bromley Fly Action Group and the Corporate Director of Operations and Delivery on the 27 August 2026.
- No single definitive source of the fly increase has been identified, and the Council is unable to take any action to control or reduce the number of flies.
- It remains unclear whether recent land disturbance, the A133 link road works, fallow land being turned, livestock activity, pesticide changes, muck/biosolid spreading, or other rural factors are individually or collectively responsible.

From now on, Tendring District Council officers will investigate further only where residents or partners provide new information suggesting a potential causal link. To ensure issues you may have are logged, please email the contacts below giving date, time, weather conditions and location together with any other relevant information. Ideally copy the information to all parties.

Tendring District Council Environmental Health Services

Phone: 01255 686767

Email: env.services@tendringdc.gov.uk

Environment Agency

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

Email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

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

- **Odours.** There is no update on this issue at present. Residents are still encouraged to keep reporting odour concerns to the Environment Agency using the links above.

Quick Updates

- **Accessible Toilet** – Don't forget there is an accessible toilet at the rear of the Village Hall open from approximately 7am to 8pm. The entrance is covered by our CCTV. Please leave the facilities as you find them.
- **Dog Walking on the Recreation Ground and Millennium Green** – Please remember dogs should remain under control on a lead. At no time should dogs be loose off lead out of respect for other users.

Please also remember to clear up after your dog and dispose of poo bags in the bins provided. Please **DO NOT** leave the plastic bags on the ground or hanging in a tree.

- **Footpaths, Hedgerows and Verges** - Please ensure you keep the area around your home and land tidy to allow others a clear and safe route to pass, especially those with limited mobility/ sight issues, or need more space including prams and wheelchairs. Brambles are doing very well this year so please ensure you cut them back!

Should anyone wish to complain about overgrown areas, please report these to Essex Highways as this is their responsibility. The link to use is www.essexhighways.org/tell-us. Providing clear photos of the problem and detailing the issue as an obstruction may expedite action.

- **Land for Community Use** - The proposed purchase of protected Local Green Space at Harwich Road remains under discussion. The Council's solicitors continue to negotiate with those of the vendor.
- **Recreation Ground Swings** – We have obtained quotes needed to get this work done and hope to have the swings fully functional again by half-term. Sorry for any disappointment caused at having to remove the swings; this was done for safety reasons.

Vacancies

We continue to welcome interest from residents who may be considering becoming a Parish Councillor. www.bit.ly/Become-a-Councillor

How You Can Get Involved

Join us! Whether it is litter picking, contributing to APACE activities, helping with community projects, volunteering with local initiatives or becoming a Councillor, we would love to hear from you.

Please note the start time for Parish Council meetings is 7pm at the Village Hall with a remote option. 2026 dates are –12 October, 9 November and 14 December.

Contact us

Email: info@ardleigh-pc.gov.uk

Website: www.ardleigh.website

Tel: 01206 414989

Follow us: Facebook@ardleighpc Instagram@ardleighnp

Quick Links

Report a highways issue: www.essexhighways.org/tell-us

View planning applications: www.tendringdc.gov.uk/planning