ECC Report May 2017

***Conservatives retain control of Essex County Council***

The Conservative Party has retained political power at Essex County Council with an increased majority following the County Election last Thursday 4th May..

The political makeup of the council is as follows:

• Conservatives – 56 seats

• Liberal Democrats – 7 seats

• Labour – 6 seats

• Independent – 2 seats

• Canvey Island Independent Party – 2 seats

• Independent Loughton Residents Association – 1 seat

• Green – 1 seat

That means the Conservatives have an increased majority of 37 seats.

Leader of Essex County Council, Cllr David Finch, said: “I am delighted to have been given a mandate from the people of Essex to continue to carry on our work to make the county the best place to live and work, where our most vulnerable people are protected as well as given the chance to live independent lives.

“I am also looking forward to continuing to work in our new organisation as we restructure and change our culture in order to meet the challenges and opportunities we will face over the coming months.”

To see results for all 75 seats in 70 divisions go to our special election results page at [www.essex.gov.uk/elections](http://www.essex.gov.uk/elections)

The results in our Division of Tendring Rural West are as follow:

Carlo Guglielmi - Elected

Conservative Party (2668 votes / 59.50%)

Rain Welham-Cobb

Liberal Democrats (536 votes / 11.95%)

Duncan Gordon

Green Party (340 votes / 7.58%)

Mary Newton

UK Independence Party (UKIP) (388 votes / 8.65%)

Maison Urwin

Labour Party (552 votes / 12.31%)

Swing From County Council

Conservative Party from 37.86% to 59.5% +21.64%

Labour Party from 0% to 12.31% +12.31%

Liberal Democrats from 18.19% to 11.95% -6.24%

UKIP from 28.51% to 8.65% -19.86%

Green Party from 8.57% to 7.58% -0.99%

Tendring First from 3.67% to 0% -3.67%

***Electricals recycling shortlisted for national award***

An innovative Essex scheme to repair, recycle and reuse small waste electrical items has been shortlisted for a prestigious national award.

The scheme, which launched last year, has collected around 6,000 small electrical items. Nearly three tonnes of the appliances collected were passed on to new owners and a further eight tonnes safely and properly recycled.

Now it has been shortlisted in the Local Authority Innovation category of this year’s National Recycling Awards.

The scheme created convenient drop-off points at local libraries where residents could safely leave waste electrical and electronic equipment. Working and repairable items were collected by Wivenhoe Repair Reuse Recycle CIC and later sold to low income families while broken items beyond repair were taken for recycling.

This scheme has also meant that ECC has worked closely with partners in city, borough and district councils and local reuse organisations, and this initiative could provide a blueprint for future collaborations which will help reduce waste and improve recycling rates in Essex.

The winners of the awards will be announced at a gala award presentation taking place in London on 28 June.

The small electrical bins are still in place and small appliances including mobile phones, toasters, irons, radios and all leads, cables and chargers can be dropped off. Any electrical item small enough to fit in a carrier bag can be recycled by leaving them at one of these drop-off points.

To find the nearest small electrical recycling bin visit [www.recycleforessex.com](http://www.recycleforessex.com)

***Busy winter for Gritney Spears, Alexander the Grit and other Essex gritters***

Gritters have salted more than 100,000 miles of roads to help keep Essex moving during a busy winter.

The figures were released this week as winter officially ended for Essex Highways’ hard-working gritter crews.

Drivers were called out 55 times this year (47 last year), with more runs needed further west than in the southern “Thames” area.

Up to 62 gritting lorries go out for each separate countywide salting operation, spreading some 14,554 tonnes (13,400 last year) over the 2,000 miles of Essex’s priority roads during the winter.

Essex County Council wishes to pay tribute to all the hard-working gritter crews who were on-call throughout the winter months, with many having to suspend New Year’s celebrations and hold off on enjoying leftovers on Boxing Day to help keep Essex moving.

After a busy festive period, Essex had a period of intense cold in January into February so we had to grit the roads every night from 12-26 January.

In the meantime, Gritney Spears, Alexander the Grit, (so nicknamed by crew members) and all other gritters will now be parked up for the summer; but some will re-deployed to help fix potholes, install streetlights and improve our highways for Essex residents.

The Highways winter team uses accurate localised weather forecasting, relying on nine weather stations and many roadside sensors, to decide when and where to salt the highways and how much to spread. Road surface temperatures can vary significantly from air temperature.

The gritting crews are back on-call again from Monday, 23 October 2017.

Useful and interesting info:

• Essex County Council stockpiles 15,500 tonnes of salt for winter.

• One gritting run by all our trucks uses 200 tonnes of salt.

• There is a total of 62 gritting lorries, most of which can be fitted with snowploughs if required.

• Essex is divided into five weather zones as temperatures sometimes vary considerably.

• Morning gritting usually starts at 3am.

• Gritters are sent out when road surface temperature is forecast to get down to 1 degree centigrade or less.

• The primary gritting network in Essex covers 40 percent of the entire road network which takes 70 percent of traffic.

• Last year pupils at Westlands Community Primary School joined Gritney Spears to help record an educational cover song about the work of Essex gritter crews.

***Clacton cancer survivor helps launch ‘Know the Signs’ campaign***

A cancer survivor from Clacton is appealing to her local community to be aware of the signs and symptoms of lung cancer, following her diagnosis 8 years ago.

Jackie, 70 of Legerton Road, Clacton is teaming up with the Essex County Council Public Health team to raise awareness of lung cancer and to show local Jaywick residents that with early detection a cancer diagnosis can have a positive outcome.

In late 2016 Cancer UK released data to Green Elms Medical Centre in Jaywick which showed that the Jaywick area had a considerably higher rate of suspected lung cancer than England as a whole.

This meant that Green Elms Medical Centre had 4 more cases of suspected lung cancer per 1,000 compared to the England average.

Staff at the medical centre were also concerned that patients were presenting late for lung cancer, meaning that they were not being diagnosed until their cancer was advanced where the treatment options are limited and survival rate is lower.

In response, the Essex County Council Public Health Team has teamed up with the medical centre and local cancer survivors like Jackie, to launch the ‘Know the Signs’ campaign in Jaywick today.

The campaign aims to educate local people on the signs and symptoms of lung cancer and encourage them to see their GP if they believe they have any of the key symptoms which include:

• Having a cough most of the time (And more than 3 weeks)

• A change in a cough you have had for a long time

• Being short of breath

• Coughing up phlegm with signs of blood in it

• An ache or pain in the chest or shoulder

• Loss of appetite

• Tiredness

• Losing weight

Mike Gogarty, Director of Wellbeing, Public Health & Communities said: “This campaign aims to show the positive side of early detection and that if you are diagnosed at an early stage like Jackie was, that the chance of survival is much greater. It is hoped that this more positive approach will encourage those that may be too worried or frightened, to come forward and book an appointment with their GP.”

Jackie has now been cancer free for 3 years and believes that this, in part, is down to the fact that her cancer was detected early and at a stage where surgery and consequent treatment stopped it from spreading.

“I was diagnosed with lung cancer 8 years ago and it all started with pneumonia. After the pneumonia I wasn’t getting any better, I still had a cough, was losing weight rapidly and felt very lethargic and just not myself. I went back to the GP who sent me for an X-ray which showed a tumour on my lung and I was diagnosed with lung cancer.

“It wasn’t long after diagnosis that I had surgery to remove the tumour and while in surgery they found another tumour behind it so they removed that too.”

“Following the surgery it took a long time to recover and I was taking daily tablets and was going back for x-rays every 6 months. I now go yearly for an x-ray and have been cancer free for 3 years.”

Jackie added: “I’m working with the Public Health team to share my story to help others and get cancer diagnosed early. I am a very positive person and tried to keep positive throughout, and I consider myself lucky that the cancer was found at an early stage otherwise I may not be here now. I want to show others that even if you are diagnosed with lung cancer there are lots of survivors out there, just like me.

“So I would urge anyone, if you have got any signs or symptoms, have got a persistent cough, or you are losing weight or feeling lethargic, just go round and check with your GP, it might be that you only need some cough mixture or it could be that you have got cancer, but either way, the quicker you go to your GP the quicker you can get it sorted.”

More information on the ‘Know the Signs’ campaign can be found at www.essex.gov.uk/jaywickKTS and follow #jaywickKTS on twitter.

***Lower Thames Crossing decision welcomed as “big step forward”***

The Government’s decision to back a crossing at Location C and Route Option 3 for the Lower Thames Crossing has been welcomed by Essex County Council as a ‘big step forward to ending costly traffic queues’.

Highways England consulted on plans to create a new Thames Crossing in March last year (2016) with an unprecedented 47,000 responses.

Two weeks ago the Government announced it would be going ahead with Location C Route Option 3 linking the A2 in Kent and the M25 in Essex between junctions 29 and 30.

The route offers the opportunity to create more than 6,000 jobs and boost the economy by more than £8 billion.

As part of the plans they have also announced investing a £66 million to widen the A13 Stanford-le-Hope bypass from two to three lanes.

This announcement will transform Essex’s transport infrastructure. A new Thames Crossing is vital to help continue to promote economic growth within the county and keep Essex moving.

ECC is also very pleased to hear the additional announcement on widening of the A13 to support increased economic activity in south Essex and the pressure this brings about on key infrastructure in the area.

This crossing is a big step forward to ending costly traffic queues that often form around the crossing and can tailback onto our county’s roads.

The Council made its position very clear by supporting of Option C throughout, but it is important to now work together with partners to mitigate the impact of these works.

Planning and development of improvements to other roads and junctions affected by the new crossing including the A12, A127 and M11 will also need to be looked at.