

Thaxted Community Support

OVERVIEW

The Thaxted Community Support Group was set up to ensure the vulnerable and elderly of our community were effectively supported during the current Covid-19 pandemic. The importance of this support has become increasingly significant with the subsequent implementation of a shielding programme by the Government.

INITIAL ACTIONS

Initially, and prior to lockdown measures, the group undertook a neighbourhood leaflet drop to ensure the most vulnerable, whom we assumed would be unlikely to have internet access, had the details of a willing volunteer in the area. This was widely supported by an extensive list of volunteers and most of Thaxted was successfully covered by the drop (see attached)

Uptake as a result of this distribution indicated it had been successful, and several vulnerable in the community were identified and matched with willing volunteers before lockdown measures were formally implemented.

CURRENT SUPPORT

The online support group currently has in excess of 400 community members and is utilised daily. To effectively manage needs and to monitor the efficacy of our response, the administrative team have set up smaller volunteer groups (communicating via WhatsApp) to support with the following community needs:

1. Grocery Shopping and non-contact delivery
2. Prescription Collection
3. Support with Dog walking for those in self isolation and/or shielding

The group is registered with Essex Coronavirus Response and members of these smaller groups have been issued with a Thaxted Community Support badge from the Essex Welfare Service, as a means of verification. The group is also registered with Uttlesford District Council and we are in regular contact with Fiona Gardiner (Health and Wellbeing Lead) who is working collaboratively with us. Her team are forwarding all requests received through their emergency helplines to our support volunteers via Lauren Barham, who is the initial point of contact.

OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

As we are a group of volunteers, there are limitations with regards the support we can and cannot provide. As stated above, our activities focus primarily on providing a shopping service, collection of prescriptions and dog walking, for those in isolation. We advise all our volunteers to use non-contact methods for payment and drop-off of any goods to remain compliant with current government guidelines. UDC are also in the process of supplying the group with a card reader for those situations where other payment options are not possible.

Whilst we have a number of people on the team who have declared themselves as DBS checked (through their employment roles), we feel it is not appropriate for us to validate or hold information regarding their DBS checks.

MOVING FORWARD

The economic implications of a nationwide lockdown have obviously begun to affect the most vulnerable in our community. Governmental support is neither immediate nor all encompassing, and the food bank remains under increasing pressure. Therefore, going forward, the group has been looking at ways to support those in current financial crisis, helping where possible to “bridge the gap.” Using funds deposited by Cllr Martin Foley and Cllr Mike Tayler via The Friends of Thaxted Church, and with their support and input, we are looking at the possibility of providing essential food and hygiene packages for those in immediate need. This will run alongside our continuing efforts to point our vulnerable community members towards available assistance schemes.

Lastly, we need to be clear about the level of support we are able to provide and the boundaries we need in place. This is to safeguard both our volunteers and the people we are supporting. We have encountered several individuals who we have judged as being too vulnerable for the level of support we are able to provide, largely because of age and significant health concerns (e.g. disabilities or mental health issues.) In such cases there will be the need for implementation of proper social care support. We have asked our volunteers to ‘flag’ any concerns they encounter and report these either directly through Uttlesford’s Safeguarding processes or to our administrative group, who has organised a direct link with Uttlesford’s team through John Starr.

Thaxted Community Support

Hello!

If you need to self-isolate over the coming weeks due to the ongoing Covid-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, and require assistance, I would love to help (for free!)

My name is My phone number is

I live locally at

I can help with:

- | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collecting groceries | <input type="checkbox"/> Picking up medications | <input type="checkbox"/> Dog walking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Posting mail | <input type="checkbox"/> A regular phone call to check in | |

If you need anything else, please feel free to get in touch.



If you have access to Facebook, you will find lots of people happy to help at www.facebook.com/groups/ThaxtedCommunitySupport



County Councillor's Annual Report: 2019-2020

This year's report is being written in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic, a situation that has put the County Council under enormous strain as the implications and impacts of the disease take hold. I will reflect on our budget decisions, achievements of the past year and our aspiration for this coming year, the latter is subject to change for obvious reasons as we move through this crisis to one of recovery.

As with previous years, the budget is planned well in advance and is developed in the context of an overarching medium-term financial strategy that seeks to attain stability over a number of years. This allows us to take into account the year on year reductions in Government revenue support grant, and our extensive programme of work to reduce costs overall.

Over the past decade the Administration has achieved savings approaching £1billion, this is no mean feat, but has been done by modernising systems such as electronic transactions, reorganising staff and generally improving efficiencies across the whole Council. As an organisation we encourage our staff to look for opportunities and have developed a number of innovative income streams to help support the services we provide.

Key services have been protected, many enhanced, and we take particular pride in ensuring that our Social Services are fully supported. We are looked at as leading exemplars in this field, with many other councils seeking our advice and expertise in both adult and children's social care.

The 2020-2021 ECC element of Council Tax for Band D properties has been set at £1,321.11, an increase of 1.99% plus a 2% social care precept. This is set in the context of budgeted expenditure over the ensuing 12 months and in the knowledge that funding gaps in future years have been predicted.

Four strategic aims underpin our work:

- **Securing inclusive economic growth:** *a strong economy to help secure our future.*
- **Helping people get the best start and age well:** *supporting the vulnerable and ensuring all have the best opportunities to live the best life they can.*
- **Helping create great places:** *ensuring Essex remains the great place that it is, through carefully planned housing growth and infrastructure development whilst protecting the great qualities of the Essex countryside and coast.*
- **Transforming the Council:** *striving for efficiency and productivity with a workforce culture of innovation and resourcefulness.*

Securing inclusive economic growth

Over the past 12 months your council has secured £318m from the Housing Infrastructure Fund to support economic growth. We have created 1000 jobs in small and medium sized businesses by delivering the European Regional Development Fund. Both the A120 and A12 have been identified as key routes for improvement because of ECC lobbying of the Government.

For the coming year we are developing a Local Industrial Strategy for the South East. With our local councils, we are looking to increase and enhance the availability of commercial and industrial sites to further encourage economic growth.

And with the £318m HIF bid funding, we will be investing in a new rapid transport system for Colchester and a new railway station in Chelmsford.

Work will start on the new M11 junction 7A at Harlow, this will relieve strain on the existing junction which causes tail backs onto the motorway.

Helping people get the best start and age well

During the past year our Children's Services have been rated outstanding by Ofsted for safeguarding the most vulnerable children. New ways of delivering the Youth Services has meant that we have engaged with 32,000 young people, up a third on the previous year. Youth work sessions have increased fourfold.

This year we will redesign our support for disabled children and young people to help improve their independence and life chances. We wish to grow the already successful foster care provision across the county. A new Early Years strategy will ensure all children will get a good start in life, leading to them being better prepared for school and all that follows.

We will continue to work with multi agency partners to drive out gangs, knife crime and 'county lines' from Essex.

Vulnerable adults, those with Learning Disabilities and Autism will be given extra support to help them live independently and lead productive lives. For those with dementia, we will improve awareness and support for them and their carers.

Life expectancy, although higher than the national average, differs widely across the County. During the past year we pledged £1m to help those with mental health issues. We have developed a community weight loss service, with 7000 participants.

This year we will establish four mental health hubs with our health and crime prevention partners. We will be delivering the first phase of £10m Sport England funding to improve physical activity for inactive people. 100 parish councils will be involved in developing Wellbeing Plans for their communities. 250 businesses will also be involved in improving the physical and mental health of their employees.

Helping create great places

During the past year £700,000 has been used to improve our footpaths and pavements across the County. £500,000 was assigned to the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner to help reduce gang activity and the exploitation of vulnerable people. A new library strategy was agreed and this year will see £3m invested into community libraries.

The environment is my focus, and we have already achieved a lot so far. Waste is showing modest year on year reductions, with black bag waste decreasing by 3.1% last year and recycling up by 1.5%. Our country parks were awarded 7 Green Flags. We are a key partner in the development of a rapid

charging station for electric vehicles in Braintree, and we have secured £750,000 to help promote the Essex Coast.

This year we will be launching the Essex Climate Commission, which will advise us how to quickly achieve the Government's net zero carbon target, whilst making Essex a centre for green technologies and enterprise. We will be planting 375,000 trees over the next five years, ultimately capturing 60,000 tonnes of Carbon.

During the year we consulted on the Essex Green Infrastructure Strategy, and this will be published in 2020.

We wish to encourage more to make more sustainable travel choices, thereby reducing car traffic and attendant pollution problems. Our waste reduction programmes will continue to encourage our citizens to waste less and leading by example, we have already eliminated many single-use plastics from County Hall and other facilities across our estate.

Transforming the Council

For the second year running, we ranked in the Top 10 of the most productive councils in the Country. We have achieved £60m new savings and efficiencies, and generated £8m in fees and charges income, with more efficient ways for people to pay for our services. £10m has been generated through the sale of surplus assets, with this money reinvested across the County. During the coming year we will look to save a further £58m and develop improved business planning to make the organisation more focussed on our key priorities.

I continue to be Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change Action (note the job title change, recognising the importance given to us helping to reverse global warming). Aside from looking after Waste Disposal, Flood Prevention, New Nuclear Power Station Builds, Rural and Coastal Matters, Carbon Reduction Initiatives, Country Parks and Essex Outdoors (Education Centres), I sit on several external committees. These include the Lea Valley Regional Park Authority, Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority, two Environment Agency Regional Flood and Coastal Committees, Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and Dedham Vale AONB Joint Advisory Board, and the Stansted Airport Community Consultative Committee which is important to reflect local concerns and issues.

Finally, as the implications of Coronavirus are fully realised, there may be a need to reshape our aspirations for the coming year. Our intention is to have a robust recovery plan and to get our services back to normal as soon as is possible.

We have already had to use reserves to provide extra funding across several services, particularly in social care; our prudent financial management over the past decade has allowed us to do that.

In order to do this your County Council Cabinet meets daily, over video link, to manage the County Council to ensure it is delivering the best service for the citizens of Essex through this crisis and to ensure we continue to in the future.

Simon Walsh, April 2020

County Councillor's Report: Mid-April 2020

Cllr David Finch, Leader of the Council, thanks the people of Essex for staying home and saving lives



Thank you for continuing to do the right thing during the current lockdown. Thank you for only travelling when it's necessary – traffic levels in Essex were down by 70% over the Easter bank holiday weekend. And thank you, above all, for the part you are playing to help us through this crisis. You have stayed home, and you have surely saved lives.

We now know that we have another three weeks of lockdown to come, following the government's announcement yesterday.

I can only reiterate the comments made at the press conference and ask you once again to commit again to the difficult yet essential lockdown measures. Relaxing the current restrictions too early would jeopardise the good progress we've made so far in slowing the spread of the virus. It could risk a second surge of cases which, again, may overwhelm our NHS.

Last Thursday at 8pm, I – like many of you – was on my doorstep applauding those in the frontline of this battle. I thought of carers in particular, and those working and volunteering in the social care sector. We have employees and partners offering care, support and protection to our most vulnerable people, every single day without fail. I am very proud of them and we will be sharing stories of their incredible contributions over the next few weeks.

In the meantime, thank you again for remembering to #StayHomeSaveLives – it's as important now as it ever has been.

Cllr David Finch, Leader of Essex County Council.

Cllr David Finch, Leader of Essex County Council, has announced Cllr Christopher Whitbread will be joining Essex County Council Cabinet as Cabinet Member for Finance. Cllr Whitbread will start his duties as Cabinet Member for Finance on Friday 1st May. Cllr Whitbread represents Epping and Theydon Bois division on Essex County Council and has great experience of cabinet matters, previously serving as deputy to Cllr John Spence, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care. Cllr Whitbread is also currently Leader of Epping Forest District Council where he represents Epping Lindsey and Thornwood Common ward. The post of Cabinet Member for Finance was previously held by Cllr Gagan Mohindra, who stepped down from the position following his election as Member for Parliament for South West Hertfordshire in last year's general election. Since that time the Finance portfolio on Essex County Council's Cabinet has been covered by Cllr David Finch, Leader of Essex County Council. Cllr David Finch, Leader of Essex County Council, said: "I am delighted to welcome Cllr Whitbread to Essex County Council Cabinet. Christopher has a wealth of ability and experience which, I am sure, will secure our recognised place as one of the most productive authorities in England."

A range of other changes to the County Council Cabinet structure are also taking place.

- Cllr John Moran, who represents Saffron Walden division, will replace Cllr Whitbread as Cllr Spence's deputy from 1 May;
- Cllr Jeff Henry, who represents Laindon Park and Fryerns division, will take up a role as deputy to both Cllr Dick Madden, Cabinet Member for Performance, Business Planning and Partnerships, and Cllr Spence, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, on 1 May. This appointment will place extra resource to Cllr Spence's portfolio of Health and Adult Social Care, reflecting the importance Essex County Council places on Health and Adult Social Care;
- Cllr Tony Ball's Economic Development portfolio will now include Property and Housing;
- Cllr David Finch, Leader of Essex County Council, will now take responsibility for representing Essex County Council in the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP);
- Cllr Mark Durham, who represents Heybridge and Tollesbury division, will now be deputy for Cllr Tony Ball's Economic Development portfolio and Cllr Mike Steptoe, who represents Rochford South division, will now be deputy to Cllr Susan Barker, Cabinet Member for Customer, Corporate, Culture and Communities.

Essex County Council ranked in England's top ten most productive councils

In November, independent consultancy iMPower, ranked Essex County Council in the top ten of England's most productive councils, achieving better outcomes for residents from a less-than-average spend per head. The results were drawn from performance measured against seven different areas, including children's social care, older people, all-age disability, social care interface, housing and homelessness, waste and recycling and high needs.

Thousands of Essex children offered preferred primary school place



More than 14,000 pupils who are due to start primary school in Essex this year have been offered their parent's top preference of school.

Just over 16,000 parents have discovered the outcome of their primary school place application today (16 April), with those who applied online getting confirmation by email or via our website.

We have continued to invest in creating school places over the last year and 89.38 per cent of children due to start in Reception this year have been offered their parents' first preference.

A further 6.34 per cent have been offered their second preference, meaning 95.72 per cent have been offered one of their top two preferences this year.

Cllr Ray Gooding, Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Education, said: "I know that for a lot of parents the wait to find out about their child's primary school place can be a nerve-wracking one and with the current situation we all find ourselves in, this particular year may have been all the more worrying for some."

“However, I am pleased that a high percentage of parents have received their first preference of school place and I hope this goes some way in providing a little reassurance at this uncertain time.

“One day school gates will re-open for all pupils and I know that there will be many children and young people who are eagerly awaiting this, just as much as our new starters are.”

Every Family Matters – supporting your child with social distancing



Social distancing is vital to stopping the spread of coronavirus and there are practical steps we should all be taking to reduce our interaction with others, including staying at home wherever possible.

However, this might be a difficult concept for some children and young people to understand. They've gone from being at school or college surrounded by their friends every day, to being asked to stay at home and not being able to do lots of the activities they are used to doing.

Social distancing is not something that the majority of parents and carers will have ever experienced before either and so while you're trying to navigate the new norm and understand the implications for yourself, you might be finding it difficult to explain to your child why social distancing is so important right now. If you are struggling to start a conversation, there is [information and advice available to help you](#).

We've also pulled together some tips below to help you help your child while we all practice social distancing.

- **Put together a daily routine** – structure is important. Many young people will have gone from having a regular routine during the week, to something completely different, which can be unsettling. It's therefore good to maintain a routine and have set times for things like schoolwork, staying active and being creative, as well as down time to rest and relax.
- **Stay in touch with family and friends** – think of some fun ways to reach out to people. This might be sending a card, writing a letter, or a virtual family games night. Try to think of something new together and encourage your child to schedule this into their daily routine.
- **Learn something new** – is there something you've always wanted to try as a family? Now is the time. You could also use time at home during the weekend to teach your child practical skills, such as cooking, using a washing machine, or changing a fuse – skills that will come in handy as they grow.
- **Stay active** – encouraging your child to move each day will help them to stay healthy physically and mentally. If they are finding it difficult to find motivation, try something together as a family, or use a free video available online.
- **Get creative** – encourage your child to use any free time to express themselves creatively. This might be painting, drawing or playing with Lego.

- **Take care of yourself** – your child is relying on you to help them navigate the unprecedented times we all find ourselves in and so as a parent or carer, it's important that you also take steps to look after yourself.

Every Family Matters – supporting your child's mental wellbeing



Being a parent or carer can be hard at the best of times, but given the current situation, you're probably feeling more overwhelmed than usual and might be unsure of how best to support your child. However, we're here to help.

We've been working with partners to make sure you have the information you need, so that you can make the right decisions for you and your family. We'll be sharing information here across a range of subjects, including social distancing and keeping your child safe online.

This week, we're starting with how you can best support your child's mental health and wellbeing.

You might have noticed a difference in your child's behaviour due to the current situation; they may no longer be at school, out of their normal routine and missing their friends. This may be impacting their overall emotional wellbeing, which is completely normal.

Start by having a conversation with your child. By helping them to express how they're feeling, you're taking the first step to being able to manage these feelings effectively together. Make sure this is a continuous conversation and that you regularly take time to check in with them.

As a parent or carer, it might feel like you're supposed to have all the answers, but we're living through an unprecedented time and it's completely normal not to know what's going to happen next. Do your best to reassure your child and let them know that you are there to listen and that they have the space to share.

Try to think creatively about things you can do together to help them to open up. This might be playing together, cooking or gardening. Positive activities will also help to take their mind off what's happening and may ease their anxiety.

If they would feel more comfortable speaking to someone they don't know, we commission a safe and anonymous online counselling service – [Kooth](#) – which is supported by trained counsellors and provides a secure space where they can get advice and support.

We know there is a lot going on right now, but remember, you're not alone and if you need help, visit [Livewell](#) for more links to advice and guidance. You can also follow our [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) pages where we will regularly be sharing information to help you help your child.

New arrangements for county council meetings

Essex County Council (ECC) is making arrangements to continue council decision-making and committee meetings virtually, and working with district, borough and city councils across the county who are considering similar measures.

Councils have to minimise the long-term impact to the economy of coronavirus restrictions, especially in terms of planning, garden communities and local plan processes.

ECC has already introduced virtual cabinet meetings in order to make the immediate decisions needed to keep front line services operating and to respond to the coronavirus emergency but is seeking to extend these arrangements to public committees and meetings as necessary.

The Coronavirus Act received royal assent last week and the Regulations for Local Government introduced last Friday allow councils to conduct all committees and other meetings virtually.

Previously, a meeting required a specific number of councillors to be physically present, however that requirement has been lifted to enable councils to continue their activities in a virtual space.

Cllr Tony Ball, Cabinet Member for Economic Development said: “Many developers have understandably closed construction sites and ceased new homes sales while the lockdown is in place. Activities here can easily be resurrected when the time is right.

“The planning process, however, is different. It is a long pipeline which if interrupted can impact months and sometimes years down the line. Delaying local plans, planning applications and determination processes will reduce housing supply later, at a time when new housing continues to be greatly needed.

“This change to the regulations will enable local planning authorities to continue with their local plan processes and determining planning applications to maintain that pipeline.”

ECC is putting in place arrangements to hold its next Development and Regulation Committee, on 24 April, online. The Committee determines applications for schools, some roads, waste and minerals.

Staff at planning departments around the county have been largely working from home. Many had suspended committees temporarily due to the previous regulatory requirements. With the new regulations, business can re-commence with decisions on local plans and planning application being progressed remotely and virtually.

Several councils around the county are making special arrangements and trialling new technology to support their processes. For example, Chris Whitbread, Leader of Epping Forest District Council, reports that his council is trialling holding cabinet meetings virtually next week with a view to rolling this out to other meetings, including planning, thereafter.

Braintree Council are working similarly. Cllr Gabrielle Spray, Cabinet Member for Planning, said: “For some years now Braintree District Council has been webcasting all Planning Committees. We are pleased that the government has relaxed restrictions and is allowing virtual meetings. To this end,

we are exploring ways to make the best use of the good technology we already have in place to hold virtual Planning Committees as soon as possible.”

Harlow Council has already reinstated planning decision-making using a combination of delegated powers and a remote-working committee. It is looking to set up virtual development management and licensing committees which will come into operation in May.

Other councils will publish details for future meeting arrangements on their websites in due course.

New service to support vulnerable adults



A new service to help vulnerable adults stay physically and mentally active during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, is now live.

The Stay Connected service is being funded by the county council and is being delivered through Essex-based Sport For Confidence. Sport for Confidence works with vulnerable adults, providing activity-based programmes in leisure centres throughout the county.

Following the Government’s closure of all leisure facilities until further notice due to the COVID-19 outbreak, all venue sessions have been temporarily suspended. The organisation is now bringing together occupational therapists and sport coaches to deliver telephone sessions for people with learning disabilities, autism, mental health issues, dementia, physical impairment and other complex health needs. Users will receive a highly personalised home workout video.

Jess Stewart, head of commissioning for adults with learning disabilities and autism at Essex County Council, said, “We are in extraordinary times and our primary focus is on our most vulnerable communities, ensuring they stay safe and healthy.

“This has become more challenging in the current climate so we felt a new service was required to help keep people in Essex with additional needs stay happy and healthy in their own homes.

“The Stay Connected service is an excellent specialist programme for the many people who are in isolation due to COVID-19 and need support now.”

The Sport For Confidence team comprises eight occupational therapists, five sports coaches, a trained behaviour advisor and a skills expert. The new contract will support all the existing users of the service plus individuals self-isolating in Supported Living accommodation.

Referrals are being made by learning disability and autism social work teams and Supported Living providers. Updates to the service and other services for people with a learning disability or autism during the COVID-19 outbreak will be shared on the [Meaningful Lives Facebook page](#).

Essex Libraries eAudio and eBook users rise during COVID-19 lockdown



The number of people accessing eAudio and eBooks from Essex Libraries has risen during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Book lovers accessing Essex Libraries eAudio and eBook service Borrowbox have increased by 22 per cent over the last two weeks, with several thousand more residents using the service while they follow Government advice to stay at home to avoid transmission of the virus.

Essex Library service has worked hard to ensure its online services are as open as possible. New users of the library service are no longer required to register at a library in person, instead access to e-books, e-audio and e-newspapers has now been granted to those who have joined the service online.

In response to demand, a selection of e-audio books has been added to Essex Libraries eMagazine and eComic range. The number of e-comics available has also been increased from 238 to over 1,500, all with unlimited access.

Ancestry and Find My Past has been made available for customers to use from home and the valuable research tools Times Digital Archive and British Library 19th century Newspapers are now available to library members who have just joined the service online.

At a time when many parents are trying to keep young children happy in their homes, our online rhyme time service is now proving immensely popular.

Cllr Susan Barker, Essex County Council Cabinet Member with responsibility for Essex Libraries, said: "These are extraordinary times and we are seeing online demand which has never been seen before in the history of the library service.

"Essex Libraries have responded marvellously to this challenge. Our work to create a modern libraries service to meet the demands of the 21st Century has proved vital to meet this demand."

To join Essex Libraries online services go to <https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/>

Essex recycling centres closed to ensure social distancing



Essex recycling centres will remain closed to ensure social distancing rules are observed.

Recycling centres have been shut throughout the current lockdown, to deter people from making unnecessary journeys. The centres are also spaces which make social distancing difficult.

Cllr Simon Walsh, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for the Environment and Climate Change Action, said: "If we are following the Stay Home, Save Lives message, then I am afraid a trip to the tip really doesn't count as an essential journey, and the police would not view it as such.

“We cannot put the public or our staff at unnecessary risk, however I am keeping this under review and as national restrictions are relaxed, we will reassess the risks.”

For green waste and cuttings, home composting is an excellent option while the current restrictions are in place.

If you were planning to carry out DIY, please ensure you have enough storage space to hold onto your waste items until recycling sites reopen. Residents are asked to act responsibly and not to place items such as DIY waste or recyclable material into your kerbside general rubbish collection. This will take up space in the collection vehicles needed for general household rubbish and place additional strain on collection crews.

There is an expectation that green waste collections will resume soon across the County, which will reduce the need for using the recycling centres.

You can find out more about ways to reduce your waste during the lockdown [here](#).

.....and below:-

[View in browser](#)



Latest News



[This monthly newsletter brings you all the waste and recycling news in Essex.](#)

Keep up to date with your waste collections



Now that recycling centres are closed and some waste collection services have been changed due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak it's important to stay informed. You can keep up to date with changes to waste services in Essex on [the Love Essex website](#), and on the Love Essex [Facebook](#),

[Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts.

Also, if any individuals are asked to self-isolate they should follow [this advice to get rid of their household waste](#).

Thank your waste collection crews

As a frontline service, recycling and waste collection crews are continuing to work tirelessly every day, despite a reduction in staff levels, to ensure your bins, bags and boxes are collected. Although some services have been suspended, the staff able to work have done so with dedication to ensure your vital services are maintained.



Next time you see them, please acknowledge them with a smile, wave or even a clap. Find out how [you can do your bit to help](#).

Food storage tips to make your food last longer



It's more important than ever to make the food we have last longer. Where you store your food makes a big difference to how long it lasts. Did you know storing apples in the fridge makes them last two weeks longer than in a fruit bowl? Visit [the handy A-Z guide](#)

by [Love Food Hate Waste](#) for hints and tips on how best to store your food.

Win a cloth nappy hamper

Do you want to give cloth nappies a try this spring? Not only will they save you money, you won't need to keep going to the shops to buy more nappies. For your chance to give them a try, we're giving away a cloth nappy hamper with a selection of birth to potty nappies, liners and reusable bamboo wipes. It's the perfect way to get started. To be in with a chance of winning our competition, [simply fill out our survey](#).



An alternative way to get rid of your garden waste



As the weather improves our gardens are wonderful places to be. [Composting at home is a great activity in the spring](#) and an alternative if you find that your garden waste collections have been suspended. Whether you want to [buy a subsidised compost bin](#) or [build your own heap](#), you can start turning your garden waste into quality soil improver for your garden in less than a year.

Tasty seasonal recipes

Spring is a great time of year to start growing your own fruit and veg. You can really make the most of your garden, whether you're planting potatoes in the ground or sowing carrot, beetroot or cauliflower seeds in pots. Why not try growing [easy lettuce leaves](#)?



You can also make the most of seasonal foods with these great recipes:

[Red onion, goat's cheese and lettuce bites](#)

[Crispy broccoli and rocket salad](#)

[Rhubarb and custard cake](#)

Solar Together scheme postponed



Unfortunately, due the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak [the current Solar Together Essex scheme](#) has been postponed. We will publish the new dates once they have been agreed.

Mythbuster: What to do with your waste if you're having a clear out

Many of us may be making use of the time at home to have a sort out. But what do you do with your unwanted items if charity shops and recycling centres are closed?



- Keep good quality items to one side ready for when charity shops, bring banks or furniture projects re-open. (but please don't place items on the ground outside shops or banks as this is fly-tipping).
- Post your items on [Freegle](#) ready for when in-person collections are allowed again.
- Store any items that can't be passed on until recycling centres re-open.



THAXTED PARISH COUNCIL

Community Information Centre
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Thaxted
Dunmow
Essex CM6 2LD

tel: 01371 831952
email: clerk@thaxted.co.uk
web: www.thaxted.co.uk

Thaxted Parish Council Grants Policy

GRANT AID APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Thaxted Parish Council offers 2 different types of grant funding namely:

1. Grants for up to £350 per annum
2. Grants for reduced hire fees for any of the Parish Council's managed facilities

The application form at the end of these guidelines should be used for either of the grant applications.

The application form is presented in sections for completion being:

- Section 1: About the applicant
- Section 2: Details of the project / funding request
- Section 3: Funding requirements (financial information)
- Section 4: Contact details

All sections of the application form must be completed.

Please note that incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

One grant per organisation per financial year (1st April 2020 – 31st March 2021) will be considered.

The Council may seek to recover any grants following the sale of any property or equipment within 5 years of the grant being awarded. The grant recipient must notify the Parish Council in advance of any such sale.

The grant application process will run between the **1st – 31st May 2020 and the 1st – 30th November 2020**, no applications received after these date will be considered. All applications received within the

given time periods will be considered during the next scheduled **Finance & Assets meeting**.

Who can apply?

Although funding is limited, the Parish Council will aim to distribute funds to those who need it most, whether it is working with disadvantaged groups, health, social inclusion, sports events, charitable events, a trip or new initiatives and projects. We are pleased to consider any application that will benefit people living within the Thaxted Parish Council area.

What we look for in an application

- Does the project benefit residents of the parish of Thaxted?
- What are the lasting benefits of the project?
- Is the application realistic?
- Have you applied for funding from other sources?
- Is the application form filled in completely and correctly?
- Will the project be well run and effectively managed?
- Will the project be all-inclusive?

How to apply

We recommend that your application be planned well in advance and sent to us before any event takes place. It can be sent to us at any time and you only need to fill out one form. Carefully complete the enclosed application and send it to us, ensuring, if applicable, all the relevant documents are enclosed.

Accounts – If your organisation has accounts please supply photocopies of the last 6 months of your account statements. If you do not have up to date accounts, please supply us with a 6-month forecast of accounts for your project.

Constitution – Where applicable please supply us with a copy of your organisation’s constitution.

Charity registration Number – Where applicable please supply us with your organisation’s charity registration number.

Written Quotations – For all applications requiring equipment purchase we will require 2 quotes. For all applications requiring building work we will require 3 quotes.

What happens to your application?

Grants are considered by the Parish Councils Finance & Assets Committee, Dates of Committee meetings are shown on the Parish Council website and completed application forms must be received in the Parish Council offices at least one week prior to the meeting date.

Applications normally take about 4 – 8 weeks to process and you may receive a phone call or an email from a member of our staff requesting some more information. Although Grant Aid funding is limited, we do try to support as many projects/organisations which specifically benefit residents of all ages/races/denominations/etc. in the Thaxted Parish Council area.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk at the Parish Council should you wish to meet with us or to discuss any issues relating to your Grant Application.

Please return completed form via email with the subject header clearly marked **Grant application 2020-21** email: clerk@Thaxted.co.uk

Or post to:

Community Information Centre
7 Town Street
Thaxted
Essex
CM6 2LD

You may be required to make a presentation to the Finance & Assets Committee in support of your application, you will be notified if this is required.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION, PLEASE NOTE:

If your application is successful, in accordance with the Local Council Act 1972, it is a requirement that having received a grant from this Council, you must provide a statement setting out the way in which the money has been applied.

This can be done by:

- a) Sending us copies of the relevant invoices and/or receipts, or
- b) Submitting a statement confirming how the money has been applied, or
- c) By supplying a copy of your annual report and accounts

If your application is successful, Thaxted Parish Council expects acknowledgement in any relevant advertising relating to the item/event/etc. Your group may also be required to submit a report about your activities to the Parish Council or to issue a press release about the activity.

Please note that grant payments can only be made retrospectively. The Parish Council will only make advance payments of grants in exceptional circumstances.

**GRANT AID APPLICATION FORM
FOR LOCAL PROJECTS**

Section 1 – About the Applicant

1. Name & Address of Applicant/Organisation

2. Aims & Objectives of Organisation

3. Does Your Organisation Have:

(please tick relevant box)	Yes	No
A Constitution		
Accounts		
Equal Opportunities Policy		
Charity Registration Number (if yes please state):		

Please include a copy of these documents where available.

If these documents are not supplied, please advise why these details are missing

Is your application for a reduced hire fee for any Parish Council premises? *(If Yes, please proceed to question 5).*

4.

Yes

No

If yes, what is the date of your event and have you booked the facility with the Parish Council?

5. Is your application for a reduced hire fee for any Parish Council premises?

Yes

No

If yes, what is the date of your event and have you booked the facility with the Parish Council?

For Office use only regarding question 4:

Commercial hire cost:

Resourcing cost to Parish Council:

Potential Net loss / profit:

Details of any previous grants awarded to this Organisation:

Additional Information:

Section 2 – The Project

6. Please give details of the project the grant is for and the intended start date

Start Date:

End Date:

7. Please give a brief summary of activities and frequency of meetings, if applicable

8. What particular need do you consider the project will meet?

9. How have you identified the need for this project?

10. Please give a reasonably accurate figure for the number of people, within Thaxted Parish Council's area, the project will serve. If possible, please provide evidence of this within the Data Protection Act:

10. Please give a brief outline on how this project benefits the residents of Thaxted Parish Council's area.

11. Where will any equipment be kept and how will it be insured?

12. Address where activities will take place:

Section 3 – Funding Requirement

13. What is the total cost of the project?

14. Amount requested from Thaxted Parish Council and for what purposes (please be as specific as possible)

15. Have you applied for funding from other sources for **this project**?

Yes

No

If yes, please indicate how much and who from:

16. Have you applied for funding from other sources for **any other project** which may relate to this funding request?

Section 4 – Contact Details

17. Contact details for this application
(this must be someone who has full knowledge of the application and can answer questions about it)

Please note that these details will be made known in a public forum unless you specifically advise that details should be with-held

Name	
Tel No	
Email address	
Date of application	

18. Bank/Building Society Details

Grants will ordinarily be made by **Bank Transfer**. Please ensure this information is provided to ensure prompt payment.

Bank Name:

Account Name:

Account Number:

Sort Code:

If this is not the name of the group applying, please provide an explanation for variance.

19. Declaration – must be signed by at least 2 persons

We confirm that the information given in this application is correct. We are authorised to make this application on behalf of:

Name of Organisation	
Signed	
Name	
Position in Organisation	
Signed	
Name	
Position in Organisation	

Please return completed form **preferably via email** with the subject header clearly marked **Grant application 2019-20** to:

Clerk@thaxted.co.uk

Alternatively:

The Parish Clerk,
Thaxted Parish Council,
Community Information Centre,
7 Town Street, Thaxted,
Essex,
CM6 2LD.