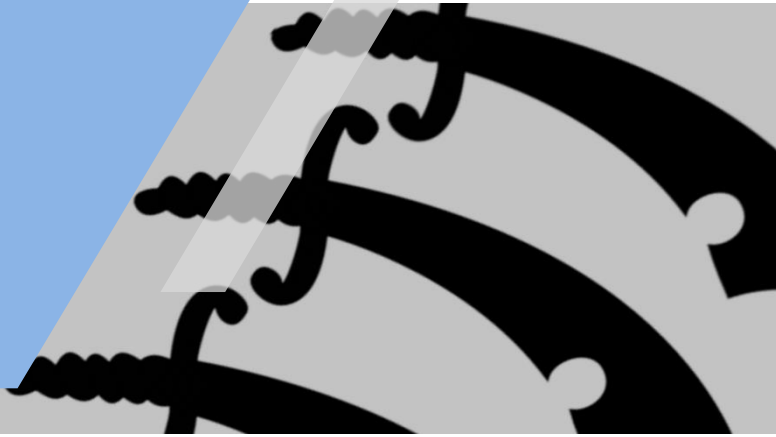


# Essex Association of Local Councils

*Supporting parish and town councils within Essex*

## County Update

### June 2023



# Welcome to the EALC'S June County Update!



Dear Members,

It is my pleasure to write my first EALC County Update to you all. As many of you know, my name is Sophie and I am the Communications Co-ordinator here at the EALC. I thank you all for the warm welcome and ongoing support. I'm very much new to the sector but find it very interesting and I like the new challenges the job brings. I am currently undergoing training towards my CiLCA qualification and hope working in Local Government to be my long term career path.

I hope to continue to support our membership through our communication channels. As you may have noticed, we have switched to MailChimp to provide a more contemporary style to our email communications, which has been an exciting journey. We are also currently undergoing a new change to our website, which will be launched soon. Watch this space!

A lot has happened since our last County Update, so I wanted to take the opportunity to bring you up to date with some recent developments in the EALC, alongside sharing all the great work that our Town and Parish Councils are doing within Essex. I hope you enjoy. Please feel free to get in touch if you have any ideas or suggestions for future editions.

Yours Sincerely,

*Sophie Walker*

*Comms and Office Co-ordinator*

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# Training Updates



## New HR Training

EALC are proud to announce we are working with a new partner called WorkNest. Worknest recognise the importance of ensuring that your Council have the right policies and procedures in place to follow the law and best practice. Enquiries are to be made to the EALC, through a request for support on behalf of the council. This service is provided as part of your membership with us. If further support is required this would be agreed directly with WorkNest at an additional cost. Collaborating with Christian Vincent, Senior Consultant at Work HR, we have scheduled some HR training modules to be delivered exclusively to our members. This training is recommended for Clerks, RFOs and Proper Officers of your Council. The modules will be delivered via Zoom. Each module is £80 + VAT. Two further modules will be released in the autumn.

The following modules to be delivered are:

- **MODULE 1 - THE EMPLOYMENT FRAMEWORK, Wednesday 21st June 2023, 10am-1pm**
- **MODULE 2 - MANAGING SICKNESS ABSENCE, Wednesday 5th July 2023, 10am-1pm**
- **MODULE 3 - MANAGING GRIEVANCE, Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023, 10am-1pm**

*More information and how to attend can be found on our website at- <https://ealc.gov.uk/training-2023/>.*

## New Training Equipment at our offices

We are delighted to announce that our training room at the EALC Offices has been significantly upgraded with new high tec audio visual equipment.

We look forward to welcoming you all to our new & improved training facility.



# Health and Wellbeing Partnership



## Health Assured Clerk's Employee Assistance Programme

This year we are delighted to announce that your council's affiliation to EALC/NALC for 2023/24 includes access to Health Assured for the Clerks of all our member councils. Health Assured is an employee assistance programme that provides compassionate care and support to over 15 million lives across 50,000 organisations. The EALC is committed to providing Health and Wellbeing support across the sector and this programme helps us to deliver this. If your Council wish to extend this service to **all** Council staff, then please contact Terry Wilding, our Relationship manager on 0844 892 2493.

The EALC will be holding a briefing delivered by a Health Assured Tutor, Margaux Thiel, Relationship Executive on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June at 10:45 am for one hour to showcase the programme and how to access it. Please see below the Zoom link & code for the briefing & look forward to you joining us.

### Briefing Overview:

- EAP Service Overview
- Referral pathway
- What we cover
- How to access the service
- Digital support
- My Healthy Advantage App
- How to download and register
- Additional services

**Zoom Health Assured Introduction Briefing- Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June @  
10.45am**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83801262560?pwd=SDhlOWU0ZmZPLyt5M28wNmVyRitQQT09>**

**Meeting ID: 838 0126 2560**

**Passcode: 103555**

## Chelmsford District- New Member Council



### Chelmsford Garden Community Council

*[Extract from CGCC Assembly Report from the Chair, Cllr Andrew Wright]*

Chelmsford Garden Community represents a new development bringing together existing and new neighbourhoods in Chelmsford which will grow to around 10,000 homes when complete. Following the outcome of a recent Community Governance Review (“CGR”) undertaken by Chelmsford City Council, two new local councils were formally created on 1st April 2023, namely Chelmer Village Council and Chelmsford Garden Community Council. The Community Council consists of 13 elected members across 4 wards and is responsible for key community assets such as the Beaulieu Community Centre. Chelmsford Garden Community Council has a bold ambition to be part of developing and maintaining an all-inclusive, healthy and vibrant community through involvement with residents who want to make a positive difference to where they live.

From the outset, the vision for Chelmsford Garden Community Council was to be different with a focus on community development, engagement, and place-making. Indeed, the Garden Community will be designed in collaboration with new and existing residents, contributing to a legacy of which we can all be proud, and Chelmsford Garden Community Council will be at the heart of this journey.

**We wish Suzanne Walker and the Councillors a success and look forward to working with them all in the ongoing future.**

# Local Council Awards



The Local Council Award programme is administered by the National Association of Local Councils and the Essex Association of Local Councils' Accreditation panel.

We know that local councils are at the very heart of their communities; giving neighbourhoods a voice and making people more involved in the decisions that affect them. Over 15 million people (35% of the population) live in the communities served by local councils. Local councils want to serve their communities as best they can and make a real difference to the lives of the people that live there. The Local Council Award Scheme has been designed to celebrate the successes of the very best local councils and to provide a framework to support all local councils to improve and develop to meet their full potential. The scheme offers councils the opportunity to show that they meet the standards set by the sector, assessed by their peers, and to put in place the conditions for continued improvement.

**We would like to congratulate the following Councils on their success to achieving the following accreditations:**

## **Little Waltham Parish Council- Foundation Award**

The Council continues to provide an excellent service to its residents with an active Health and Wellbeing plan, working closely with the local doctors surgery and voluntary groups to support mental health. With recent focus on the recreation ground to upgrade equipment, regular litter picking and garden maintenance, Little Waltham PC continue to make sure the village outdoor spaces are well maintained for the valued use of its residents. Fantastic work.



# Local Council Awards



## Woodham Walter Parish Council- Foundation Award



A thriving and active Council, Woodham Walter PC work closely with Essex Police Community Engagement Team to carry out regular speed checks and playground inspections. Now as registered owners of the Memorial Garden, along with the local Women’s Club and Village Hall Association, continue to create a beautiful space for all residents to visit. Regular coffee mornings are organised in the village hall to bring people together. Each year the council provide grant funding to local clubs, charities and organisations that regularly benefit the village. Well done.

## Tolleshunt D’arcy Parish Council- Quality Award

Along with achieving such a prestigious award, Tolleshunt D’arcy PC have also signed up to the Civility and Respect Pledge. This shows their commitment to continue to work to best practice in the sector. A quaint village rich in history, Tolleshunt D’arcy features one of the only remaining Maypoles in the country. Comprising of beautiful areas of wildlife, it is a popular destination for horse riders and tourists alike.



# Local Council Awards



## Great Notley Parish Council- Quality Award



Thanks go to Suzanne Walker, the previous Clerk to the Council in helping Great Notley PC achieve Quality Status. The council strives to make sure the community voices are heard, working closely with Essex Police on keeping the outdoor spaces safe. The council works closely with local charities to help residents that are struggling with the cost of living crisis, sharing the news of DigiGo, a community lift service and rolling out community supermarkets to help those in need.

## How to Apply

As a registered member with NALC, the council put forward an application for the awards scheme via the website at [www.nalc.gov.uk](http://www.nalc.gov.uk). (Log in is required.) Under the heading 'Our Work' / 'Improvement and Development' / Local Council Award Scheme, the form is obtained by clicking on the word 'register'. The NALC will then inform the EALC that the registration has been made. When prepared, the council confirms by resolution that it meets the necessary criteria and the EALC will forward the application form to the accreditation panel. The application is then assessed by the panel. It is EALC policy that each council will move through the levels one at a time starting with foundation and working through to quality gold.

The step-by-step guide can be found on our website at:

<https://ealc.gov.uk/local-council-awards/>

**Good Luck!**



# Good News Stories



## Community Governance Achievements

Community Governance offers a range of advanced qualifications which are all distance learning with residential study days. The qualification looks at the way in which people and organisations work together and independently, making decisions for the benefit of a local community.

There are 3 levels of study, awarded by De Montfort University (DMU):

- ✓ Certificate of Higher Education (Level 4);
- ✓ Foundation Degree (Level 5);
- ✓ Honours Degree (Level 6).

**We would like to congratulate the following Clerks on completion of their most recent awards-**

- **Sarah Gaeta, Hatfield Peverel Parish Council- Level 4;**
- **Nikki Smith, Witham Town Council- Level 4;**
- **Lauretta Fox, Writte Parish Council- Level 4;**
- **Jo Beighton-Emms, Wivenhoe Town Council, Level 4;**
  
- **Michelle Harper, Danbury Parish Council, Level 5.**

*To find out more or to express an interest, please get in touch with the SLCC at [qualifications@slcc.co.uk](mailto:qualifications@slcc.co.uk). Information is also available on their website.*

**SLCC**  
For Local Council Professionals

# Good News Stories

## King's Coronation 2023



### Herongate and Ingrave Parish Council



An impressive turn out for the village on The King's Coronation Weekend for Herongate and Ingrave. Not letting the weather stop them, an 80m long marquee held up to 1000 people with entertainment including fire breathers, stilt walkers and the impressive Brentwood Imperial Youth Band. Their performance was broadcast across BBC Essex Local Radio. Click here to watch- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aFY>



### Buckhurst Hill Parish Council



Along with Buckhurst Hill Residents' Society and Buckhurst Hill Football Club, Buckhurst Hill PC went out of their way to create a fantastic afternoon on 6<sup>th</sup> May for The Kings Coronation. Various activities were enjoyed by all including live music, inflatables, games, stilt walkers, a fire eater, and ferrets! Over 1500 people attended the event throughout the afternoon. Clerk to the Council, Liz Petyt Start said- *"It was wonderful- the weather held and enabled our community to come together and celebrate this historical occasion. Our community attended and supported in raising over £5000 for local charities – such brilliant support for the King's 'Big help Out' day and memorable day."*

# Good News Stories

## King's Coronation 2023



### Hullbridge Parish Council

Hullbridge Parish Council along with pupils from Riverside Primary School planted a special tree in Kendal Park to celebrate the Coronation. The Parish Council also donated each pupil a commemorative packet of sunflower seeds. The Council teamed up with Riverside PTA to run a Coronation Event for residents on the 5<sup>th</sup> May, this was a huge success and has led to an ongoing partnership for future events. In addition to this we arranged funding for both the school and the Windermere Senior Centre in Hullbridge to assist with the costs for their events.



### Saffron Walden Town Council

The weekend of events in Saffron Walden started on Saturday morning with the Town Crier's Proclamation in the Market Square and a piece specially composed and performed by Pipe Major James Stewart. They, along with the former Town Mayor Cllr James de Vries and former Mayoress Sheila de Vries proceeded to Walden Castle. The Coronation Service was streamed live, with the Coronation Party in Jubilee Garden with Jason 'DJ Digger' Coles saw a dedicated crowd taken through the decades; it was a 'A Right Royal Knees Up! The celebrations continued on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May with the 'Coronation Big Lunch' picnic in Jubilee Garden with live music.



The live open-air streaming of the BBC Coronation Concert with its own laser light show at Walden Castle, was a terrific evening. Personal messages were projected onto the Castle and Museum, before the laser light show adding to the occasion.

# Good News Stories

## King's Coronation 2023



### Woodham Walter Parish Council



Woodham Walter Parish Council arranged two very successful celebrations in the village to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III. On the Friday, all the children from Woodham Walter Primary School joined with children from Tadpoles Nursery on Bell Meadow to receive a special Woodham Walter Coronation bookmark. They also started to fill 'Bugingham Palace', the specially commissioned Bug Hotel situated in the new area on Bell Meadow designated to become a wild flower meadow to commemorate the Coronation. It was felt that given the new King's passion for nature, wildlife and the environment, that these would be fitting reminders of an historic event.

On the Sunday of Coronation weekend, a Coronation Picnic was held at Bell Meadow. About 150 people gathered to enjoy their picnics with their friends, neighbours and family. Community Races took place including various obstacle and dressing up races, and many entrants went away with special Coronation medals.

### Little Waltham Parish Council

Despite the rainy weather on Saturday 6th May 2023, Little Waltham Parish Council hosted a screening of the Coronation on a large screen in Taylor's Park. The bellringers from Broomfield church came along to 'ring for the King' at 9.30am on the morning of 6th May. Little Waltham Memorial Hall hosted a demonstration of line dancing as well as providing refreshments and also screening the Coronation within the hall itself. To keep the youngsters amused the pre-school arranged a fancy dress competition and Professor James came along to provide Punch and Judy shows and magic for the children! The Tufnell Hall hosted a cream tea, drinks, competitions and a bouncy castle. On Sunday 7th May the weather was much improved and the Parish Council hosted the screening of the Coronation concert from Windsor Castle on the large screen in Taylors Park which was well attended by residents.



# Good News Stories

## King's Coronation 2023



### Great Bardfield Parish Council

Great Bardfield had a very successful day for both adults and children for the King's Coronation. 40 children took part in the crown painting event and Rev Alex Shannon 'crowned' everyone with the 'oath' to be kind.



### Wivenhoe Town Council

Wivenhoe TC along with ROAC (Reaching Out At Christmas) Team held a Coronation afternoon tea at the William Loveless Hall to mark Volunteering Day. There was fantastic food and entertainment from the Hoolies.



## A Message from Bruno Peek, Pagaentmaster to The King and Queen's Consort



Over many years now, the EALC has always been most helpful in distributing the Guide To Taking Part in historic occasions, to its Town and Parish Councils, with the last being our late Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee last year.

With this in mind, we are doing likewise for the 80th Anniversary of D-Day on 6th June next year, especially as there won't be a Town or a Parish within the County not affected by this occasion eighty years ago, which as we know, managed to start the beginning, of the end of WW II, with many soldiers, sailors and airmen from your communities not returning home, because they sacrificed their lives to enable us to all enjoy the freedom we share today.

The event will also be commemorating the amazing part played by the women of the UK during these difficult times of war, along with the brave fisherman that fished the dangerous seas to keep the nation fed.

The Guide To Taking Part, outlining ways in which communities can take part is nearly complete, with view to it being distributed UK wide during the first week of June, following the Coronation.

A message from the Prime Minister is positioned page 3 of the Guide, encouraging communities to participate, providing the important opportunity of using their involvement to pay 'tribute' to those that gave so much for their County and country during the D-Day campaign.

As we all know, our Town and Parishes are the 'beating heart' of our local communities, so would really appreciate your generous support.

My warmest best wishes,

*Bruno Peek*

Bruno Peek CVO OBE OPR  
Pageantmaster  
D-Day 80  
6th June 2024  
Telephone: + 44 (0) 7737 262 913  
Email: brunopeek@mac.com

**Important Announcement-  
D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024**



**Guide to Taking Part- PDF**





## **Community Initiative Fund 2022/23 and Emergency CIF Fund**

In 2022 we were pleased to once again administer The Community Initiatives Fund on behalf of Essex County Council. The funding is designed to help Parish & Town Councils, groups, clubs and voluntary sector organisations improve and support their local communities. We received a total of 94 applicants totalling £749,137 for the available fund of £300,000. Late November 2022, 27 applications were awarded a total of £170,908. The successful applicants range from Village Halls receiving awards for refurbishments and renovations to Theatre companies receiving awards towards drama and theatre projects, engaging young people.

The balance £127,092 was transferred into the CIF Emergency Fund which provides grants outside the scheduled bidding rounds. Grants are awarded on an exceptional basis on the grounds of extreme urgency. In the last year this funding supported 3 projects awarding a total of £19,690.

## **Micro Grants Fund**

In May 2022 The Micro Grant scheme was re-launched and continued as two funds, Community Chest and Communication and Technology. Both funds were for small grants up to £500.

Community Chest Grants were available to community groups, voluntary Groups and Parish & Town Councils. Awards were given for short term projects that would have outcomes to improve the local community, wellbeing and support better connected communities. Examples of successful projects included Community Gardens, Speaking Club, Ticket office Library, Memory café. 83 successful applicants received a total of £38749.00.

Communication and Technology Grants were awarded to support grassroots organisations responding to the pandemic who had no or limited infrastructure to support communication and technology. Examples of successful projects included Website design, Broadband instalment, IT upgrade, Promotion Banners & Printing, New website. 40 successful applicants received a total of £18456.00.





## Ride London–Essex 2023

The world’s greatest cycling event returned this year on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May on what was its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. RideLondon inspires people to get active, promoting cycling as a sustainable method of transport and aiming to promote the physical and mental health benefits of exercise. On behalf of Essex County Council the EALC administrated £27575.99 to applicants to assist in supporting the event and riders.

## Food Support and Winter Warmth Essentials Fund and The Winter Warmth and Welcome spaces Fund

Essex County Council have continued to be committed to supporting communities and those most in need who have been adversely impacted by the cost of living rises. After the success of Foodbank funding in 2021/2022, the EALC assisted Essex County Council in launching and administrating two new Funds, Food Support and Winter Warmth Essentials Fund and Winter Warmth and Welcome Spaces Fund.

Food Support and Winter Warmth Essentials Fund was launched in November 2022 and operated through to the end of March 2023. The funding was available to assist food banks, food pantries, community organisations and voluntary groups in offering vital food support and winter warmth Essential provisions to those most in need. A total of 96 applicants were awarded £312,623 which went on to support over 7500 households across Essex throughout this difficult time.

*“We had no food in the cupboard and no money – My family were able to eat for the next week or 2 because of this help. The warm blankets have been a life saver as we can’t afford to have the heating on and can all snuggle together in the living room as a family. It also helps to keep the animals warm too, as they love to cuddle up in them with us”*

**Catch22**



The Winter Warmth and Welcome Spaces Fund launched in October 2022 and also operated through to the end of March 2023. This fund was for smaller grants awarded to community organisations, charities, company interest companies and Parish and Town Councils. The funding was awarded for applicants to set up and run free access to all, warm, safe and supportive spaces that the residents of Essex could use throughout the winter. A total of £77800.50 was awarded to 91 applicants.

# EALC Funding Updates



*'On behalf of the Harwich Festival, I would like to thank the EALC for this grant. It has helped us provide support to some of the most vulnerable residents in the area in the first three months of 2023.*

*What we did: Using this grant we have offered a weekly 'Craft Space' at the Harwich Arts & Heritage Centre. Our craft space is a free drop in activity where residents can come in and create various different artworks and have free hot drinks & healthy snacks/soup. These sessions were extremely popular with young families (our venue is next to a primary school) and the elderly.'*



*Harwich Festival*

*'A warm & comfortable lounge area to have a sense of home comforts together. As well as keeping warm, friendships and community have been built We also offered Free coats to our community.*

*We created another space for families and young children to play and have lots of fun.. We offered a free Stay & Play area throughout the week where we welcomed on average 80 kids per week.'*



*St Michaels Church, Loughton*



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An aerial photograph of a large stadium under construction. The seating bowl is visible with blue seats. The stadium is surrounded by a modern glass and steel structure. In the top right corner, there is a small EALC logo. Overlaid on the image is large yellow text with a black outline that reads: 'Thursday 21st September 2023 Booking Details to follow soon...'. In the bottom left corner, there is a grey box with the text 'AGM 2023' in white.

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**September 2023**  
**Booking Details to follow soon...**

**AGM 2023**

*Thankyou for reading. Save paper- Think before you print.*



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