

Updated 11 October 2023

Details of e-mails received from County Councillor Peter Schwier, since the September PC meeting

Regular e-mails have been received from County Councillor Peter Schwier since the last meeting. Please find below a list of each e-mail with brief details. If you have an interest in any particular e-mail listed (not already circulated) please let me know and I will forward the full document to you.

1. **Essex Energy Switch programme** - Registration can be completed online at www.essex.gov.uk/energyswitch, or by calling the Big Community Switch registration line on 0800 048 8439. Deadline 27 November. Received 5 September (Circulated to Cllrs 5/9).
2. **Essex Public Health Accelerator Bids (PHAB) programme** - Small grant applications (£500- £15,000) are open for innovative schemes to improve the health of Essex residents. Received 5 September.
3. **Update on RAAC in schools** - 54 Essex schools are currently identified as having known RAAC, requiring immediate action as a result of the recent change in Department of Education (DfE) policy. 15 of the schools are local authority maintained and 14 of these are able to re-open next week due to mitigation measures having been put in place. Unfortunately, 1 maintained school will need to close temporarily. The remaining 39 schools are academies, for which the academy trust is the responsible body. We have been working closely with these trusts and the DfE to understand the impact and provide support where necessary. Received 7 September.
4. **Residents in receipt of Universal Credit could save up to £202 a year on their broadband bills by switching to a social broadband tariff** - Social tariffs offer fixed prices, which can take away the stress of mid-contract increases or surprise payments. Find out about Digital Share at www.digitalshare.org. Received 14 Sept.
5. **ECC Highways Highlights** – October 2023. Received 3 October.
6. **Essex County Council launches consultation on booking process at recycling centres** – To respond to the consultation and have your say on the booking process, please visit www.essex.gov.uk/recyclingcentrebookings. Deadline 19 November. Received 9 October (Circulated to Cllrs).
7. **More funding to tackle rough sleeping** - Five councils across Essex, including BDC, are set to receive a total of £210,000 to tackle rough sleeping over the next 18 months. The funds will provide longer-term support, funding 44 accommodation units until March 2025. Received 10 October.
8. **Pothole repair trial** - A new method of filling in potholes and cracks in roads that promises to be greener and quicker is being trialled by Essex Highways in Colchester and Tendring. The new asphalt, which is made up of recycled materials

including old lorry tyres, can be prepared on site as needed. The product has virtually no waste and significantly reduces CO2 compared to more traditional methods of pothole repair. Once deep holes are infilled, it is poured over the surface as a molten liquid that forms a waterproof patch over the area as well as filling minor defects, preventing further cracks or holes from developing. It also cools within minutes, which reduces the amount of time a road is closed compared to a more traditional repair. Received 11 October (Circulated to Cllrs).