

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

Item 5 on the Agenda

18 Nov 24

Regular e-mails have been received from County Councillor Peter Schwier since the last meeting. Please find below a list of the mails with brief details. If you have an interest in any particular mail listed, please let me know and I will forward the full document to you. *John*

1. **Fund supports initiatives by local communities to improve safety in their areas** - Charities, community groups and voluntary organisations can receive thousands of pounds towards their ideas to improve community safety across Essex.
2. **Highways Investment boost** - Twenty-one new road surfacing schemes have been undertaken in the first weeks of Essex County Council's £25 million Priority One campaign.
3. **Highways - Autumn /Winter preparation** - More than 24,000 drains have been cleared across Essex as highways crews prepare for heavy rain this autumn and winter.
4. **Essex Businesses unite to drive growth and innovation** - Over 250 attendees explored the innovation and potential amongst the county's business community at the first ever Ambitious Essex Business Summit.
5. **Essex Highway User survey 2024/25** - We'd like you to tell us your views on the services provided by Essex Highways by completing a survey on priorities and satisfaction levels. Your feedback helps us to improve the quality of the service Essex Highways provides and helps us consider how best to target our limited resources.
6. **The programme will help young people gain the skills they need to start their own business** - The We Rise youth movement, supported by Essex County Council, is breaking down barriers and empowering young residents to start their own business.
7. **Safer Essex Roads Partnership raises awareness of drink driving in local pubs** - Pubs across Essex will display posters and beer mats from today highlighting the importance of planning your journey home ahead of time.
8. **Household Support Fund Allocation** - The scheme, introduced under the previous government, is designed to support vulnerable families and we are replicating much that we have done previously, whilst also recognising the important need to support pensioners, following the government's decision to remove Winter Fuel Allowance to over 300,000 pensioners in Essex.
9. **Businesses invited to join Influential new board** - Working together, Essex County Council, Southend-on-Sea City Council and Thurrock Council are seeking influential businesspeople to join the new Greater Essex Business Board.

10. **Additional £250K funding available for local foodbanks & voluntary groups** - Local organisations providing food and support to those most in need can now apply for up to £2,500 in grant funding. Essex County Council has allocated a further £250,000 to its food support fund to help local communities this winter.
11. **Planning the £81 million Army & Navy Sustainable Transport Package** - Plans to transform a vital gateway in Chelmsford are set to be approved next Friday (22 November).
12. **Share your views on ECC's Budget 25/26 proposal** - A consultation on *Essex County Council's* budget is now open. Residents and businesses can share how they think the County Council's 2025/26 £2 billion budget should be spent.