

Belchamp St Paul and Belchamp Otten Parish Council

Details of e-mails received from County Councillor Peter Schwier, since the January 2025 PC meeting

Item 5 on the Agenda

17 March 25

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. **Rural Countryside Funding grants**- The Royal Countryside Fund are launching a UK-wide Supporting Rural Communities grant programme on 10 January 2025 – 8/1/25
2. **Essex travel service extends price cap**- Since January 2023, DigiGo has participated in the Government's Bus Fare Cap Grant, offering £2 single fares. The Prime Minister announced a £3 fare cap – 8/1/25
3. **Love Essex fund returns for 2015 for projects that reduce household waste** - £500 micro-grants are available to help fund waste-reducing projects across Essex. – 9/1/25
4. **Last chance to book free maths courses in Essex** - £7.9 million programme teaches adults everything from money management to workplace skills – 9/1/25
5. **Councils will seek to participate in Devolution Priority Programme** - Following an extraordinary council meeting held 10 January, Essex County Council, alongside Southend-on-Sea City Council and Thurrock Council, will write to the government to request inclusion on the government's Priority Programme for devolution. 16/1
6. **ECC Sets out Budget 25/26** - The county council has shared proposals for how it intends to address immediate challenges and unlock the county's future potential. 17/1
7. **Dedicated winter crews for Essex Highways** - New repair teams will address winter-related road damage until spring. 21/1
8. **Essex County Council appoints new Chief Executive** - Appointment subject to final approval by Full Council on 13 February. Essex County Council is pleased to announce Nicole Wood as the council's new Chief Executive. 21/1
9. **Essex Councils unite to tackle fly-tipping** - Local councils are being supported by Essex County Council, the Environment Agency and the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to jointly tackle fly tipping 29/1
10. **ECC Meets with Stansted Airport to discuss exciting expansion plans** - The airport recently announced a huge £1.1 billion investment programme which over five-years will deliver wide-ranging benefits for passengers. 5/2
11. **30Km of Essex roads resurfaced since launch of Priority One programme** - Highways crews have worked throughout the autumn and winter to target the worst areas of deterioration. 6/2

12. **New funding gives Essex residents more choice in travel** - Multi-million-pound investment awarded to improve walking and cycling in Essex. 12/2
13. **ECC Budget 25/26** - An additional £12.3 million funding boost for highways has been announced today (Thursday 13 February) as part of Essex County Council's 2025/26 budget. 13/2
14. **Local Offers tours county with special needs support roadshow** - Roadshows in Basildon, Chelmsford, Colchester and Harlow are giving parents and carers free access to support for special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). 14/2
15. **Proposed Greater Essex Combined Authority** - the Government have today launched the statutory public consultation into the proposed 'Greater Essex Mayoral County Combined Authority' for the local government area of Essex County Council, Thurrock Council and Southend-on Sea City Council. 18/2
16. **Essex Residents urged to prepare for major digital switchover** - The Essex telephone network will switch to a new system as analogue phonelines are replaced by digital landlines. Residents with broadband will be able to connect the digital landline directly into their router instead of a wall-mounted socket. 18/2
17. **ECC Highways Gt Yeldham /Tilbury Rd** - A job has been raised for around 18 defects, including defect 3866821. This is currently with Officers who are programming the job for an attendance date. Extract of Email reply from Jessica Freeman: *"I thank you again for your intervention in this matter, but I'm afraid Essex Highways' response is insufficient at this stage. To take such a cavalier approach to road safety is quite remarkable. . . The road is now extremely dangerous, and it is only a matter of time before someone gets hurt."* 27/2 *"As stated previously, I believe that Essex Highways is in serious dereliction of its duties and has behaved in a negligent manner."* 5/3
18. **Fuel eating bacteria digest oil spills in Essex** - Essex Highways is using microbiology to clean up fuel spills as one of the first authorities to deploy microorganisms on a road network.
19. **First residential electric vehicle chargers installed in Essex** - The first residential electric vehicle chargers in Essex have now been installed. The chargers, which are located on Moulsham Street in Chelmsford and Wimpole Road in Colchester, are the first of 66 for the county.