

Belchamp St Paul and Belchamp Otten Parish Council

Details of e-mails received from County Councillor Peter Schwier, since the January 2026 PC meeting

Item 5 on the Agenda

24 March 2026

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. **Essex secures over £68m in government funding to support bus services** – Essex C C has secured more than £68m (7/1).
2. **Stansted Airport expansion set to help Essex proper** - Essex County Council has welcomed news that Uttlesford District Council has granted planning permission to expand Stansted Airport (9/1).
3. **'Green' rating for Essex underlines Essex County Councils record on road improvement** - Essex County Council has welcomed the news that the county has received a 'green' rating from the Government for its road maintenance and repair (12/1).
4. **STIQ Day - with commitment to accessible support** - This Sexually Transmitted Infection Question (STIQ) Day, Essex County Council is encouraging open and honest conversations about sexual health (14/1).
5. **Letter to Minister of Local Government** - Essex County Council will not be calling for the postponement of elections Full letter to the Minister for Local Government is attached (16/1).
6. **Connect to work Programme - Essex Delivery partners confirmed** - Essex's £30.7 million Connect to Work programme has reached a major milestone in its efforts to break down barriers to employment, with three specialist providers now on board (19/1).
7. **Budget 26/27 - reveals a budget that's on your side** - Essex County Council has set out budget proposals for 2026/27 which focus on protecting essential services, supporting the most vulnerable and investing in the county's future - while keeping council tax as low as possible, through one of the lowest increases any council has proposed (20/1).
8. **Applications open for creative industries & culture funds** - Creative businesses and cultural organisations in Essex can now apply for funding from two schemes (23/1).
9. **Majority of council-backed bus services set to continue serving local communities** - Essex passengers continue to show confidence in local buses with more people using Essex County Council backed services in the last two years (26/1).
10. **Landowners encouraged to cut vegetation ahead.... of bird nesting season** - Landowners are being reminded that trees, hedges, ditches and other vegetation close to highways needs to be maintained before bird nesting season begins (27/1).

11. **Essex Energy summit to power growth, skills and energy innovation** - Essex Energy Summit, hosted by the Essex Growth Agency, explores the opportunity offered by green energy projects in the region (2/2).
12. **Deadline extended for Essex Residents to help shape health and Wellbeing Strategy** - Residents of all ages are asked to help influence the future of health and wellbeing in Essex (4/2).
13. **Free events support young people in Essex across National Apprenticeship Week** - Young Essex residents can meet employers and receive expert careers guidance through a series of events (5/2).
14. **Consider running for election -May 26** - People living or working in Essex can consider running for election to the county council at the upcoming elections on 7 May 2026 (11/2).
15. **Retailers across Essex sentenced for selling vapes to children** - Three retailers have been found guilty of selling nicotine inhaling products to someone under the age of 18 following multiple Essex Trading Standards investigations (15/2).
16. **Essex unveils progress towards a more caring, connected future** - The Essex Caring Communities Commission has published an update on its ambitious work to tackle rising pressures across the county's health and social care system (18/2).
17. **Residents across Essex encouraged to recycle their metal packaging** - Essex County Council has launched a new countywide campaign to encourage Essex residents to recycle their metal packaging (2/3).
18. **New Buses coming to Chelmsford Park and Ride Services** - New buses will be arriving at the Sandon and Chelmer Valley Park and Ride services in Chelmsford this month (2/3).
19. **Schools - 97% of children offered places at preferred secondary schools in Essex** - Parents of 16,558 pupils are discovering the outcome of their secondary school applications today in Essex (Monday 2 March) (2/3).
20. **Huge boost to winter road maintenance begins in Essex** - Crews will be carrying out a huge programme of works this month and beyond (9/3).
21. **Support available to help residents live healthier and happier lives** - Essex County Council's Public Health team has launched a refreshed offer of free, friendly and flexible local services (10/3).
22. **Electrifying Essex** - A new campaign called Electrifying Essex is highlighting the benefits of switching to an electric vehicle (EV) following an £8.3 million investment by Essex County Council (10/3).
23. **Information Young Carers** - Essex County Council is shining a light on the important work young carers do and the challenges they face this Young Carers Action Day 11 March (11/3).
24. **Parish self-fund highway schemes** - Parish-funded works – There is now a process in place for parish councils to self-fund highway improvement schemes (12/3).
25. **Essex Safer Speeds Strategy** - We are pleased to have launched a public consultation on the new draft [Essex Safer Speeds Strategy](#). The consultation starts today (Monday 16 March 2026) and will run for six weeks, closing on Sunday 26 April 2026 (17/3).

26. **Thousands of road repairs carried out in the last year as extra investment continues** - Additional investment, dedicated crews, and creative innovation saw highways maintenance thrive during 2025/26 (16/3).
27. **2.6M boost to maintain progress in SEND assessments** - Essex County Council is investing an extra £2.6 million over the next two years. The money will accelerate recent improvements to the Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment (EHCNAs) process (18/3).