

FOCUS On Mile End

EXCLUSIVE news and updates for MILE END residents
From your Liberal Democrat representatives

Borough Councillors Phil Coleman - Martin Goss - Dominic Graham
County Councillor Anne Turrell - Focus Lead David King

AUTUMN 2017

Highway updates

JUNCTION VIA URBIS ROMANAE AND A134

Anne has received many contacts from residents, many outside of our area of Mile End and Highwoods about the junction described above.

The junction as we are all aware is not fit for purpose as it allows traffic

to tail back to the NAR/ Mill Rd junction at various times throughout the day.

Anne has reported the issue and supported residents who have reported it. If Anne has any updates she will let you all know.

COLCHESTER STRATEGIC TRANSPORT ACTION PLAN

Anne has joined the above group which is lead by Cllr Bentley, Deputy Leader of ECC.

Mile End and Highwoods is one of the pinch points for traffic congestion

in Colchester along with the town centre and Stanway.

The plan is intended to help reduce congestion in our area and Colchester. We could of course help if we could all think before we make short journeys in our cars.

LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL

Anne is now Deputy Chair of the LHP. The panel is supposed to deal with what Highways consider the smaller highways issues.

The panel has £500,000 for all of Colchester and the workload is enormous.

It is taking on average 3 years for some of the works to be completed and as more issues are sent to the LHP the time scale for the Highways problems is only going to increase. The priority for the Panel are safety issues related to the Highways.

If you have an issue please contact Anne and she will help you to complete the LHP application form.

Crime Report

REPORT ALL CRIME

Colchester's new Chief Inspector Shaun Kane will be introducing new initiatives to stamp out low-level crime.

When asked by Cllr Coleman at a recent Scrutiny meeting about the non emergency number 101 he made it clear that ALL crimes should be reported.

All reported crimes are recorded and whilst police resources are limited

these reports will create a picture of what action is needed in areas of the borough. He made it clear that it was his priority to make communities safe and will be deploying officers where they are needed based on community feedback.

Please report all crimes such as Anti-Social Behaviour, dangerous parking, theft etc on 101.

LOCAL PLAN - YOUR FUTURE



REPORT BACK: Councillor Dominic Graham

Dominic raised issues and concerns on your behalf at the recent Council's Cabinet Meeting

At the CBC cabinet meeting on 6th September I raised the issue of the impact of the Local Plan on Colchester Hospital & other health providers in the area.

Central government have given us a target of building 920 homes per year for the next 15 years. This is broadly the same rate as the last 15 years.

The growth of the borough will have an obvious impact on Colchester hospital.

It's essential that central government accepts this fact and provides adequate funding for Colchester Hospital, the ambulance trust and local GPs.

I invited CBC cabinet to write to Sec of State for Health, Jeremy Hunt, and Sec of State for DCLG, Sajid Javid, to ensure they're aware of the position and to ask

them to step up to the plate and properly fund health services in Colchester in line with the expected growth of the borough.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr Paul Smith, went one better. He agreed to speak to our partners involved in the Garden Communities (Tendring DC, Braintree DC and Essex County Council) and will arrange for a letter to be sent on behalf of all four councils setting out concerns about funding of health provision in the area.

Cllr Smith rightly highlighted these concerns are cross-border and partnership work with our neighbours is the best and only way to deal with it.



Any questions, thoughts, concerns? Do you have any queries or comments about the Local Plan? Please let us know.

Latest updates

FROM Cllr Phil Coleman

Travellers Update

Following another summer and more incursions on to both council land and private land requests have been made by your Mile End councillors to make secure the sites known to be visited by travellers. A borough-wide Public Space Protection Order to stop Travellers setting down in the borough has not been allowed by the authorities.

Mill Rd Update

Mill Road has at long last been resurfaced and remarked and is a lot safer for all concerned. Please continue to report all potholes, broken kerbs, streetlights and other street furniture so that action can be taken.

Park and Ride Update

Whilst both Cllr Turrell and Cllr Coleman have had meetings and regular communication over many months with ECC about further utilisation of the Park and Ride service, we can report that things are being looked at by ECC, watch this space!

Camera Update

The bus lane in North Station Road past The Norfolk Pub has now been fitted with enforcement cameras. From North to South is for buses only whilst from South to North is for buses only and for ACCESS ONLY for residents living in that part of North Station Road. The road has been abused for a long time particularly South to North and ECC have installed cameras to stop this abuse.



Cty Cllr Anne Turrell
Tel: 752418
AnneTurrell@msn.com



Cllr Phil Coleman
Tel: 07808 530587
teachercoleman@hotmail.com



Cllr Martin Goss
Tel: 07912 396335
gossmartin@hotmail.com



Cllr Dominic Graham
Tel: 07717 583491
domgraham@hotmail.co.uk



David King
Tel: 07738522641
davidking1868@gmail.com



Who are Essex County Council?

FOCUS INTERVIEW: David King with Anne Turrell

Sometimes it is not clear what ECC is responsible so our Focus Team Lead, David King recently interviewed your County Councillor Anne Turrell. Below is Anne's responses to David's questions.

If you would like any more information about what Essex County Council is responsible for, please ask Anne.

● What does ECC do?!

A: Adult Social Care and Children Services are their biggest responsibility. Education is a significant cost but the ECC role is increasingly about advice, oversight and support. With Academies and Free Schools the money and authority rests with them.

● What else?

A: ECC is responsible for Roads and Transport, as well as having an important planning role working with Colchester Borough Council and others. But as everyone knows there is a big backlog of work and limited funding, so lots of frustration and delay and challenge - but we keep working away to secure improvement!

● Talking about frustrations - who leads on waste?!

A: Colchester Borough Council collect our waste. But it really matters that it is done as well as they can. Anything that cannot be recycled and ends up in land fill attracts a very expensive Landfill Tax that ECC (not CBC) must pay! Which means less money for highways and social care!



★ Highway Rangers

● Special Report from Cllr Anne Turrell ●

After years of the Rangers not actually doing very much in Colchester Anne has been told they now have the capacity to do more work. Highways Rangers can clean road signs, cut back vegetation on Highways land among other jobs. If you have an issue that you believe the Essex Rangers could do please advise Anne with details and she will pass onto the Rangers.

On site with Anne



Your County Councillor, Anne Turrell has provided the following feedback from her meeting on site at the North Station Pedestrian Path.

I have this morning been on site with Highways officials and can report the following:

- The path would be narrowed too much if barriers were installed. It would mean a double buggy, or large wheelchair could not use the path.
- Cyclists should not be using the path they should use the Bus Lane or path on the opposite side of the road.
- When developing the changes at this point ECC tried to buy some land from the Car Sales but the owners were not interested in selling the strip.

That's the history so here are the suggested solutions:

- Coming from the town direction a sign will be put near the bus stop, next to the crossing saying "End of Cycle lane" and direct cyclists to the other side of the road.
- Coming from Asda side it will be made clearer to cyclists that the cycle path has ended so they need to use the Bus lane. There needs to be a sign saying end of cycle lane and an arrow directing cyclists onto the bus lane. Some cyclist do this we witnessed one but two others continued on the path.
- ECC are going to try again to buy a strip of land so the path can be widened beyond the minimum width so barriers can be installed.

All of the above has to be done by Local Highways Panel and the reality is that Panel does not have enough money to carry out all works required in Colchester so most applications to the LHP are taking 2 to 3 years.

These are the facts and I am not happy. Therefore I will be speaking to the Highways Cabinet member saying that new roads or adaptations to existing roads should not be funded by the Local Highways Panel but from other sources so that work can be completed quickly. I believe that all new roads or adaptations to existing roads should have a five year bedding in period so that if issues are found after the roads are complete that work could be done immediately.

I am sorry I cannot be more positive. I will update via the newsletter we regularly deliver to residents. If you have any further issues or questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

BAKERS LANE HOUSING

Gladmans the developer behind the 122 housing application has appealed the refusal. It will be heard in December by the Planning Inspectorate. We will keep you updated.



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A concern or issue?

Please let us know below and we will pursue on your behalf.

SPECIAL NOTICES

RECYCLING EQUIPMENT

If you still require recycling boxes for tins/glass or food caddies for your food waste recycling, plastic recycling sacks or garden bags please drop in to Myland Community Council at 101 Nayland Road CO4 5EN between 8am and 1pm Mon to Fri. Please call 01206 853400 to check the offices are open.

KEEP MILE END TIDY

Littering and dog fouling are still blighting our ward. Worse still are the reports from residents of dog fouling inside children's play parks. This needs to stop and needs to be reported, either the times it is occurring or the names of the culprits if identified so that enforcement action can be taken. A reminder that ALL dogs must be kept on a lead and OFF the actual pitches at Colchester Rugby Club.

The whole ground is covered by a Public Space Protection Order to ensure fouling is not made on the pitches and if caught by regular visits by zone wardens a £100 fixed penalty notice will be served.

Need help? Any questions? Contact David King Focus Lead

CONTACT US: By Post FREEPOST COLCHESTER LIBERAL DEMOCRATS



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