

A pdf version will be on the village website at www.hempstead-essex.org.uk and a hard copy is available on the Parish Council Noticeboard.

Parish Council

At the recent meeting of the Parish Council held on the 9th April, County Cllr Martin Foley briefed the meeting on a number of matters which are highlighted below.

Uttlesford Local Plan 2021 – 2041

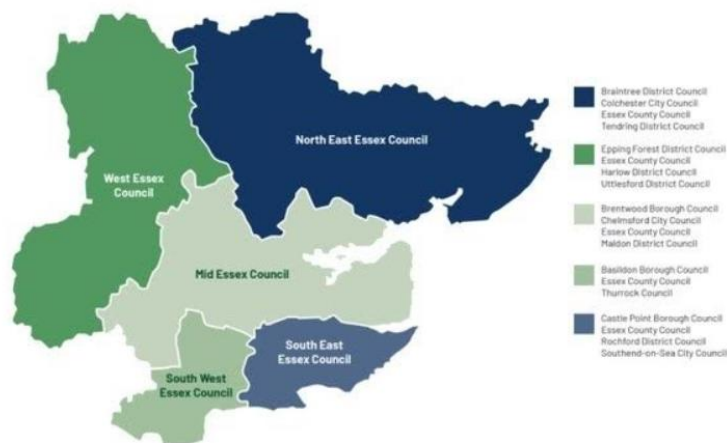
The Plan has been approved and has come into immediate effect, replacing that of 2005. This is the third attempt to get a plan approved, under different political administrations in Uttlesford, and has cost the taxpayer over £8m.

The Plan can be viewed on the Uttlesford website here: [Annex 1 - UDC Local Plan 2021-2041.pdf](#)

Local government re-organisation (“LGR”)

The New Organisation and Shape – Unitary Councils in Essex – from April 2028

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has decided, after considering all representations made, to reorganise the existing 15 County, Districts and current Unitary Councils in Essex into five separate unitary bodies, as depicted above (the “Five Model”).



With effect from 1 April 2028, Uttlesford District Council (and all the other existing Councils in Essex) will no longer exist and it will be “merged” with Epping Forest DC and Harlow BC to make up a new body to be called (for the present at least) “West Essex Council”. Thereafter, there will be five unitary authorities covering the historical county of Essex while a new ‘Mayoral Combined’ covering its geographic area will be created which will have responsibility for “strategic/semi-regional” functions, including transport, major infrastructure and large-scale new housing provision, such as New Towns/Garden Communities. For now, operations continue as present, with 2027 being a year of change/handovers.

Heating oil – support for vulnerable households

The government announced £53m of support for vulnerable households who rely on heating oil.

The support will be targeted to help low-income households in rural communities affected by the recent surge in costs. The additional funding will be distributed by local authorities via the Crisis and Resilience Fund, which came into effect on 1 April and replaces the temporary Household Support Fund.

Locally, the fund will be administered by Essex County Council, not UDC, so please go to their website here: [Help with the cost of living: Crisis and Resilience Fund | Essex County Council](#)

Cost-of-Living Support

The UDC website has been updated to make it clear who enquiries should be made to if residents need help with their heating costs: [Financial support - Uttlesford District Council](#)

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on the **Thursday, 6th May at pm** in the village hall.

The Annual Parish Meeting to which everyone is invited, takes place on the 15th May at 8pm in the hall.

Members of the public are always welcome to attend Parish Council meetings to raise issues with the council but can't speak during the formal proceedings. Nick Turkentine - Chairman

Churchyard Update

Have you walked around the churchyard recently? On the west side, the overgrowth of brambles that were encroaching towards the west door have been taken back to the boundary and whilst this looks bare just now, some rain will restore the grass before long. The PCC are very grateful to Kevin Jarman and David Cox for this voluntary work. At the front, the borders either side of the porch are looking spruce and tidy thanks to the volunteer work of Emily Harrison, a keen gardener. The photos here show just how lovely this precious space is. If you would like to volunteer to help with any matter relating to the church, please contact Meryl Haylock on 01799 599238 or at meryl.haylock@yahoo.co.uk. And please be respectful in the churchyard, please keep your dog on a lead and put mess in the bins. Thank you.



Food and Toiletries for Ukraine collection, 9th May, 10-11am

Our village has been very generous in its support of UK-Aid and their work in sending goods to Ukraine over the past four years through our local Rotary group, headed on this topic, by John Tapscott.



UK-Aid have updated their list of goods most urgently needed goods and wish to focus particularly of food and toiletries rather than clothing. They will accept clothing this time but then not again for some considerable time. Their priority for donations are: Baby food and milk, dried food inc. gluten free, tinned foods, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, toilet rolls, washing powder, sanitary wear and medical items. Please ensure that all medicines are in date as out-of-date items cannot be sent.

Torches, and batteries are also high priorities. If you prefer to send cash, this allows the purchase of pallets of food and generators. If you are including clothing and footwear, please ensure it is clean and in good condition.

The clothing excess has led to a group heading to the warehouse at Leaden Roding on Sat 16th May to help with sorting to reduce the 'clothing mountain'. If you would like to make up a car of volunteer sorters who could work on a Saturday morning at CM6 1RE, then please contact John Tapscott on 01799 599395 or at tapscott24@btinternet.com.

The hall will be open from **10-11am on Saturday 9th May** to receive your donations, or contact me, Diana Frost, for advance collection. Many thanks.

Village Hall

The sale at Thaxted in late April proved very successful once again and together with pre-sales has raised almost £2000 for the village hall. This is much needed as income for the hall was short of covering its operating costs by that amount in the last 12 months.

We urgently need more people to book and use the hall, especially for regular classes and instruction. If you know of anyone wishing to expand their business, please show them how good our facilities are, or arrange a visit through the Booking Secretary, Julie Dalton, villagehall2023@gmail.com.



Knitting Group

You don't need to know how to knit to join this. We'll teach you and provide you with equipment and yarn to get started so do come along.

The next meeting dates for the group are Fridays, the **8th and 22nd May**, in the village hall, from 10am to 11.30am. £2 per session.

All are welcome for a very sociable morning.



T&C: Newsletter entries must be received by diana_frost@lineone.net by the **24th** of each month. Only village events will be promoted. No advertisements or personal profit promotions will be featured. To unsubscribe, email Diana Frost.