

MINUTES OF THE MUNDON ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

HELD ON 20 MAY 2025 AT 8.30PM IN THE VICTORY HALL

Email: mundonparishcouncil@yahoo.com

Website: Mundon.org – Tel: 07789 342747

Present: Cllr Gavin Rowsell, Cllr Kerry-Jane Wylie and
Cllr Marita Ponting

In Attendance: Mrs Jackie Lines – Parish Clerk

Members of Public: 2

Meeting Commenced: 8.37pm

1. Chairman's welcome and introduction

Cllr Rowsell thanked everyone for attending the meeting and hoped that it gave an idea of all the work the Parish Clerk and Councillors do to ensure they stay abreast of the ever increasing legal requirements of an accountable authority whilst promoting Mundon resident's requirements.

As with any organisation, there is also a raft of unsung heroes, working less publicly, who help keep Mundon the genuinely unique village it is.

Notable names are Steve Wells, Les and Sandra Potts, Lynda Townend, Jo Plume, Barbara Roe, Marge Orris, Christine McDonald, Matthew Cousins and Mr Paton... but plenty more get involved in voluntary roles... on behalf of the whole village, a massive thank you to everyone who does their little bit.

2. Apologies

Received from Cllr Leggett, Cllr Bennett and Cllr Fittock.

3. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting – 21 May 2024

Approved by all and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

4. Maldon District Councillor and County Councillor Reports

ECC Cllr Wendy Stamp had provided an ECC annual report for the Southminster Division dated 10 April 2025 (Appendix B on the website).

5. Mundon Parish Council Annual Chairman's Report – Gavin Rowsell

Cllr Rowsell gave an insight into the work of the Councillors and Clerk, an average month may consist of 300+ emails, phone-calls, face-to-face meetings, messages and texts, attending external meetings/conferences/webinars, extensive reading/dealing with consultations and questionnaires... and preparation of reports for Parish meetings.

All Parish Councillors work for free, and the work is done through passion and belief in Mundon... so if ever anyone has an issue in the village, please, rather than be disgruntled with Councillors, instead maybe offer support to help to solve a problem... because whilst our Parish Clerk, Jackie Lines, is a fantastically adept asset, it is your Council Tax Precept which pays for those hours (although we are all aware Jackie does not charge for all her extra hours).

Cllr Rowsell felt it was not said enough, but expressed sincere thanks to all of the Councillors, and the Clerk, who together make the role as Chairman so much easier, more enjoyable and rewarding.

- 6. To notify those present who the various representatives are as per previous Annual Parish Council meeting**
- a) Finance – **(Cllr Wylie and Clerk with Cllr Rowsell covering in Cllr Wylie’s absence)**
 - b) Risk Assessment – **(All Councillors and Clerk)**
 - c) Health & Safety – **(All Councillors and Clerk)**
 - d) Wood Wardens – **(Les Potts, Steve Wells and Matthew Cousins)**
 - e) Neighbourhood Watch/Police/Village Information – **(Cllr Wylie)**
 - f) Local Transport – **(Cllr Ponting)**
 - g) Plume Educational Trust – **(Cllr Wylie)**
 - h) Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils – **(Cllr Rowsell, Cllr Wylie and Clerk)**
 - i) Village Hall – **(Marita Ponting)**
 - j) Community Events – **(All Councillors with Cllr Leggett as lead)**
 - k) Village/Parish Council Website – **(Cllr Rowsell)**
 - l) Sea Defences/Airports – **(Cllr Rowsell)**
 - m) Planning – **(All Councillors)**
 - n) Highways & PROW (Public Rights of Way) – **(All Councillors)**

**7. Representatives Reports – All Councillors and Clerk
Finance – Clerk**

The parish council kept within the overall small budget for 2024/25.

A grant from the ECC Locality Fund was gratefully received in the value of £320.30 and used to purchase maintenance equipment such as postcrete, paint brushes, paint, wood chipper fuel and an additional bin.

An annual reclaim of VAT for the year to 31 Aug 2024 in the value of £218.51 was received from HMRC in Sept 2024.

Capital items purchased as assets during the year were an additional litter bin, troughs for plants at the bus shelter and dog fouling signs.

A thorough internal audit for the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 took place on 24th April 2025 with recommendations being received as detailed in item 21 (b).

Statutory reporting in relation to the audit will follow and information will shortly be displayed on the website. The notice of public rights for the year to 31 March 2025 will be run from Tuesday 3rd June until 14 July 2025.

The Parish Precept for the 2025/26 year is £8,600. Reserves at the end of the year were £500 for elections expenses and £18,423.09 relating to Capital Reserves. Bank interest received throughout the year amounted to £349.82.

The budget for 2025/26 has already been set, details provided within the minutes of the 27th November 2024 meeting and will be closely monitored throughout the year with monthly reviews and reporting to all councillors.

Wood Wardens

The dog fouling signs throughout The Furze are working well.

A new Wood Warden had joined the team who helps with the foot paths and any storm damage.

A new fence and gate were fitted during the year at the rear of Victory Hall which has been very helpful.

Concerns regarding the person in a Ford Transit visiting The Furze earlier in the year using intimidating and antisocial behaviour towards individuals seems to have been resolved with no further occurrences to date.

Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Wylie reported that over the last year Mundon had incidents of break-ins of workshops in New Hall Lane and Vicarage Lane, fly tipping in Blind Lane, suspicious vehicles entering farm yards and suspicious activity within The Furze.

The 'Mundon Village Neighbourhood Watch' Facebook page has 39 members – it is a closed group for only those who live in the village, it can be found by searching on the name (sometimes you need to search on 'groups' and also by searching facebook.com/groups/2381394125383537). Cllr Wylie monitors and maintains the page and contents.

The Chelmsford and Maldon Group of Neighbourhood Watches Meetings are held every other month and can be attended in person or via Zoom. Coordinators from both Chelmsford and Maldon areas discuss various topics both rural and urban to help with crime prevention and crime reporting. Also usually in attendance is a representative from Essex Police who update members of current initiatives and operations and give advice.

Local Transport (Cllr Ponting reported)

July 2024 – May 2025 Bus routes 31/331/332

- No feedback had been received as a result of the notices on the bus stops in the village. Residents spoke with Cllr Leggett about poor visibility at the bus shelter heading towards Maldon.
- There had been 3 timetable updates, most recently April 2025 and the new timetable is displayed at the bus stops.
- There had been a number of timetable disruptions due to road closures. Mill Road in November 2024 meant High Street stops were not serviced, Co-op on Wantz Road or St. Peter's hospital being suggested as replacements. A414 Jan/Feb 2025 overnight closure lead to bus diversions.
- Arrows Taxis folding resulted in the loss of direct links to Broomfield Hospital. New 99 service from Maldon to Broomfield and a service from Chelmer Valley Park & Ride are available as alternatives.
- A couple of MHTBUG meetings were attended – understandably focused more on Maldon and Heybridge, so will hopefully attend Dengie Hundred Bus Users Group meetings (next one is 18th June in Burnham-on-Crouch)

- DHBUG posts useful updates on Facebook, which are forwarded if relevant. Essex First no longer post on Twitter but up-to-date service changes are available on their website.
- Love Your Bus grant was discussed and declined in January.

Future Road closures impacting Bus routes

- Wycke Hill/Spital Road roundabout: 4 June - 7 June 2025
- Limebrook Way: 9 June – 14 June 2025
- Maldon High Street: 23 June – 28 June 2025
- Mill Road: 14 July – 19 July 2025
- Main Road, Mundon: January 2026

Plume Educational Trust

Cllr Wylie reported the Plume Education Trust is a charitable organisation which encompasses the Wills and Testaments of several benefactors – Ralph Breder, Thomas Plume, Henrietta Sadd, Arnold Keeble and George Courtault. The Objectives of the Charity are to apply the income generated by the Trust Fund as scholarships to deserving students educated at the Plume School, Maldon in aid of their Further Education beyond compulsory school leaving age. The performance of the various funds is kept under regular review.

The scholarship fund pot for 2024/25 was £11,050, 12 students applied and the awards ranged from £700-£1100 per student depending on parental income. One student decided to follow a different career route and declined the scholarship so £10,100 was distributed between 11 students. Applications were made online as the form was made electronic and every student wrote a reason why they were applying for the funding, with most mainly stating it would help go towards living costs/equipment.

Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils (DHGPC)

Cllr Rowsell reported the previous long-standing and well attended DHGPC meetings had sadly faltered and eventually ceased, due to a variety of personal circumstances of the leading members.

Thankfully, District Councillor Tony Fittock led on resurrecting the group, and with Linda Gemmill as the Clerk, and Tony as Chair, last year saw a variety of meetings, each at different Parish Council's halls, each with different main speakers or subjects.

Whilst the group is still re-establishing itself, with other Parish attendance's still limited, it is seen as a rare opportunity for Parish Council Chairs, Vice Chairs or Clerks, to get together quarterly, and discuss Dengie wide issues and potential solutions.

Mundon fully support the concept, paying a small annual fee to help pay Clerk costs, and will continue to attend whenever feasible.

Community Events

Cllr Leggett provided a report - following on from last year's successful Village Fete it was decided to set a date for another one this year. It will be on Saturday 9th August from 2-4p.m. A Poster had been prepared of what will be offered and listing all the details of the 'Adult & Kids' Competitions. There are a few different competitions to last year for the Kids.

A Committee meeting had been held and all details for the event had been assigned or put in place.

As before, businesses and family activity places will be approached for raffle prizes. The Poster advertising the event will be going live 6 weeks before the date and there will also be a leaflet drop through the Village.

Grass Cutting

Cllr Leggett provided a report - the grass cutting contract was reviewed at the end of last year with multiple quotations and after consultation of the various quotes a decision was made to reinstate 'Mow My Lawn'.

With the planting of the shrubs, on the green in front of the woods, the grass area to cut had been reduced and therefore the cost as well.

Village/Parish Council Website (and Facebook)

Cllr Rowsell reported, the website remains more of a legal requirement than a regularly used community asset, but regardless, it is continually updated with agendas and minutes, as well as any other important messages, documents and links.

The website does hold many links to useful sites such as Essex Highways (for checking roadworks schedules, reporting problems etc.), Bus and Taxi services and a multitude of other useful links.

Monthly usage reports show the majority of visits are through direct access (rather than from a search engine) and correlate with specific posts the Parish Council makes on Facebook.

Our Facebook page currently has 346 dedicated followers (up from 302 last year), with some posts reaching many hundreds more, which for such a small village is quite impressive.

Sea Defences and Environment Agency (EA)/Airports (Cllr Rowsell reported)

- Mundon has substantial areas within EA's most serious Flood Risk rating of Zone 3, and is entirely reliant on the integrity of the sea-walls.
- All of Mundon is reliant on effective inland drainage systems that drain to tidal sluices at the sea-walls.
- The EA is ever more constrained by money, environmental restrictions and bureaucracy.
- Major works are long overdue on many of Mundon's sea defences.
- Some smaller works are being done under a part-funded collaboration agreement, by Essex Coast Organisation (ECO), who are the collective of most Essex landowners with sea defences.
- Mundon's main inland drainage systems (LimeBrook, Mundon Wash and Dead-Away Brook) have had a quiet year, with no major over-spill issues.

- With a 3mm/year increase in high tide levels, the EA's reduced maintenance, yet active prevention of landowner improvement works, exposes a lack of political will to defend the UK coastline.
- The EA maintenance project on Mundon Creek seawall embankment and drainage system to protect South Mundon, Latchingdon and the sewage works has been pushed back yet another year, but with an on-site meeting of about 20 people last month, the hope is for it to begin next year now.
- As a director of ECO, Cllr Rowsell remains in regular contact with EA staff, and can be contacted by residents for any specific local issues.

Inland Flooding & Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA)

- Essex County Council, as our Lead Local Flood Authority, continue to make heavily questionable decisions in conjunction with Essex Highways especially regarding new developments.
- The lack of positive output from Essex County Council, Maldon District Council, Anglian Water or the Regional Flood & Coastal Committee is still concerning, but ECO keeps the pressure on for better engagement and action.

Planning

Cllr Rowsell reported, over the years, Mundon had seen an increasing number of planning applications, which are all considered in depth by Councillors before decisions are made.

If decision deadlines come between meetings, the Clerk invites private voting from Councillors via email. If all Councillors concur, the Clerk has delegated powers to respond directly to Maldon Planning Department. However, a single opposing view triggers an immediate interim planning meeting to publicly discuss and vote for a majority decision.

MPC's general position has always been, and shall continue to be, to support long term residents and businesses in the village, whilst equally being open to supporting new residents or businesses, but always whilst attempting to ensure common sense prevails over any potentially strong individual view.

All Parish planning applicants are strongly encouraged to engage with the Parish Council at the earliest opportunity.

Highways (Cllr Rowsell reported)

- Essex Highways handling of road closures in the local area remains a regular concern, and with no constructive communication, change is currently unlikely.
- The Parish Council would like to thank ECC Cllr Wendy Stamp for her continual attempts to help on this issue.
- The Parish Council continues to explore new ways of controlling fast and large traffic through Mundon.
- Applications have been made for a dropped kerb and previous attempts include Zebra crossing, traffic calming islands, width restrictions, dropped kerbs, village gateways, active speed signs and advertising of speed camera prosecutions.
- The Parish Council pays for TruCAM speed traps at 2 locations and at random times throughout each month. Each session acts as a visual deterrent and with well over 400 prosecutions so far, it is intended to keep funding this action.

8. Victory Hall Management Committee Report

An annual report was provided (Appendix C on the website).

9. St Marys Church – report from the Friends of Friendless Churches.

An annual report was provided by the Friends of Friendless Churches (Appendix D on website).

10. Fundraising Committee Report

The closing balance of funds in hand for the Fundraising Account as at 30 April 2025 amounted to £362.06 (Appendix A on the website).

11. Public Participation and any matters raised that require a decision or further investigation to be placed on the next Parish Council Agenda for action – no additional points raised.

Cllr Rowsell thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Appendix A

**Mundon Parish Council
Fundraising Account
1 September 2024 to 30 April
2025**

Income		
B/Fwd 31 August 2024		420.50
Total Income		<u>420.50</u>
Less: Expenditure		
A Frame Board	39.99	
Plants	<u>18.45</u>	
		<u>58.44</u>
Surplus Income		<u><u>362.06</u></u>

Appendix B

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025 Southminster Division by Councillor Wendy Stamp 10th April 2025.

It has been another busy challenging year for councils, councillors, community groups and residents within the Southminster Division I would like to thank you for all your help and support and also, thank our residents in our wonderful diverse community. Hopefully, everyone has been kept up to date throughout the year on the progress of Essex County Council's "Everyones Essex" 20 commitments launched in 2021 to 2025. The improvements and delivery of important life changing services including adult social care has reported positive change and better lives.

I am part of the working party recently commissioned called Essex Caring Communities Commission and the first annual draft report has been finished. I have no doubt this will continue to improve the care we all may need at some stage in our families and own lives. The report has been led by excellent professionals and we have consulted and met in person, with a large number of groups, medical professionals, the volunteer community sector and others. This sits alongside the large number of monthly decisions approved at Cabinet and Full Council alongside new initiatives, transformation projects – consultations, strategic and spatial policies – ECC is a very busy council with excellent staff.

The biggest change in local government for 50 years has commenced. Greater Essex (Essex County Council, Southend and Thurrock Unitary Council geographies) was selected to join the Devolution Priority Programme alongside 12 District Councils to deliver for the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).

The governments reasoning for Devolution and LGR, is for a simpler, more sustainable (savings), delivery of services, and greater infrastructure delivery by devolving and transferring the powers and funding from national government to local government. Not everyone agrees with this as many feel the local voice will be lost.

I have supplied further links below. It is a huge subject and the consultation process closes on 13th April 2025. The link was sent out a few weeks ago and I hope the opportunity has been taken up.

The Mayoral election will take place in May 2026 alongside possible ECC elections – albeit for a very short term.

Devolution [Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation: Devolution | Essex County Council](#) and LGR- Local Government Reorganisation [Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation: Local Government Reorganisation | Essex County Council](#).

The inception of Devolution has resulted in the suspension of the recent boundary changes and County Councils elections that are due in May 2025.

I thank clerks, councillors and residents for sharing all the important news, press releases and information, including links to add on Councils websites, notice boards and Facebook sites whenever possible.

Essex County Council has a legal responsibility to operate within a balanced budget. With the changes and reductions in Government grant funding over recent years, coupled with increasing and more complex demand for core services such as caring for the elderly, protecting vulnerable children and supporting families who need it - the financial situation continues to be very challenging.

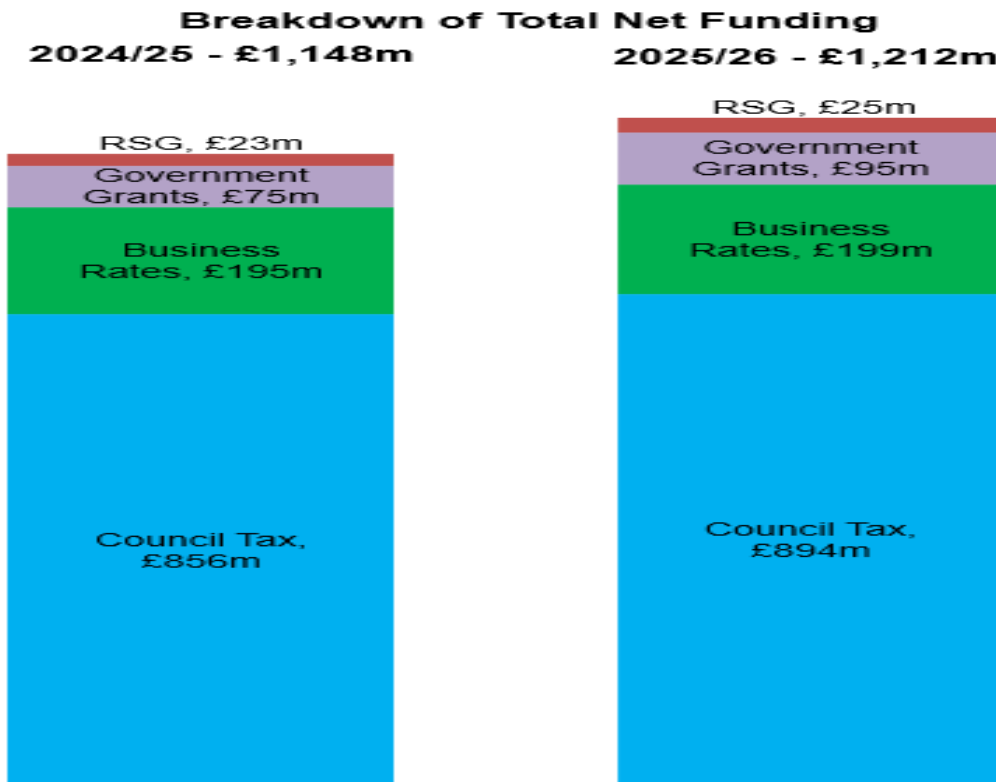
In February, Essex County Council agreed its new Budget for 2025/26. The Council again had a stark choice in balancing its budget increasing taxes or facing unacceptable cuts in services. The budget was balanced against a backdrop of some of the most challenging times that

local government has ever faced. New financial pressures caused by measures introduced in the October Budget and continuing cost of living crisis, high energy costs and inflation levels, *and* the war in Ukraine have all landed on top of existing challenges to reform and reshape our services and respond to huge increases in demand from those who need our help the most.

The “Everyone’s Essex” Annual Plan and budget was approved at Full Council in February, and due to the financial challenges facing local government, the budget for 2025/26 is increasing. Gross expenditure to be incurred in the delivery of Council services in 2025/26 is **£2,718m**. After taking income and specific grants into account, the net cost of services amounts to **£1,212m**, which is an increase of **£64m** or 6% over 2024/25. The net cost of services was set at **£1,212.0 million** and the net revenue budget requirement was set at **£1,117.3m** (net cost of services less general government grants) for 2025/6.

The total council tax funding requirement was set at **£891.6m** for 2025/26 – Essex County Council’s element of the council tax was increased by **3.75%** comprising of a 1.75% increase in general council tax and 2.0% adult social care precept. This spending supports the most vulnerable in our communities including older people, people with learning difficulties, mental health issues and physical and sensory impairments. The precept is being used to insulate Adult Social Care from having to make higher savings, and support the growth in need, caused by changes in the demographics of our population and inflation, including the national living wage rise.

This resulted in the Essex County Council element of the council tax being **£1,579.59** for a Band D property in 2025/26 - this is an increase of **£1.09** per household per week.



Net expenditure of £1,212m is funded by council tax, business rates, Revenue Support Grant and General Government Grants. Income from Council Tax is the largest funding stream and will make up 75% of our funding in 2025/26.

A public consultation on the proposed budget was undertaken during November and December 2024. Through this exercise, the Council gathered the views of residents and those who run businesses within the county. There were 2,105 responses to the consultation

and the key messages from respondents are that pressures on healthcare and the NHS are viewed by participants as the most important issue facing Essex today. The responses also recognise the pressures on social care provision and crime/community safety as key issues to be addressed. Topics of most concern for people personally are the condition of roads and pavements, crime levels and anti-social behaviour. When asked about things that should be prioritised for immediate action, respondents identified developing Essex’s infrastructure as the top issue. This was followed by supporting those who care for the sick or vulnerable people and securing high standards in education.

Three main areas of disappointment and concerns are the sad loss of Arrow and some of the Dart bus services, the normal Highways challenges and the lack of local suitable SEND provision in the Maldon District.

The lack of a convenient service to Broomfield Hospital from the Dengie has been catastrophic and whilst the new 45 service is welcomed, this hasn’t been without a large number of complaints and inconvenience. A round table was held at Maldon Town Hall with Dame Priti Patel and Sir John Whittingdale with Essex County Council Passenger Transport, major bus operators, “The Dengie Hundred Bus Users Group” and the relevant elected County Members. I certainly won’t lie and say in my opinion this was a success, as I don’t think it was. Despite a great deal of pressure, further meetings and hard work from DHBUG and residents the improvements are small and disappointing. I raise these concerns at every opportunity to bring a better service. Two Councils Mayland and Burnham applied for Love your Bus Grant funding and were successful, I obviously sent a letter of support. Thank you and well done. There is, still work to do.

“SEND” in the Dengie and “SEND 4 ALL”, still work very hard fighting for local school provision for equality for ALL children. A huge amount of work and resources has been directed to catch up on Local Care Health Plans (LCHP) to help for school provision. This followed on from the shocking truth regarding the failure to deliver them within in the council BUT there is still so much more to do. This is a national crisis that has been recognised by Central Government. Sadly, we do not have local school provision for year 7 in the Maldon District despite talks, hope then disappointment. We are all still working hard. My personal view is that every school should be inclusive for all children, unless their needs are severe of course. I also think a total review and revolution is required for the education of all children and young adults – I am no expert but I do listen to residents of all ages.

As a positive, I must thank the clerks and officers, again, for their support and professionalism and those who have worked hard in applying for funding for important community projects from the Locality Fund allocation and for ECC continued funding. The awards this year are:-

Recipient	Amount allocated	Amount Claimed
Asheldham and Dengie Parish Council	£1,500	£1,500
Southminster Parish Council	£750	£574.91
Maldon District Tourism Group (T24)	£1,200 (pooled with Cllrs Durham and Fleming)	£665 (£221 from each member)
Althorne Parish Council	£366	£336.37
St. Lawrence Parish Council	£660.51	£660.51
Mundon Parish Council	£323.45	£320.30
Althorne Parish Hall	£1,000	£980.00

The new initiative of members priority pothole scheme has helped deliver a variety of works but so much more is required.

The scheme has currently been suspended whilst we wait for an update from the Chairs of the panels, no date for the meeting is scheduled as yet!

I receive a huge number of speeding traffic concerns and requests for lowering the speed limits but so far, sadly not one has met the criteria or been delivered. One of our villages has been waiting for a speed limit reduction for a number of years and we are still waiting for a decision. We keep trying!

“Levelling Up Essex” was launched in 2022. By levelling up, the Council means that everyone should have the opportunity to succeed in life and fulfil their potential; and that all places and communities should be able to share in this.

“Levelling Up in Essex” is about making sure residents have the education and skills they need to find good quality employment, take pride in where they live and make lasting improvements to their lives.

Essex County Council, alongside partners, including, city, borough and district councils, the NHS, charities and businesses, have provided job opportunities, skills training, and financial support. A huge range of projects are having a positive impact on communities throughout the County, underpinned by over £22million of funding, which has delivered specific initiatives, as well as enhanced existing projects and programmes.

On 3rd March 2025 Essex County Council published the third in a series of annual impact reports outlining the progress and achievements of “Levelling Up Essex”. “A Thriving Essex – More Opportunities, Better Lives” spotlights some of the dozens of projects that are being delivered across Essex, with almost 100,000 residents and businesses being positively impacted by projects since the start of the programme in 2022. This clearly demonstrates that Essex is investment ready – economic growth is vital for prosperous success and lively communities.

Key achievements so far include.

- Direct benefit to over 100,000 residents and is on track to deliver benefit to over 140,000 residents overall.
- Enabled over 100,000 children from low-income families to access holiday and activity clubs, and more than 20,000 children to benefit from targeted education and careers support.
- The creation of more than 2,000 new job opportunities, with more businesses operating in our targeted growth sectors in Essex and a year-on-year increase in the number of people starting Advanced Apprenticeships and Higher Apprenticeships in Essex.
- Co-funded projects with partners on shared goals. For example, Levelling Up Essex co-funded work with health partners which resulted in 450 residents into NHS employment in and around Basildon. This delivered multiple benefits of improved life chances for those residents in priority places, addressed a skills and capacity shortage in the NHS and achieved greater impact and value for money.
- Investment in proactively addressed the root causes of issues, rather than responding to the symptoms. For example, the Poppins and Nightingale Bursary Schemes [New bursary supports training in Early Years | Essex County Council](#) , designed to increase capacity and skills in sectors which face massive recruitment challenges by providing pathways into employment in this sector.
- THE ESSEX YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY [Introducing Essex Year of Opportunity | Essex County Council](#) – was a £1.2 million programme which did encourage career aspirations, training, and learning - it improves life chances for individuals and supports people.

- Greater Essex Business Board (GEEB) has also helped drive economic growth by forging strong partnerships and policies for innovation and addressing skills shortages. [Document.ashx](#)

Next Steps Levelling Up Essex Year 3 A Thriving Essex – More Opportunities, Better Lives 'Impact Update - Levelling Up Essex is a generational change. The work undertaken to date has laid the foundations for longer term work and approaches to support the delivery of long-term outcomes through Devolution.

In the coming year the Council will continue to progress all in-flight activity and launch a range of further interventions, designed to support communication in early years and further support young people not in employment, education, or training (NEET).

Tackling the lack of Infrastructure including the NHS and poor rural transport services. Following my persistent hard work, Councillor Bentley eventually agreed to convene a group of stakeholders, officers, NHS partners and elected members from Essex County Council and Maldon District Council, to form the “Maldon Summit” group. The group has met several times with the next date scheduled at the end of April 2025. Work is progressing on addressing the poor lack of infrastructure which has deteriorated due to the large number of developments across the Maldon District.

The current challenges regarding the National Health Service and funding crisis has recently been reported in the media and continues causing concerns to everyone. NHS England is being abolished.

The NHS working group recommended that St Peter's Hospital remain operational for about five years while funding is gathered for a new facility on the current site. The new facility would provide outpatient services and primary care space for local GPs. Inpatient care should not continue at St Peter's because it cannot be operated efficiently and low usage, but pre- and post-natal appointments should remain, with midwife-led births continuing at Braintree Community Hospital. These recommendations will be included in a Decision-Making Business Case for review by the ICB (Integrated Care board), in the summer.



Finally, I wish to thank the Youth Service and the Community & Voluntary Service, for the Community Gaming Service and Beyond the Ballot. Beyond the ballot is how young leaders

can drive political change. Our youth are our future and one of this division's excellent ambassadors is Burnham's Tyler May, who continues to inspire, engage and encourage people of all ages. Tyler was the recipient of the Mayor's award in Burnham, presented by Joan Costello and myself.

I have supported residents with a huge number of issues, problems and concerns, assisted parish and town councils, whilst attending a number of scrutiny meetings, working groups and council meetings at Essex County Council. If I can help in anyway, please contact me Cllr.Wendy.Stamp@essex.gov.uk

Appendix C

Victory Hall,
Mundon,
Maldon,
Essex,
CM9 6PB

May 2025

Village Hall Report for the Parish Council

To Whom it May Concern,

The committee is run by volunteers that give up their time freely.

The Village Hall itself continues to operate well for the benefit of the local community. It is well used by regular groups including Yoga, a Dance Group, Tai Chi and Mundon Women's Institute. The committee has continued to invest in the Hall with a number of upgrades including electrical works on top of the works already carried out in previous years.

The committee has kept the discounted hire rates for local residents and would encourage the local community to use the Hall.

The committee looks forward to the rest of 2025.

Appendix D



**Annual update
St Mary's, Mundon**

St Mary's continues to be open daily for visitors and over the last year has welcomed people both from all corners of the UK and as far afield as Sweden, Canada and the United States. Wherever they hail from, their comments in the visitor book speak of how much they appreciate not only the church's beauty and special character, but also its peacefulness and tranquillity.

In September 2024 the church held its annual Evensong, followed by an atmospheric carol service in December. We are now looking forward to the special service being held in May 2025 to mark 50 years since the FoFC rescued the church. We are very grateful to the PCC, clergy and choir of St Mary's, Maldon, our chaplain Fr Philip Gray, and our local volunteer, Christine McDonald and her team for their all their support and for making these services possible.

In 2024, we carried out repairs to the Purbeck marble ledger stone found in the floor on the south side of the chancel during underpinning work in 2022. The stone is indented to carry a brass (now missing) which is believed to have been a lady of c.1525. The Monumental Brass Society have suggested that it may commemorate a wealthy widow from the area.

We commissioned a conservator to lift, gently clean and stabilise the stone and to reset it in the chancel floor, where it can now more easily be seen. We are grateful to the Monumental Brass Society and the Francis Coales Charitable Foundation for their grants towards this work.

Rachel Morley Director
25 April 2025

Friends of Friendless Churches is a company limited by guarantee (Company number 1119137).
We are a registered charity in England and Wales (Charity number 1113097).
70 Cowcross Street, London, EC1M 6EJ | office@fofc.org.uk | 0204 520 4458

friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk