

County Councillor's report: June 2019

A brand new Yoga Festival for Essex

Essex will play host to a brand-new Yoga Festival this summer with an added, unique opportunity to pitch a tent and camp overnight at the stunning Cressing Temple Barns site.

'Yoga Unites' takes place at Cressing Temple Barns on Saturday 8 June and looks set to bring the historic site alive with a wealth of inspiring teachers and live music from Shrinari - a leading duo in the UK's yoga music scene.

The all-day event will offer something for everybody, from beginners to advanced, young and old. 'Yoga Unites' aims to give people from all walks of life the opportunity to try different styles of yoga.

It will feature two open-air stages and smaller, focused classes. Visitors can drop in and out of classes throughout the day or take time out for mindful moments in the beautifully restored Tudor walled garden.

Cllr Simon Walsh, Cabinet Member for Environment & Waste, said: "We are so thrilled to bring this wonderful new event to the beautiful grounds of Cressing Temple Barns. Yoga is a fantastic way to reduce stress and improve both mental and physical wellbeing. Whether you're seeking calm from a hectic lifestyle or you simply want to try something new, this event offers a great opportunity to get active in a unique and historic location."

Special guest, Kwali Kumara, a fully-registered member of the *Kundalini Yoga Teacher's Association (KYTA)* will be transferring her London classes to Cressing for the day to share the secrets of Kundalini. Festival goers can try out physical kriyas (series of set exercises), chanting and meditation.

Eco-friendly foodies, Fig and Rye will provide nutritious eats from their vintage horse box, and the ever-popular Tiptree Tearooms are also on site.

For those keen to make an early start and benefit from an easy walk to and from the Festival, campers are invited to bring a tent or caravan and stay for one or two nights on the green field close to the barns.

Yoga Unites takes place on Saturday 8 June 2019 between 10am-6pm. Tickets cost £49 and include all yoga sessions. One-night camping costs £85 or two nights £115 (Friday 7 and Saturday 8 June) inclusive of Yoga Unites festival ticket. Tickets are available [here](#) or by calling 0345 603 7624.

Tell us what you think about the green spaces in Essex

Essex County Council is asking residents for their views on green spaces and infrastructure in Essex. The council has produced a draft Green Essex Strategy that considers how to develop quality green infrastructure and green spaces across Essex.

The Green Essex strategy wants to enhance, protect and create high-quality green infrastructure which will provide environmental, social and economic benefits for Greater Essex.

From parks to woods; coastlines to estuary; verges to fields, high quality, well-maintained green infrastructure supports improved health and wellbeing, attracts businesses and increases tourism.

The Council – alongside its partner's – wants to protect and grow the green spaces in Essex but to do this needs to understand how the public use green spaces and if they don't why not?

Cllr Simon Walsh, Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste said: "Essex is an incredibly scenic county filled with green spaces, from lush woodland, such as Thames Chase Community Forest, to dramatic coastlines to cherished landscapes. Dedham Vale is one such landscape that is officially recognised as an area of outstanding natural beauty. There are nature reserves, sites of scientific interest and country parks, not to mention the miles of road side verges, footpaths and bridleways. It is important to not only protect our green spaces, but also to encourage people to use and care for them. By completing the consultation on the Green Essex Strategy consultation, you are playing your part by inputting into how we can ensure our green spaces are protected for future generations."

We are asking residents to help us understand how they use green spaces by taking part in our consultation – comments will help finalise the Green Essex Strategy, identify priorities and develop the Green Essex action plan.

Take part [here](#) before the 14 June to take part. Hard copies of the draft strategy are available at the 12 main Essex libraries.

Changes in Cabinet portfolio holders announced

A change to portfolio holders in Essex County Council's Cabinet was announced at a full meeting of the Council.

The full list of moves within the Cabinet is:

Cllr Louise McKinlay will now be Cabinet Member for Children and Families

Cllr Dick Madden, formerly Cabinet Member for Children and Families, is now Cabinet Member for Performance, Business Planning and Partnerships

Cllr Gagan Mohindra will now be Cabinet Member for Finance, Commercial and Traded Services, the post formerly held by Cllr McKinlay

Cllr Susan Barker will now have an expanded role of Customer, Communities, Culture and Corporate

Cllr Tony Ball is stepping up from a deputy role to become Cabinet Member for Economic Development, the post formerly held by Cllr Mohindra

Leader of the Council

Cllr David Finch

Deputy Leader of the Council & Cabinet Member for Infrastructure

Cllr Kevin Bentley

Health & Adult Social Care

Cllr John Spence

Education

Cllr Ray Gooding

Children & Families

Cllr Louise McKinlay

Performance, Business Planning and Partnerships

Cllr Dick Madden

Finance, Property and Housing

Cllr Gagan Mohindra

Customer, Communities, Culture and Corporate.

Cllr Sue Barker

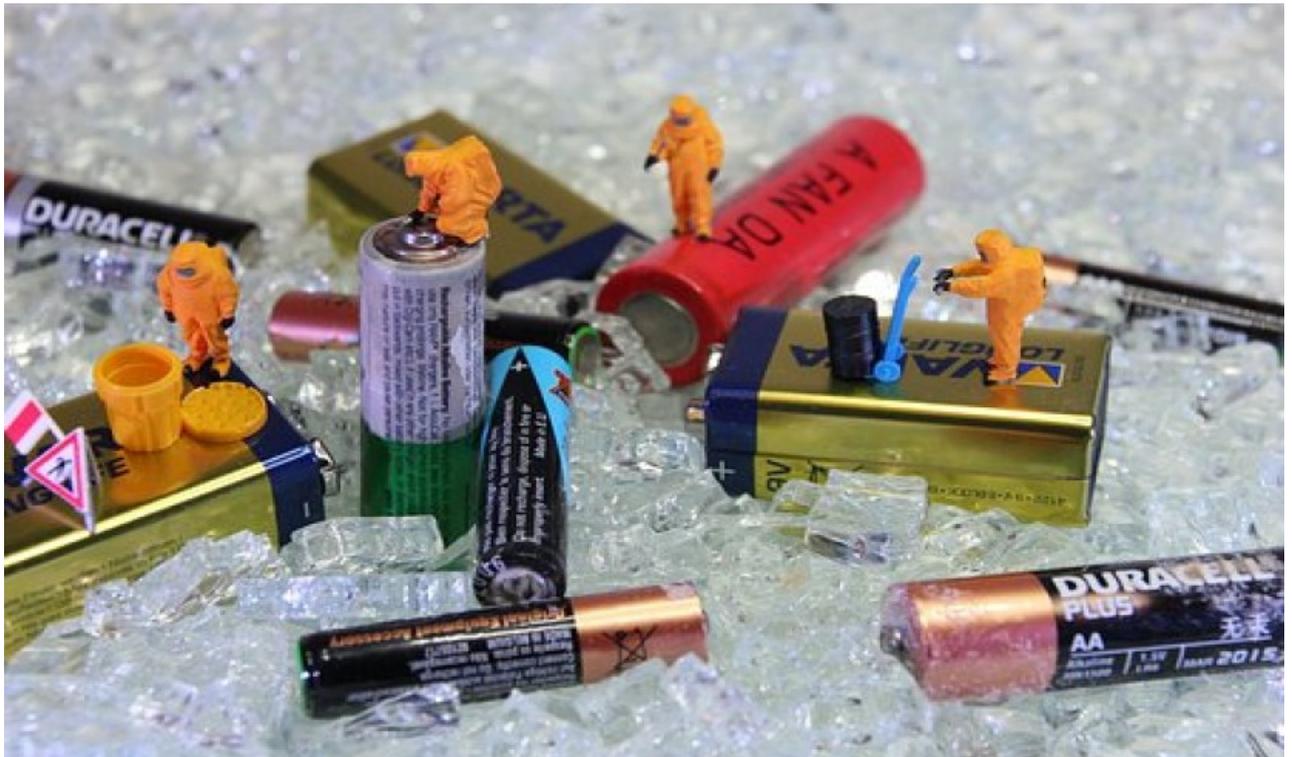
Environment & Waste

Cllr Simon Walsh

Economic Development

Cllr Tony Ball

Essex County Council Offers Tips for Waste Disposal



Essex County Council is calling on residents to make sure they are disposing of their waste correctly.

Dangerous items such as batteries, including larger batteries from items such as mobile phones or laptops, must not be disposed of in household waste at home or in the general rubbish bins at recycling centres. These items have the potential to cause fires or explode at storage and processing facilities when waste is treated prior to disposal.

Cllr Simon Walsh, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Waste, said, “It is vitally important that we all dispose of our waste correctly. Batteries have the potential to damage equipment or seriously injure people who handle waste in storage or treatment facilities. It’s our duty to ensure we dispose of our waste in a responsible way.”

Residents visiting recycling centres are urged to use the containers specifically for batteries. People disposing of waste can ask a member of staff if they are unsure of where to put their items.

More information on disposing of batteries can be found at:

<http://lovessex.org/news-and-ideas/make-the-most-of-old-electricals/>

Highways

As the summer months progress road resurfacing work will continue, please be patient with these necessary maintenance works, as it is important to keep the roads in good condition ahead of the winter months.

Locally, I am aware of a number of road closures some of which are long term planned, others occur at short notice, for example to deal with water leaks or broken cables. Essex County Council's website carries a lot of information including interactive maps which show where the road works are occurring.

Similarly it is also the place to report any highway defects, flooding etc.

Cllr. Simon Walsh

County Councillor for Thaxted Division.