

# *Broomfield* TIMES

On-line issue No. 1    May 2020    *News & events from your Parish Council*



*Main Road, Broomfield rush hour*

# *Broomfield* TIMES

Welcome to our first edition of Broomfield Times produced in-house during Coronavirus Covid 19 lockdown.

Within this Newsletter we have printed some contacts which you may find very useful to you during these difficult times as well as some interesting articles, photos, recipes to try, gardening tips etc.

We will be updating this edition as we receive relevant information and if anyone wishes to contribute – please advise me by either: -

- Email: [editor@broomfieldessex.co.uk](mailto:editor@broomfieldessex.co.uk)
- Leave a message on (01245) 441660
- Write to me at Broomfield Parish Council Offices, Broomfield Village Hall, 158 Main Road, Broomfield, Chelmsford CM1 7AH
- Hand deliver to letter box at Broomfield Village Hall (next to entrance)

Keep safe everyone!

*Karen Hurrell Editor*

## **Message from the Chair Councillor John Barnes**

We are living through extraordinary times. Possibly for the first time in living memory something is happening that genuinely impacts on absolutely everybody. Some more than others maybe, but nobody can escape this virus or at least the impact of it.

At the Parish Council our very first thought was what can we do to help the people of Broomfield. That now seems a long time ago.

We actually felt very helpless because we could not see that we could do a great deal. We have a large public building in the Village Hall, we have a car park and of course the fields. We also have access to some funds.

We put out an offer to make the hall available to voluntary groups wanting to do any work to support the vulnerable in Broomfield. We also reminded everybody, via social media, that we have a small charitable fund that can make grants to community groups. That is not restricted to the Covid outbreak but can be used for that purpose. So far, we have not been taken up on either offer, but they remain open.

We also contacted the hospital to offer the use of our car park if any staff could take advantage of that. They did thank us gratefully but didn't think there was a need.

We have discussed sharing information to those in particular need but judged that the means of communication open to us would probably not get to those that needed the help and in any case Chelmsford City Council and Essex County Council are fulfilling that role themselves.

We are also offering a telephone chat line. If anybody feeling lonely who would like to talk to somebody, they can call the office number, 01245 4414660 and leave their details. One of the office team or Councillors will then call them back for a chat and see what else we might be able to do to help. It doesn't seem much if it will help we will do it.

Otherwise we are keeping the office manned, although is closed to public entry. Someone will be in the office once or twice a week while the other staff are working from home. Stuart, the Village Assistant, and Fitz, the Caretaker, are both working on projects around the Village and the Hall. Doing whatever they can to keep the physical structures of the Hall, fields and village clean, tidy and up to standards.

The Council had an emergency meeting in March which was sufficiently quorate to review the finances at that point, review some planning matters but more importantly give the Clerk some emergency powers to make certain decisions and payments in conjunction with myself to keep things moving.

Since then we have had two Zoom meetings, more as updates and to share information. Probably like many peoples' experience they have gone well and we are all getting more familiar with this medium of communication that before now was restricted to relatively few.

One area we have been looking at is the allotments. As you probably all know allotments have been allowed to stay open and without doubt ours has been very busy. The availability of time, the good weather and the need for exercise seems to have brought allotment holders out in force. Most plots are looking very smart, freshly dug and showing early plantings. The very recent rain has been very welcome.

Over the Easter break we arranged for a skip to be delivered to site to enable allotment holders to clear some rubbish. Unfortunately, it did suffer from a degree of fly tipping which seems to be almost an expected risk. But it was filled and helped keep the site clean and tidy. Two new standpipes have been installed after consulting allotment holders. We only have one main coming in so every extra tap does impact on pressure so there is a trade-off. There are potentially one or two further sites where we could add taps and depending on demand the Village Amenities Committee will consider this further later in the year.

We also have a patch of waste materials in the car park which has been there for far too long. We have been trying to have it cleared but more recently finding contractors has proved difficult. I am pleased to say that we have at last found two who have made a site visit and are giving us a price. Some of the material is going to be used to fill potholes in the approach road and the topsoil is going to be spread out on a vacant plot. They will also clear one particularly overgrown plot so that it can be offered to rent.

For some time, we have the idea of introducing a plot more suitable for people with limited mobility, either disabled, or possibly those who have in the past had full plots of their own but now cannot manage them. We are thinking of an array of raised beds with concrete paths and safe access. We are putting out enquiries to charities and other experts in the field to

make sure that what we do is perfectly suitable and that it will be used. As this project progresses, we will keep everybody more informed.

We have a barn on the site which is occupied by the Broomfield Cottage Gardeners Society. We have asked the contractors to give us a price to install large water storage containers behind the barn to harvest water off its roof. We fully realise that this facility might only support the plots immediately close to the barn, will not be full all year round and is not likely to be cost effective. Nonetheless we think it is very important that we do whatever we can to reduce water usage from the mains system and to recycle wherever we can. We hope that this will be just the first step in a larger campaign to harvest water in the village. We are also looking at the possibility of installing toilet facilities at the allotment site.

We have introduced the idea of an allotment association so that the allotment holders can have a far greater say in how their site is managed. Sadly, there has not been a great deal of interest yet but I hope that that will steadily build.

We are proceeding with the resurfacing of the Village Hall carpark and further works to the adventure cycle way. We have put out an invitation to tender and hopefully will have a positive response.

Other ideas we have had to follow up are the installation of hand gel dispensers in the Village Hall, when it opens, and external washing facilities for those using the field.

Finally, on the subject of the Covid Crisis we do need to recognise that we have a major hospital complex in our village. Very few Parishes can boast that. I am sure you will all join me in giving our thanks to everybody working at the hospital for everything they are doing to help those in desperate need, not just now but always. They do an enormous amount which is not fully recognised on many levels.

We have discussed if there is anything we might do, after the crisis has largely passed, to recognise the efforts of all of these people but maybe particularly those who live in Broomfield.

We have had the idea of holding a lunch for them, a family picnic in our fields, a Christmas Party, Secret Santa or a permanent memorial. Absolutely no decisions have been made but ideas and volunteers to help would be very welcome to the Clerk.

That is probably enough from me, I hope you all keep well.

## *Broomfield* CONTACTS

<b>Broomfield Parish Council Office:</b>	Clerk – Michael Letch	<a href="mailto:clerk@broomfieldessex.co.uk">clerk@broomfieldessex.co.uk</a>
158 Main Road Broomfield CM1 7AH	Assistant Clerk: Wendy Martin (Village Amenities and allotments)	<a href="mailto:deputyclerk@broomfieldessex.co.uk">deputyclerk@broomfieldessex.co.uk</a>
Tel: 01245 441660	Assistant Clerk: Karen Hurrell (Planning, Neighbourhood Plan and editor of the Broomfield Times)  Village Attendant: Stuart Jones	<a href="mailto:planning@broomfieldessex.co.uk">planning@broomfieldessex.co.uk</a>  <a href="mailto:editor@broomfieldessex.co.uk">editor@broomfieldessex.co.uk</a>  <a href="mailto:Broomfield-attendant@outlook.com">Broomfield-attendant@outlook.com</a>
<b>Broomfield Parish Councillors (contacted via the Clerk)</b>	Chair Cllr John Barnes Vice Chair Cllr Ros Mercer Planning Cllr John Blake Village Amenities Cllr Steed Councillors Wendy Daden; Angela Faulds; David Howell; Sue Hubble; Wendy McGuinness; Monica McKie; Roy Perry; Angela Thomson	<a href="mailto:cllrbarnes@broomfieldessex.co.uk">cllrbarnes@broomfieldessex.co.uk</a>
<b>Chelmsford City Councillors</b>	Cllr Barry Knight  Cllr Wendy Daden  Cllr Mike Steel	<a href="mailto:Gbr.knight@chelmsford.gov.uk">Gbr.knight@chelmsford.gov.uk</a> 01245 420045 <a href="mailto:Wendy.daden@chelmsford.gov.uk">Wendy.daden@chelmsford.gov.uk</a>  <a href="mailto:Mike.steel@chelmsford.gov.uk">Mike.steel@chelmsford.gov.uk</a>
<b>Essex County Councillors</b>	Cllr John Aldridge	<a href="mailto:Cllr.john.aldridge@essex.gov.uk">Cllr.john.aldridge@essex.gov.uk</a> 01245 421524
<b>MP</b>	Kemi Badenoch	<a href="mailto:Kemi.badenoch@mp@parliament.uk">Kemi.badenoch@mp@parliament.uk</a> 020 7219 1943

<b>Broomfield Village Hall</b>	Bookings Clerk: Steff Smith  Village Hall Committee Chair: Trevor Jones  Caretaker: Fitzroy Grant	<a href="mailto:bookings@broomfieldessex.co.uk">bookings@broomfieldessex.co.uk</a> 01245 443902  01245 445135  07919 0402862
<b>Chelmsford City Council</b>	Customer Service Centre	01245 606606
<b>Essex County Council</b>	Customer Service Centre	0345 743 0430
<b>Essex Police</b>	Emergency  Non-emergency  Report a crime on line Chelmsford Crime Prevention Team	999  101 or 01245 491 491  <a href="http://www.essex.police.uk/do-it-online/report-a-crime">www.essex.police.uk/do-it-online/report-a-crime</a> <a href="mailto:chelmsfordcpt@essex.pnn.uk">chelmsfordcpt@essex.pnn.uk</a>

# *Broomfield* USEFUL CONTACTS

**UK Government:**

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-extremely-vulnerable>

**Essex County Council:**

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/topic/coronavirus>

**Chelmsford City Council: Tel 01245 606606**

<https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/coronavirus/>

**Essex Police:**

<https://www.essex.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/c19/coronavirus-covid-19/>

**Broomfield Hospital:**

<https://www.meht.nhs.uk/promotion/coronavirus-covid-19-health-advice/>

**NHS Hearing Aid replacement: Tel: 01245 513237**

<https://hearinghelpessex.org.uk/index.php/2020/03/20/covid19update/>

**Farleigh Hospice:**

<https://www.farleighhospice.org/about-us/news/coronavirus-update>

**Citizens Advice:**

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/health/coronavirus-what-it-means-for-you/>

**Essex Dementia Care: Tel: 01245 363789**

<https://www.essexdementiacare.org.uk/>

**Alzheimer's Society: Helpline: [0333 150 3456](tel:03331503456)**

<https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/get-support/coronavirus-covid-19>

**Chelmsford Centre for supporting Voluntary Action:**

<https://chelmsfordcvs.org.uk/>

**Broomfield Primary School:**

<https://www.broomfield.essex.sch.uk/coronavirus/>

**Chelmer Valley High School:**

<https://www.chelmervalleyhighschool.co.uk/>

# *Broomfield* PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Introducing our new Councillor Wendy McGuinness:



I have lived in Broomfield for much of the last 35 years and as such have strong ties here. My two sons went to Broomfield Primary and CVHS before spreading their wings - they are currently travelling the other side of the globe. My career was firmly embedded in HR Management and I have worked with both Essex Police and Essex County Fire & Rescue Service before retiring early in 2015.

I enjoy gardening (although I haven't a clue what I'm doing!), walking and home crafts. My Mum died last year after a long and progressive decline to dementia; being her main carer, I developed a level of patience I never knew I had along with an understanding of some of the issues faced by people that are living alone and are dependent on others. I have a strong interest in health and wellbeing and am looking forward to working as part of the Parish Council to support our Community.

*Councillor McGuinness*

# *Broomfield PLANNING NEWS*

## **Planning Applications:**

The Parish Council is consulted about every Broomfield planning application. The Planning Committee responds on behalf of the Parish. Though the Committee hasn't been able to meet physically during the lockdown, they have been viewing planning applications electronically and passing on their comments to the Clerk. So please rest assured we're continuing this important work despite the lockdown! A local parish perspective is still being given to the City Council about every Broomfield planning application it receives.

So far this year, the Planning Committee considered 33 planning applications (as at end of April). If you want to tell us your views about any planning application or indeed any other planning matter in the Village, please either email: [planning@broomfieldessex.co.uk](mailto:planning@broomfieldessex.co.uk) or phone (01245) 441660 (answer machine which is checked regularly). Any comments or concerns will be passed onto the Planning Committee for their consideration. Also, don't forget you can comment directly to the City Council as well – please go to their website for further details: <https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/view-or-comment-on-planning-applications>

Once we get back to 'normal', you'll be able to attend a Planning Committee Meeting if you'd like to tell the Committee your concerns face-to-face. Meetings take place on the first Wednesday of each month in the Parish Office, Broomfield Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

## **Village Gateway:**

You'll be familiar with the Village Gateway as you enter Broomfield from Chelmsford. The aim of village gateways is raise awareness of village identity. This is nice for our community anyway, but specifically the aim is to encourage drivers to moderate their speed as they go through the village (any maybe, possibly, to even think about using the A1060 bypass instead of coming through the village!).

We have been liaising with Essex Highways about installing a northern Gateway to the Village (near the Hospital Approach roundabout). We now have both the funding (from Highways) and a mutually agreeable location. We're now just waiting for it to be installed.

## **Local Plan Update:**

Since the last edition of Broomfield Times, there's been important news about the Chelmsford City Local Plan. This Plan determines where new development such as houses, schools, shops and employment areas will be placed over the next 15 years or so. In late 2018, the draft Plan was 'examined' by an independent Inspector, appointed by the Government. The Inspector has now published her report.

As expected, this requires Chelmsford to make some modifications to the Plan, although she has approved most of it. This means that the City Council can now go ahead and adopt it

(with the modifications) as their official Plan. We will write a longer article about the Local Plan and what it means for Broomfield in the next printed edition of Broomfield Times.

### **Neighbourhood Plan Update:**

Meanwhile, work is continuing on the Broomfield Neighbourhood Plan. Once it is finished, examined by an Inspector and approved by local residents in a referendum, this will be like a local plan for Broomfield.

Inevitably, the lockdown has slowed things down as we can't, for instance, hold meetings or consultation events. However, we are able to do some work behind the scenes. So, we are starting to draft the policies that will go into the Plan. These are based on what local residents have told us about what they want to protect and what they would like to change. All these policies have to broadly conform with the Chelmsford Local Plan (see above) and national planning regulations. Once the lockdown is over, we'll be able to publish the draft policies and consult local residents about them. How we do this will partly depend on social distancing rules once the full lockdown is over.

So, watch this space for further updates. We've also had to move our website on to the Parish Council website – see: [www.broomfieldessex.co.uk/np](http://www.broomfieldessex.co.uk/np). We're still working on the transfer at the moment, so please bear with us for a couple more weeks until it is fully operational.

### **Proposed Cycle Path through Broomfield:**

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has put a lot of work into new cycle routes, which we hope will be included in the Neighbourhood Plan. That's because residents told us (in the Questionnaire) that they would like to see safe cycle paths and would use them if they felt secure. That's one way of reducing the impact of traffic, which residents say is their only major dislike about living in Broomfield.

Essex Highways has already approved a cycle path from Great Waltham, past the Hospital and Chelmer Valley High School, down to School Lane. So, the Group's main focus has been how to link this path with the existing cycle path behind the Avenues, so that Broomfield residents, Hospital staff and others can cycle safely into the City Centre.

It's far from simple, as there isn't enough land along the full length of Main Road for a completely separate cycle path; and other possible routes involve crossing private land. However, we've persuaded Essex Highways to complete the second stage of a feasibility study. This should show exactly what the specific problems are, so that we can look for ways of overcoming them.

If you have any questions about any of these issues, please don't hesitate to contact the Planning Committee or the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group via the Parish Office: [planning@broomfieldessex.co.uk](mailto:planning@broomfieldessex.co.uk) or phone (01245) 441660 (answer machine which is checked regularly).

*Councillor John Blake*

# *Broomfield VILLAGE AMENITIES*

## **Around the Village:**

The grass cutting season has commenced and thanks to JCM Services for doing such a good job. Essex Place Services have carried out a Tree Survey to ensure all the trees growing on land either owned or registered to Broomfield Parish Council are healthy and in safe condition.

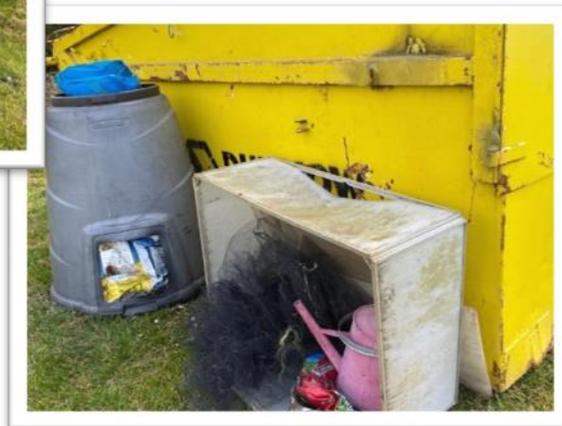
The Angel Meadow Play Area and fitness equipment remain closed at present and the Village Attendant will be cleaning and disinfecting all the items for when the 'lockdown' is lifted.

## **From the Allotment Site:**

On reflection, providing a skip two weeks after the all the recycling centres closed, was inviting problems. But it was booked in February and the good weather promised an ideal time for the allotment holders to have a tidy-up before the growing season got going.



Unfortunately, the skip filled up on the first day, and by the second day, the allotment holders came in to see this.....



However. With more time on their hands, the tenants have been making the best of the good weather and the allotments are looking better than ever.

One part of the allotments will be getting a serious tidy up, and it looks like the council will have enough new space for some smaller allotments that would suit someone of limited mobility. The final design has still to be agreed, but raised beds, with firm, level ground around for ease of access. Right by the car park and with a nearby tap it would be the perfect place for someone who wants to garden but cannot bend to work the soil.



# *Broomfield* VILLAGE HALL

Report from Trevor Jones, Chair Broomfield Village Hall Charity



I am writing this in our troubled times - I hope that you are all keeping safe and well and I am pleased to say we are surviving. Whilst we have been closed we have had the entire hall, toilets, kitchens, etc

redecorated and it looks very fresh clean and bright, ready for when we can open up again.

Steff Smith has done a great job on our admin; we have applied for and received help from the government by way of a cash grant, the City Council has rebated our business rates and we have been given credit for the time closed by the Performing Rights Society and our Insurance Company. Fitz our Caretaker is finding lots of maintenance jobs to be done in and out of the Hall and Mike Letch the Parish Clerk is there to oversee and keep the show on the road on our behalf, keeping a lonely vigil.

We have rescheduled our **Family Fun Day for Sunday 6th September 11.30 until 3.30** fingers crossed and our MP Kemi Badenoch has provisionally agreed to be our guest of honour. Hopefully, it will be a great time to celebrate our release from lockdown.

We are looking at ways we can become "Greener" and are currently investigating the costs and help available for installing solar panels which will be of great assistance in keeping our costs down whilst helping with emissions.

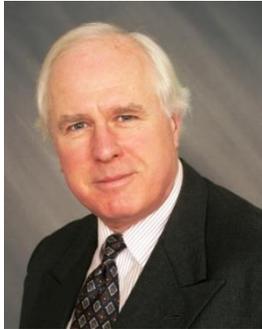
Finally, we have been the victims of fly-tipping in our Village Hall bins - please do not do this. We are a small Charity and do not have the capacity to keep clearing the mess and the cost, think of others and help us all to come out of this in a better place.

Please all look after one another and take care and we look forward to seeing you back in the Village Hall soon. In the meantime, the following regular classes are keeping their members fit via on-line classes:

**Shimmy and Groove** - <https://www.facebook.com/ShimmyAndGrooveFitness/> Tel: 07886 721411

**Gemma's Zumba Party** on ZOOM – MON & WEDS 6-6.30 £3 PAYG Tel: 07917 458958  
Email: [gemchappell@aol.co.uk](mailto:gemchappell@aol.co.uk) for details

# Essex County Council NEWS



## Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The coronavirus has changed the world in which we live and even when the emergency is over nothing will ever be quite the same; there will inevitably be a new normal. Whilst I know that this has been a very sad and distressing time for many of you, it has been reassuring to see the reaffirmation of the community spirit that has always existed in our towns and villages. However, it will be some time before we can all try to resume our “normal” lives again and so I shall list some of the many aspects of the arrangements that have been put in place by the County Council to get us through this difficult and challenging time.

## Welfare and Volunteering

If you, or someone you know of, need help getting food, medicine and essential supplies while self-isolating, the Essex Welfare Service is offering a helping hand to those most at risk, including people who are over 70, pregnant or have underlying health issues. If you are vulnerable and don't have help from friends, family or local support, we have volunteers that are happy to help - it's easy to access via <https://www.essexwelfareservice.org.uk/support-request> On the other hand, if you know someone and wish to seek help on their behalf, do refer them <https://www.essexwelfareservice.org.uk/support-referral?>

We should all be proud of our contribution to helping stop the spread of coronavirus. However, if you're finding the current situation of social isolation very difficult, please remember you are not alone. Support to help you and anyone you know is available at <https://www.livewellcampaign.co.uk/article-categories/mental-well-being/>

**If the internet is not available to you and you need help, it is also possible to call the Essex Welfare Service on 0300 303 9988.**

## Essex County Council Services

- **Essex Registration Service** is open, but on a restricted basis currently only offering telephone appointments for death and stillbirth registrations. And under Government restrictions, ceremonies cannot take place. If you have a ceremony or a birth or notice appointment booked in the next 4 weeks, we will be contacting you to discuss this. Please see <https://www.essex.gov.uk/changes-services/births-ceremonies-deaths> for the latest information before calling 0345 603 7632.
- **The County Council has closed its Country Parks, Cressing Temple Barns, Jaywick Martello Tower, Essex Record Office, and Essex Outdoors to help limit the spread of coronavirus. However, if you live locally you can still access public rights of way in each**

of the parks. Details can be seen at <https://ca1-exe.edcdn.com/Public-Rights-of-Way-in-Country-Parks.pdf>

- Urgent provision for additional temporary mortuary space has been made at the **Chelmer Valley Park and Ride**, to cope with the unexpected rise in deaths across Essex including Southend and Thurrock. The P&R will reopen once the site is able to be returned to use which may be some months. In the meantime, there will be no access to the site for the public.
- 
- The latest news updates are as ever available here: [www.essex.gov.uk/news](http://www.essex.gov.uk/news)

Meanwhile, if you have any problems about these and other County Council matters please let me know on **01245 421524** or email [cllr.john.aldridge@essex.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.john.aldridge@essex.gov.uk).

# Chelmsford City Council NEWS

**By City Councillor Wendy Daden**

It is incredible that something invisible has caused so much pain and devastation.

The City Council has created a hub operating from Chelmsford Athletic Centre, delivering food to those registering for help, as directed from Essex County Council and Chelmsford Voluntary Support. If you do need help please call **Emergency Community Response on 01245 280731**.

The refuse collection is a welcomed constant, these fabulous key workers are remaining healthy, so the service should remain unchanged. Additional officers, where their official role is on hold, have been deployed to empty dog bins, which are filling at a rapid rate. Let us hope that means the countryside is a cleaner place!

The City Council has approved over half of the allocated £31.3 million in grants to local businesses. However, if you are a small business and need either a rates relief or grant please do get in touch via the City Council website.

The IT department has worked really hard on new systems to facilitate the many changes; officers working from home, grant applications and of course taking council meetings online live:

**13th May** Full Council Meeting

**27th May** Local Plan is due to be adopted.



Chelmer Valley High School Tech department has been instrumental in providing PPE to Broomfield hospital. Our gratitude goes to them at a time when they have the additional challenge of teaching children from a distance. CVHS are in need of A4 sheets of acetate to continue their great work. If you are in a position to donate or you are aware of a seller, please do let me know.

It is obvious the current situation is crippling the economy. The City Council is working hard to gain all the Government finance it is entitled to and looking for ways to increase revenue. One example of lost income is approximately £2.3 million in car parking revenue over the past three months. CCC CEO is part of Economic Recovery Group, working with other local authorities to find solutions. If anyone has expertise in revenue generating, cost saving ideas that could ease or help with the financial crisis that will follow, I will happily take them forward.

Sadly, domestic violence is on the increase due to the current circumstances. Please make all aware you can make a silent call **if you are unable to speak by ringing 999 and pressing 55** when the operator answers.

The City Council is currently reviewing the housing strategy, preparing for the inevitable increase in demand of people looking to CCC to provide housing in a recession. Chelmsford rough sleepers have all been offered accommodation. Some prefer the lifestyle and have refused but CCC has helped where possible.

If you are struggling with any of the above - please do get in touch:

[Wendy.daden@chelmsford.gov.uk](mailto:Wendy.daden@chelmsford.gov.uk)

# *Broomfield* ESSEX HIGHWAYS

## **Chelmsford North East Bypass and Beaulieu Station Newsletter**

### **Planned Engagement Events Postponed:**

It is hoped that we will resume the launch of the scheme later on this year once the situation eases.

All staff associated with the scheme are working from home, wherever possible and we are following the government's guidance during this pandemic.

We will issue further information on the £250 million road and rail upgrade for the Chelmsford North East Bypass, prior to the planning application scheduled for early next year.

In the meantime, you can go to the website for more information or to see a short film.

You can visit the website and view the film at: <https://www.essexhighways.org/highway-schemes-and-developments/highway-schemes//chelmsford-north-east-bypass.aspx>



If you have any enquiries or comments regarding the Bypass or the Station plans, please email: [CNEB@essexhighways.org](mailto:CNEB@essexhighways.org)

# Broomfield Senior Lunch Report

## Senior Lunch 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Another successful Lunch was held for over 100 senior residents of Broomfield in the Village Hall.



Amaze In Taste took over from Chicks Caterers (retired) and welcomed residents with a glass of sherry followed by a tasty Christmas Dinner, dessert and coffee and mince pies.



Local Broomfield Company LillyPuds donated all the Christmas puddings and they were very well received! As a Broomfield resident you are entitled to a **20% discount** on orders from LillyPuds see <https://www.lilypuds.co.uk/> for the full range of saucy sponges and Christmas Puddings. Free delivery is offered within CM1 and CM2 and simply enter **Seniorlunch** at checkout to obtain your discount for orders placed until the end September. Alternatively, call Alison on 07792223301.



Local Group 'The Fleeting Shadows' provided the entertainment and were very popular .....

...they even attracted a 'backing chorus' to one track!! J



A free raffle followed with prizes being donated by The Channels Estate; Main Style Hairdressing & Beauty and Sweet Serenity together with prizes being donated by Parish Council staff & Councillors.

I'm sure we will all be looking forward to meeting again when the Parish Council funds another successful event in 2021!

# *Broomfield* MESSAGES

MESSAGE FROM



**Broomfield & District**

Our meetings and groups are suspended until further notice but wherever possible, group leaders are keeping in touch with members, and we continue to publish our monthly newsletter by email and post a copy online on our website. Our AGM, originally scheduled for May 13 has been postponed

and we expect to re-convene it as soon as possible after 'lockdown' rules preventing assemblies are relaxed.

Because of the enforced suspension of activities, we will be revising our membership subscription year, but are still open to new applications via our website, where you can also find information about our groups and activities.

**Glynn Wadeson Chairman.**

## **MESSAGE FROM: BROOMFIELD CARPET BOWLS**

We normally meet at Broomfield Village Hall on Monday afternoons at 13.30 until 16.30 & on Thursday evenings 19.00 to 22.00 (£3 per session) As a club we have been in existence for over 25 years. We play mostly amongst ourselves (called roll ups) but do play other clubs occasionally in friendly matches home & away (we are not in the league). We do need more members as numbers have dwindled over recent years & we are struggling to pay our rent. So, come along and give it a go. It is not always easy to begin with if you're new to the game but most of us are patient as we were all new at one time! So, if you are looking to try something new & need an excuse to get out of the house and meet some other locals. you now know where we are - Just ask for Gill, Steve, Joy or Diane. Unfortunately, we have to end with some sad news as two of our members have recently passed. Rita Hawkes who has lived in Patching Hall Lane for several years and long-term member Murial Stevens who was in her 90's and lived in Skerry Rise was a member for a long time.

## **MESSAGE FROM: BROOMFIELD FOOTPATH SOCIETY**



The programme of walks for 2020 had to be suspended at the very start of the season due to the coronavirus pandemic and the restrictions on social gatherings. It looks like we may not be able to resume our walks for some time yet, that is, until the lock-down requirements are eventually relaxed. That hasn't stopped people from walking, however. In fact, we've seen more walkers than ever during the recent spell of glorious spring weather, and Broomfield's footpaths are in great shape.

An added benefit is that it's still possible to 'get away from it all' on some of Broomfield's more far-flung footpaths. When we are able to get our scheduled walks going again we will publicise dates and times on our Facebook page and elsewhere in the village. You can find us at

[www.facebook.com/broomfieldfootpathsociety](http://www.facebook.com/broomfieldfootpathsociety)

In the meantime, enjoy your walking!



### Message from: SING & SIGN

Sing and Sign is proud to be continuing throughout the COVID-19 lockdown with a fabulous @Home programme designed to support our little ones' learning and development. The Head of Sing and Sign has worked tirelessly alongside every Sing and Sign Franchise owner (including myself) to produce a reliable, accessible and educational resource to get all our Sing and Sign enthusiasts through these difficult days. The 10-week programmes have been received fabulously and are available to all. Viewers have sent in beautiful videos of their little ones singing and signing and with other family members (that ordinarily would not have been around) able to get involved too.

I cannot thank everyone enough for their continued support and understanding through, what has been, such a tricky time for all. It has been a rollercoaster ride, however friendly messages and offerings of commitment to and enthusiasm for the programme have been gratefully received.

Sing and Sign WILL be back to Broomfield Village Hall on Mondays as soon as can be. Sending love and strength to everyone from our Sing and Sign community to yours.



Martine Brockman – Sing and Sign  
Chelmsford and Surrounding Areas  
[www.facebook.com/singsignessex](http://www.facebook.com/singsignessex)



**Message from: Broomfield Cottage Gardeners' Society:**



Sadly, BCGS committee are having to cancel many of the events planned for this year. The Plant Sale scheduled for mid-May and the Summer Show in July will definitely not go ahead, but we will wait a little longer to see what the situation is before we make a final decision on the Autumn Show. The programme of Open Gardens will also be cancelled.

We will keep members updated via email and by posting announcements on our Website ([www.broomfieldcottagegardenerssociety.co.uk](http://www.broomfieldcottagegardenerssociety.co.uk)) and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/355859514864259/> or search under "Broomfield Cottage Gardeners Society").

We hope you are all keeping well and safe and that those of you who have gardens have been able to get out and enjoy them during the recent glorious weather.





### **Message from St Mary's Church:**

Our church building is locked; the Church of England has closed its buildings for the period of the national lock down and we can only wait for a date when we may reopen for public worship. Our church has been on its present site for at least 1000 years but whether or not it has ever been closed as at present, is not known.

Perhaps there were times of closure during the Reformation; the swithering about between Roman Catholicism and Protestantism might have made for the absence of public worship for a while, and I have no doubt the plague of the Middle Ages resulted in poor attendance. But compulsory closure of the church building may never have occurred before. And this at a time when there is widespread fear and worry, a time when people cling to those things which are certain and unchanging, a time when people turn or return to the church.

So, the great news is this! The church building is NOT the church. The church of St Mary's Broomfield is the community of Christians who worship God together, who hold one another and this community of Broomfield in prayer, who regard one another as family and who are ready to welcome you too into that loving, caring, worshipping group of ordinary people who are united by the extraordinary knowledge of the love of God in Christ Jesus.

And the church at St Mary's continues in its worship, prayer and caring. At our website [stmarybroomfield.org](http://stmarybroomfield.org) you can find links to morning and evening prayer every day of the week. You can post a request for prayer for yourself, for others or for specific situations. On Sundays you can join in a Holy Communion service led by one of our ministry team from their homes, listen to a short talk based on a Bible reading and join with prayers. Or you may choose to take your daily exercise walk through our beautiful churchyard, listen to birdsong and see the trees and flowers in bloom; and just marvel at the wonder of God's creation.



St Mary's church has served God and the people of Broomfield the past, in the present and will do so in the future. It is the parish church, in which everyone in this community has a stake, whether you have a faith or not. Even though our building is locked up for now, the church community continues to offer each and every resident its support, its prayers and its love.

*Rev'd. Anne Harvey Associate Priest*

# Broomfield Photos during lockdown

The Main Road during rush hour!



Angel meadow is far too quiet.



## Centenary Wood



You may not be able to get out and about today, but the woods are still there waiting for you to rediscover them.



# 1<sup>ST</sup> Broomfield SCOUT GROUP



Despite suspension of all “face to face” activities, with the support of families, 1st Broomfield Scout Group members have been continuing with their Scouting, completing badge work at home and many have taken part in the Camp@Home event.



For camp at home Scouts, Cubs, Beavers (and Leaders) had to pack a bag, then build a den or pitch a tent and sleep in it. They also had to build a campfire (real or virtual), take part in a “Scouty” activity and help cook a meal.

Many from the group and their families slept in their tents or dens on the night of the 18th, some more hardy members are completing the whole month of April under canvas! This is a nationwide event and on the 30th April we go for a world record.



Two of our members, Logan who is a Cub and Euan, a Scout, have been part of a challenge to complete the distance of the London Marathon (26.2 miles) by going up and down the stairs! They are raising money for the Anthony Nolan charity (the boys’ dad recently had a bone marrow transplant) and the North Waltham Memorial Hospital who looked after their grandad before he passed away. They completed the challenge on Sunday, the day the Marathon would have been held, stair climbing the equivalent height of Mount Everest 5 times!

The family would welcome your support, donations can be made at:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Team/TheEllisClan>

## Broomfield FAVOURITE RECIPES

Here are some favourite recipes from Councillors Monica McKie, Angela Thomson & Sue Hubble for you to try:



### **Rhubarb and Ginger Jam Recipe – Makes 4 jars – 30 mins plus 2 hours to soak**

Since taking an allotment plot four years ago, left over from the previous occupant, is an abundance of Rhubarb, which pops up every year without fail. I have given it away, made numerous rhubarb crumbles and frozen it but by far my favourite thing is to make this really simple recipe. Why don't you try it too?

1 kg rhubarb 1 kg sugar (which has added pectin)

Zest and juice of 1 lemon 50g stem or crystallised ginger, finely chopped

4 cm piece of ginger, peeled

#### **Method**

1. Wash the rhubarb under cold running water and slice into 2cm pieces. Tip into a large glass or plastic bowl and add the jam sugar, lemon zest and juice, and chopped stem ginger. Finely grate the peeled ginger directly over the rhubarb.
2. Stir the mixture thoroughly, cover loosely with cling film and leave to one side for about 2 hrs to allow the sugar to dissolve into the rhubarb juices. You may need to stir the mixture occasionally to encourage this process along.
3. Pop a few saucers in the freezer. Scoop the fruit and all the sugary juices into a preserving pan and set over a medium heat. Stir until the sugar has completely dissolved and bring to the boil. Continue to cook at a swift pace until the rhubarb is tender and the conserve has reached setting point – this should take about 12 to 15 mins.
4. To test for a set, drop ½ tsp of the jam onto a cold saucer, leave it for 30 secs, then gently push it with the tip of your finger. If the jam wrinkles the setting point has been reached. If not, continue to cook for a further couple of minutes and test again.
5. Remove the pan from the heat and leave to one side for 2-3 mins before pouring into sterilised jars. Seal immediately and label with the date once completely cold.

### **Microwave Steam Pudding:**

100 g of self-raising flour

100 g of butter

100 g of sugar

2 eggs

Mix all together in a bowl and microwave for 3 minutes (time may vary with different appliances)

For something a bit more elaborate before putting cake mix in a microwaveable dish spread on the bottom some jam or lemon curd or honey or any other topping you can think of (chocolate normally poured on after as can burn in the microwave)

Once cooked turn on a plate and voila' a beautifully made steam pudding with oozy topping, always a success with children or unexpected guests.

### **Apple and Ginger Squares**

11b (450g) Cooking Apples

8 oz (225g) SR Flour whole wheat flour

6 oz (175g) Butter or Marg

1 ½ tsps. Ground ginger

6 oz (175g) light muscavado sugar

½ tsps. Cinnamon

3 eggs

¼ pint (140 ml) Double cream (optional)

1 tbsp. Honey

¼ tsps. Cinnamon (if using cream)

Grease an 8 in (20 cm) tin. Peel core & chop the apples. Cream the fat & sugar until light. Add the eggs, then the honey. Sift the flour & spices into the mixture & stir well; continue adding the apples. Turn the mixture into the tin & bake for 1 ½ hours at 180 c 350 F Gas Mark 4.

Cut into six or more slices – when cool, whip the cream, add the cinnamon & pipe onto the squares (optional)

# Broomfield VE DAY



## Great British Bunting

On Friday 8 May 2020 Britain will be commemorating the 75th anniversary of VE Day when the guns fell silent at the end of war in Europe.

Due to the coronavirus restrictions most VE Day 75 events and street parties have had to be cancelled or postponed but we still want you to be able to mark the occasion, share your pride in our country and honour the men and women of WW2.

You can make your own special VE Day 75 'Great British Bunting' to display in your window at home. Here are all the instructions you need to get started using any paper, cereal boxes, string, ribbon, sweet wrappers, felt pens, poster paint you have or whatever you can find.

You can decorate your bunting with pictures of whatever inspires you, whether it's those who fought on the frontline or worked hard on the Homefront, or whether it's a celebration of enduring peace or your own personal hero.

Hang your bunting with pride over the weekend of Friday 8 May - Sunday 10 May.

Here is a link for ideas on making your own bunting:

[http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/english/pdf/how\\_to\\_make\\_your\\_great\\_british\\_bunting\\_step\\_by\\_step.pdf](http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/english/pdf/how_to_make_your_great_british_bunting_step_by_step.pdf)



# Broomfield QUIZ

## Quiz for the Children:

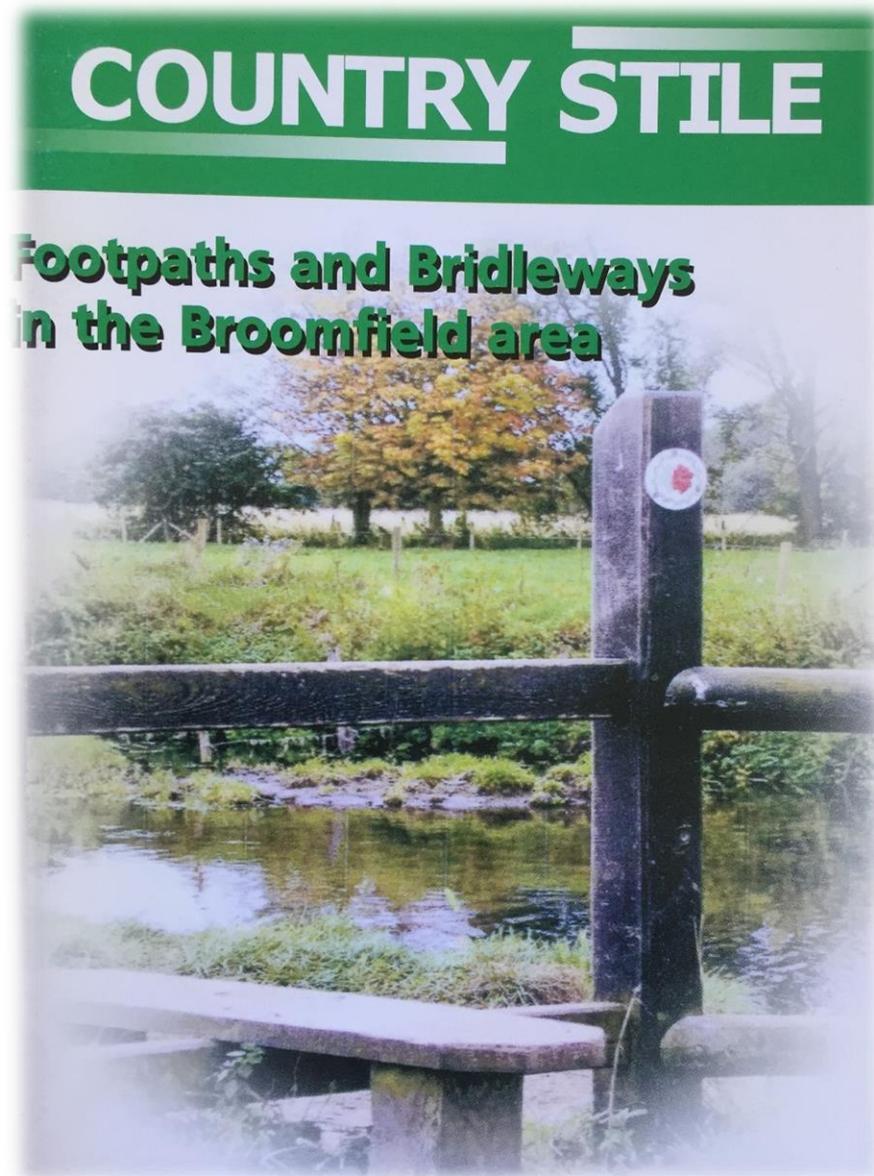
1. Which superhero has an assistant called Robin?
2. What does water turn into when it freezes?
3. Which sport involves two small bats, a ball and a table?
4. What country beginning with the letter 'R', is the biggest country in the world?
5. How many zeros are there in one hundred thousand?
6. Stockholm is the capital city of which country?
7. Can you unscramble the following word to reveal a number between one and ten: VNSEE?
8. What is the definition of a habitat?
9. Which country used picture writing years ago called hieroglyphics?
10. Who released a song in 2019 called 'Hold me While you Wait'?
11. How many colours are mentioned in the Rainbow Song?
12. What is half of 66?
13. Which continent does Great Britain belong to?
14. How many points does a snowflake have?
15. What is the name of the largest desert in Asia?

## Quiz for the Adults:

1. Which character features as a clergyman in the stories of Robin Hood?
2. What star sign would you be if you were born on 29<sup>th</sup> October?
3. What type of beetle is sacred in Ancient Egypt?
4. What C describes a sign placed at the beginning of a musical staff indicating the pitch of notes?
5. Which national flags make up the Union Jack?
6. What was the name of the first Scottish man to be voted European Footballer of the Year?
7. Which Las Vegas hotel did the bachelor party stay at in the 2009 film 'The Hangover'?
8. What is the highest number visible on a dartboard?
9. How many days did the Falklands War last: a) 52, b) 63, c) 74?
10. How many yards are there between the wickets in a game of cricket?
11. What type of vegetable is known as celery root?
12. Who is the author of 'Peter Rabbit'?
13. How many lines does a Limerick have?
14. Who released a hit song in the 1980s called '99 Red Balloons'?
15. What is the name of the longest river in France?
16. Which famous poet wrote 'An Ode to a Nightingale'?
17. What is the largest planet in our solar system?
18. Lateral Epicondylitis is a condition commonly known by what name?
19. How many players are there in a baseball team?
20. What is the softest mineral in the world?

# *Broomfield WALKS*

Please pick up your FREE copy from the box attached to the notice board at the entrance to Broomfield Village Hall - there are 22 walks listed in the booklet (some are slightly out of date due to housing developments)



**HAPPY WALKING!**

# PLEASE DON'T PARK ON THE PAVEMENT

## WHY?

Children step into the road

Pushchairs can't pass

Blind people bump into them

Kerbs crumble; which cost us all money!

During lockdown, more people are walking instead of driving. Please think of your neighbours and

PLEASE PARK RESPONSIBLY

# *Broomfield* COMMUNITY



## **FARLEIGH HOSPICE**

### **is launching an urgent community appeal in response to the COVID-19 pandemic**

Farleigh is working on the frontline, caring for people living with a life-limiting illness and supporting the NHS and the mid-Essex community through the COVID-19 pandemic. However, as the need for hospice services increases, the charity has been forced to cancel or postpone fundraising events and activities, having a dramatic impact on income. The pandemic has left Farleigh facing one of its biggest financial challenges since it opened its doors nearly 40 years ago and is urging the local community to help.

The hospice is playing an instrumental role in protecting and supporting the community during these unprecedented times. Farleigh nurses and doctors are working 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, providing additional support within the community and providing hospice care within people's homes. The amazing nursing team is helping those who are most vulnerable and in their last few weeks and days of life. They are preventing unnecessary hospital admissions and ensuring where possible people are with their loved ones during their final hours.

The hospice understands the stress and anxiety everyone is facing during these challenging times and in response has launched the Farleigh Helpline at 01245 457 300. The telephone service is open to everyone and offers information and support, as well as a listening ear, to anyone who needs us during this difficult time. In addition, hospice staff is pulling together and working as one team, as non-clinical staff are retrained and are redeployed to support the frontline care team.

Farleigh Medical Director, Eva Lew is reaching out to the community and asking for their help: "We are facing immense challenges and huge pressures on our resources, but our hugely dedicated teams of doctors and nurses are out there dealing with emergencies and are working around the clock to deliver vital care.

"Over the coming weeks and months, we are expecting more referrals and that is why we are appealing to our community to help us continue to support those living with a life-limiting illness, now and in the future. We need your help to enable us to support the NHS by preventing unnecessary hospital admissions and we need your help to ensure where possible people can be with their families in their final hours and die in the safety and comfort of their own home.

We understand this is a difficult time for everyone, but Farleigh Hospice will continue to provide care to those who need it the most and we are appealing to our local community to give whatever they can to help us. Every penny you donate, can and will, make a difference."

### **[Builder fits new shower room and raises £700 for Farleigh Hospice nurses](#)**

Local builder Andy Barber has fitted a shower facility at Farleigh's new hospice site in Maldon. The facility helps Farleigh nurses to continue to care for people living with a life-limiting illness through the COVID-19 pandemic. The new shower room, which was constructed thanks to Andy and the support of a local plumber and material suppliers, enables nurses to wash between each home visit, reducing risks to both patients and staff.

Andy provided all his labour for free and sourced materials at a discounted price, but he needed an additional £700 to finish the project. The local builder was not deterred and set up a Facebook fundraising page, with the target of £700 being reached in just 2 days.

Upon completion of the shower installation, Andy said "My mum works for Farleigh Hospice and she asked me if I would be able to get the new shower enclosure installed at their premises in Maldon. Chandler Materials Supplies in Chelmsford opened up their shop and donated items, and The Tile Warehouse in Maldon donated tiles and other key materials. I am also grateful to everyone who supported the project and donated to our online fundraising page, without you we would not have been able to finish the job and help our local nurses."

Staff at Maldon's Tesco branch also contributed towards the project, with Manager Anthony Waterman and Community Champion Rhian Oakley organising an effort to donate shower items such as towels and shampoo, as well as snacks for Farleigh nurses to stay energised while caring in the community.

Allison Stevens, Farleigh Hospice Chief Executive said: "We are so grateful to Andy and everyone who supported this project. Thanks to you and the support of the Maldon community our nurses can continue to safely give high quality care to those living with a life-limiting illness."

To donate to the Farleigh Hospice Community Appeal, please visit <https://www.farleighhospice.org/donate/donate-online>

For our Farleigh Hospice helpline, please call 01245 457 300

Helen Rollason Charity News:

# COVID 19 URGENT APPEAL

The Charity is predicting lost income of £160,000 in the next 12 weeks



## We need your support now more than ever

**Message from our CEO Kate Alden:** “The Helen Rollason Cancer Charity is determined to continue supporting those living with cancer during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Trustees and I are looking at the implications this is having on the Charity and the potential long term effects. We will endeavour, for as long as it is permissible and safe to do so, to operate all functions of the Charity to the best of our ability.

Our income for the next 12 weeks is budgeted at £160,000. Our shops, where possible, are trading but who knows for how long. Community fundraising events are being cancelled and our flagship events are being postponed.

However, I am pleased to say where possible our counsellors are still keeping appointments with clients via telephone calls or online video calling and my colleagues and I have been reaching out to isolated clients unable to leave their homes to offer reassurance and a friendly ear.

I am asking you, our fantastic supporters to help us get through these unprecedented times. Of course Covid-19 is at the forefront of all of our minds, but even once it has calmed down, cancer will still be there. On average 1,000 people in the UK will face a cancer diagnosis every day and 450 others will die. Please help us support them, both now during this time of unrest, and in the months and years to come.

At a time where the future is uncertain I would like to thank you for your continued support and I hope you and your family are safe and well.”



## Opening doors to independence

### CHES Night Shelter - 01245 281104

At the start of the crisis we increased the Night Shelter access hours for service users to a 24/7 service enabling them to stay in their rooms. This created a high flow of people coming in and out of the premises, as well as heightened risk of infection to our volunteers, staff and residents. For this reason, we took the decision to temporarily close the night shelter during this period to ensure the safety of our service users and our dedicated staff and to comply with the NHS guidance.

Our service users were moved into other suitable accommodation and we provided equipment such as microwave ovens, kettles, TV's etc so that they were able to follow the self-isolation and #stayhomestaysafe guidelines laid out by the UK government.

CHES has always been committed to providing accommodation for the homeless and closure of the Night Shelter helped us to mitigate the financial implications on the charity, ensuring its long-term sustainability. We have been operating the premises as an Admin and Virtual Support Hub with a minimum staff. Most of our staff have been working from home and providing phone support to our service users. Thanks to generous donations from the local community and restaurants, we have been able to fully stock our other 5 move-on properties with supplies for the residents so they have also been able to stay home and stay safe.

32 temporary bed spaces were also made available to known rough sleepers within the 5 local authorities that CHES work with.

**Some hot off the press Good News!** CHES Homeless has just increased its property portfolio and bed spaces for the homeless. It's imperative to provide long term solutions to those that are threatened with homelessness or are rough sleeping. We have been working hard so that those currently housed under government health duty have a stable future upon the exit of this provision by the government.

As our fundraising events have all been cancelled for the foreseeable future, we engaged with the UK-wide 2.6 Challenge organised by the London Marathon Committee to raise much needed funds for UK charities. Many of our supporters took part in a wide range of activities and if you would like some images from this do let me know – we also have short video clips.

That's where we are currently anyway. You can use any of this but we are very excited about the Good News aspect as it means that even during this time of challenge we have seen growth for CHES and are able to offer accommodation and access to our support services to more homeless adults, giving them an opportunity to move towards independent living. You can stay up to date about what we are doing at this time on our website <https://cheshomeless.org/> Click here to [make a donation](#) of any amount online or text HEART to 70085 to donate £10.



**If you are having a clear out & find an UNWANTED bike or two you no longer need then please note the following:**

Re-Cycle (Bikes to Africa), is a small charity based in North Essex, who have been in operation since 1998. The charity receives used bikes and spare parts from the UK and ships them to rural communities in Africa.

649 million people live in rural communities in Africa, and many of these people must walk for long distances to reach crucial services and social support networks.

Across the UK thousands of bikes are thrown away or lie unused in sheds and garages, whilst many people in Africa are forced to walk carrying heavy loads to get to market, school, work and to fetch water and crops.

Our bikes provide people with opportunities to gain new skills and sustainable income from investment in their own projects, such as bee keeping, farming and water boreholes.

Bikes which may not be suitable to send to Africa are stripped down for spare parts or are serviced and repaired to be sold to the community here in the UK.

In 2019 the charity received 14,500 bikes at its Warehouse and since it's been in operation (1998), have sent over 114,000 bikes. Imagine where those bikes might have ended up if they hadn't received them?

**CASE STUDY** This is Ndey. She is 13 years old and attends Kuntaya School in The Gambia. Since receiving her bike last year from WYCE as part of the Cycle to School programme delivered in partnership with Re-Cycle, her 6km round trip to school now only takes 30 mins to get to and from school instead of over an hour and a half. She loves her bike and arrives at school not tired and able to concentrate more in class.



Re-Cycle touches the lives of people in the UK, as well as overseas, by providing life skills and social support to a diverse community through our volunteering programme.

# *Broomfield* QUIZ ANSWERS

## **Answers to Children's Quiz:**

1. Batman
2. Ice
3. Table Tennis
4. Russia
5. Five
6. Sweden
7. Seven
8. The natural home/environment
9. Egypt
10. Lewis Capaldi
11. Seven colours
12. 33
13. Europe
14. Six
15. The Gobi Desert

## **Answers to Adults' Quiz:**

1. Friar Tuck
2. Scorpio
3. Scarab Dung Beetle
4. Clef
5. The crosses of St George, St Patrick and St Andrew
6. Denis Law
7. Caesars Palace
8. Twenty (20)
9. C) 74 days
10. Twenty-two
11. Celeriac
12. Beatrix Potter
13. Five (5)
14. Nena
15. Loire
16. John Keats
17. Jupiter
18. Tennis Elbow
19. Nine
20. Talc



In these uncertain times it is to be expected that Chelmsford residents may have more and different concerns than they had in early February. As ever, Citizens Advice Chelmsford is here to help you wherever we can. While we can no longer provide face-to-face advice, your local CA is open to assist you in a number of ways. Our Adviceline phone number is still staffed by volunteers Monday to Friday 9am to 4:30pm. You can submit e-mail enquiries whenever you wish via our online form and we will get back to you asap. You can also chat with someone live via our Webchat facility.

If you have queries about your work situation, what pay are you entitled to and how you access it, we can advise you. If you have a question about rent or mortgage payments, we can help. If you unexpectedly find yourself temporarily without funds and in need of a food bank voucher, we can issue one for you and arrange for a delivery if you are self-isolating at home. If you or your family are unclear how Coronavirus affects arrangements you have put in place previously, child arrangement orders for example, we can connect you to the most up-to-date information provided by the relevant authority or external agency. Of course, we also still cover more everyday issues like disputes with a neighbour or a purchase you are unhappy with.

Over the next few weeks we will be teaming up with the local Chelmsford media to provide information on some of our most commonly requested advice topics. If you have a specific request please let us know via one of our advice channels.

#### How to contact Chelmsford CA

- Advice line: 03444 111 444
- E-mail enquiries: [www.chelmsfordcab.org/contact](http://www.chelmsfordcab.org/contact)
- Webchat: [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)



## Recycling Centre for Household (RCHW) Covid-19 FAQs



### **What is the current status of the RCHW service in Essex?**

All 21 Essex RCHW sites have been closed to the public since the 24 March in response to Government guidance to only leave your home for essential travel purposes, and to adopt social distancing measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Essex CC stance on RCHW services is consistent with the COVID-19 advice to stay at home and only leave for essential purposes

### **What is the current status of the waste collection services provided by the districts?**

- Currently all residual, food, clinical and trade waste services are operating as normal.
- 78% of dry recycling services are operating as normal (the remaining are operating but with a reduced collection frequency).
- 75% of garden waste services are operating as normal (a further 17% are likely to come back on-line in the next few weeks)
- Approximately 66% of bulky waste services are currently suspended

### **How does the position of Essex on RCHW services compare with other Waste Disposal Authorities?**

All of the waste disposal authorities in the Eastern region closed their RCHW on or around the 24<sup>th</sup> March, and these services have remained closed since. It is estimated that approximately 90% of the RCHW sites in the country have been closed.

### **How does the position of Essex district collection services compare with the national situation?**

The waste collection services in Essex are operating more effectively than the national average. This has undoubtedly helped to relieve the public demand for RCHW as most waste types are being collected at the kerbside.

**Has fly-tipping increased since the RCHW closure?**

Recording fly-tipping levels vary from week to week. It is therefore not possible to draw any conclusions from the available data. Operational team feedback is that the levels currently being seen are in line with normal fluctuations

**When is the government due to review its position on the current 'lockdown' advice to the public?**

On the 16<sup>th</sup> April the Government announced an extension for 'at least three weeks' to the social distancing restrictions and the 'stay at home' advice currently in place

This week the government announced that they were asking councils to plan for the organised opening of household waste collection sites and that they would be publishing guidance on this. We expect to receive this guidance next week.

**What difference does closing the RCHWs make in tackling COVID-19?**

The cornerstone of the government's approach to tackling COVID-19 is slowing its spread to enable critical services to cope.

This is achieved through both social distancing and avoiding all non-essential travel so as to reduce the potential for person to person contact and ease pressures on critical services. Closure of the RCHW has reduced the number of non-essential journeys in Essex by an estimated 65,000 a week

**Is there a public health implication to opening the centres?**

The Director of Public Health currently advises that these centres remain closed.

Opening them would unnecessarily compromise social distancing and he would not support this, at this time when gains are fragile, and the government are rightly pressing social distancing to continue and advising people to stay at home.

**Did the Government recently advise that RCHW should be open, stating they are a critical service?**

DEFRA recently produced guidance on the prioritisation of waste services in which RCHW services were classified as a 'moderate priority'. The core waste collection services were classified as a 'high priority'.

DEFRA confirmed that the need for RCHW services is more present if collection services start to fail. The efforts of Essex waste collection authorities have ensured core collection services have remained operational partially mitigating the need for RCHW to open.

**Did the recent DEFRA guidance state that a journey to a RCHW could be deemed ‘essential travel’?**

DEFRA confirmed that a journey to a RCHW to dispose of waste would only be deemed essential travel, and therefore permitted under the current approach to tackling COVID-19, if *‘the build-up of waste in the home ... pose a risk of injury or to health’*.

The current good service status of all collection services in Essex is very good, meaning there is little risk of waste build up is occurring to a level where it could be deemed detrimental to health or cause risk of injury.

**What is the legal status of the guidance recently produced by DEFRA?**

This is non-statutory guidance aimed at assisting local authorities in making decisions. DEFRA recognised that local circumstances meant that the guidance and proposals may not be relevant to all.

**When will Essex consider re-opening the sites?**

As the decision by Essex to close the RCHW sites was in response to the public health impacts of continuing to operate the sites any decision to reopen will also be based on public health advice.

It is likely that one of four scenarios will trigger a decision to reopen the RCHW sites

- 1) Government relax or amend the current guidance regarding social distancing or what constitutes essential travel
- 2) Waste collection services are unable to operate meaning the public health impacts of waste build up outweigh the public health impacts of opening the RCHW
- 3) The current restrictions continue to operate for an extended period of time meaning it is no longer practicable, reasonable or safe for residents to continue to store bulky waste at home

**How quickly will the RCHW sites be open again to the public?**

This will be led by government and public health advice. We are expecting an announcement from Government with regard to the current lockdown measures around the 8<sup>th</sup> May.

If at this point the essential travel measures are relaxed, we will commence activity to reopen RCHW centres.

It is expected that it will take a few weeks to remobilise the RCHW operation and be ready for the public

**Can social distancing be achieved at the centres?**

In its guidance DEFRA confirmed that if RCHW sites are opened, it is essential that social distancing is maintained. We expect this to still be the case when Essex sites are opened

The Essex RCHW are not able to operate normally and achieve social distancing requirements.

Social distancing can only be achieved at the sites by limiting the number of users allowed on site at any one time, and working with users to ensure all social distancing rules are followed

**How many users will be allowed on site at any one time?**

This will vary from site to site and will be communicated prior to the sites opening and following site surveys and discussion with the RCHW contractor.

The maximum number of users on site will be based on what can be achieved whilst maintain a 2m social distance.

**Once a decision is made to reopen the sites will all 21 RCHW sites open?**

It is unlikely we will be able to achieve social distancing at all sites whilst operating a viable service.

Surveys are currently being undertaken and are due to be completed by the end of April however we are expecting that the smaller sites may not be able to reopen under social distancing requirements.

**How many sites can operate under social distancing requirements?**

Subject to survey, we expect at least 70% of the sites could operate

**Which sites will not reopen when a decision is made to remobilise the RCHW service?**

This is subject to survey however it is likely to be the smaller sites that would be difficult to operate with social distancing or those where impacts on the surrounding area will be significant.

The sites (subject to survey) that are likely to be more difficult to operate are Dovercourt, West Mersea, Mountnessing, Waltham Abbey and Lawford, Burnham  
Other sites where queuing can cause problems within the neighbourhood will also be subject to special consideration would include Rayleigh and Pitsea.

**Have the sites that won't reopen been decided?**

No - this is subject to survey and discussion with our contractor.

Every effort will be made to open as many sites as possible and we expect to be able to confirm sites for initial re-opening by the end of the month.

**Will all the sites open at the same time?**

It is our intention to reopen all sites, where social distancing can be effectively managed and the site is viable, on the same day to spread the load.

**Why don't you open all sites even if you can only allow one vehicle on site at a time?**

Where sites can only accommodate a very low number of vehicles at any one time it is more beneficial to utilise these staff on larger sites where more users can be accommodated.

Our focus will remain on providing as many sites as possible and being able to accommodate as many users as possible

**Will a booking system be operated to manage users at the site?**

A booking system has been considered as an approach to manage throughput, however development and testing of a system is likely to delay the re-opening of the sites and will slow access into the sites whilst car registrations are checked.

As it is important, we are able to get users through the site quickly and we want to be able to accommodate as many users as possible in a day, we are proposing to reopen the sites without a booking system.

This position will be reviewed if the sites become overwhelmed.

**What restriction will be placed on users?**

We will not be permitting any vans or trailers onto the sites

At some sites we may reduce the range of materials that can be recycled/accepted so we can maximise throughput.

**What requests will you make of users?**

We will ask the following of all users

- Not to come to the site if they are shielding/self-isolating or are showing any COVID-19 symptoms

- In the first few weeks of reopening not to come to the site unless they have waste which they have to dispose of because its continued storage may cause injury or pose a risk to health. We expect we will relax this after the few weeks once the initial service demand has subsided
- To only bring waste to the site that they have to dispose of an consider delaying works which generate waste
- Not to bring any waste to the site which can be disposed of or recycled via kerbside collections
- Only one person from each vehicle should unload waste, unless absolutely necessary
- To avoid multiple journeys to the site and allow everyone a chance to access the site
- To sign up to ECC social media feeds to get the latest news on the sites
- To use the sites during off-peak times

A proactive communications campaign will be launched prior to re-opening

#### **What Changes will there be on sites?**

- Hand sanitiser will be available at all sites and increased cleansing regimes will be in place
- Site staff will not be able to assist with the unloading of cars
- The layout of sites will be changed, additional signage will be in place and floor markings to assist with social distancing
- Some bins may be removed from sites and recycling opportunities reduced to improve flow
- Staff will actively manage flow through the site and adopt a 'one out - one in' policy when on-site vehicle capacity is reached
- Subject to available staffing all sites will operate 7 days a week
- Subject to available staffing/planning operating hours of sites will be increased

#### **Can the Borough/City/District Council assist in any way?**

It is important that we jointly own all communications to the public and coordinate our activities.

To assist with this we would welcome support from partners with

- Enforcement
- traffic management
- relaxation of side waste policies to reduce the need for users to come to the RCHW
- reintroduction of community 'crunch' schemes and bulky waste collections

#### **Will the RCHW be able to cope with the demand for the service?**

The simple answer to this is we don't know. Much will depend on the public responding positively to our requests to initially use the service sparingly, so the service does not become overwhelmed.

The operational steps we are putting in place are designed to maximise capacity and increase throughput which will put us in the best position to accommodate demand.

**If the service cannot cope what will be done?**

We expect demand to subside once the backlog of waste that residents are storing has been disposed of.

If in the early stages the increased operating hours and capacity are not sufficient further considerations will be made on how restrictions are put in place to limit who can use the site.

**What is the earliest date that sites will re-open?**

If the government announces a relaxation of the current restrictions on the 8<sup>th</sup> May **and** the public health risk from operating the RCHW has satisfactorily subsided, we would anticipate sites would become operational later in May.

**And finally, some small sustainable steps – We can make a difference**

*Written by David Jackson – Sustainability professional, working at the University of Greenwich*

When reflecting on the current lockdown situation I thought of two things; how fragile our systems can be, but also how resilient we are individually and collectively in tackling new challenges. The same applies to our planet; climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and resource scarcity are posing significant risk, but through resilience and our action the future can remain bright.

Reductions in carbon emissions from the lockdown may seem positive but are greyed with the rise of consumption at home. My electricity was 200kWh higher in March and we're producing more waste too; many have experienced the same. Small steps will reduce our home impact and save money, but also become a new 'norm' when the lockdown lifts.

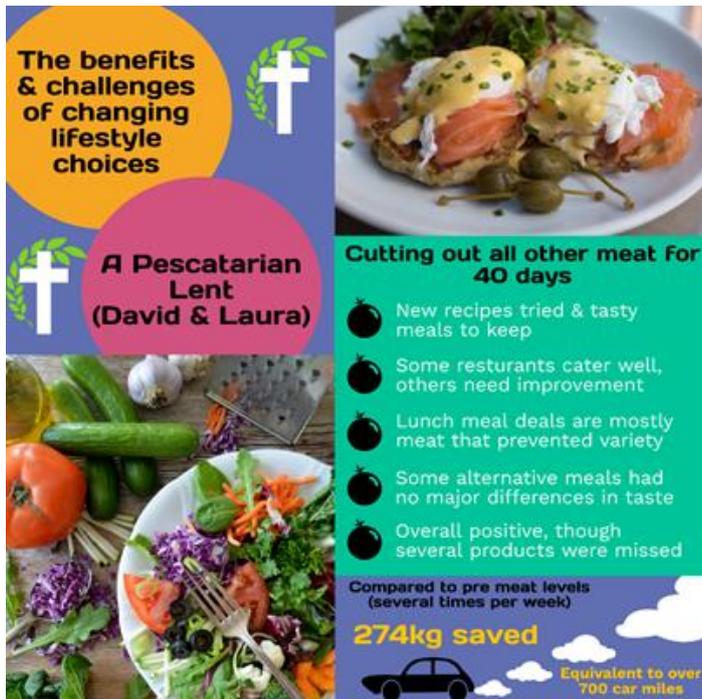
A few of those actions can include:

- **Always check** the waste leaflet before disposing
- **Always wash** items before disposal
- **Short showers**, 1min less could save 21 glasses of water
- **Lids on** saucepans to heat more with less energy
- **Help** on daily walks, do a litter pick on the way (carefully)
- **Encourage** wildlife and make animal food cakes
- **Consider** the question, do I really need this?
- **Consider** the walk, 60% of 1-2-mile journeys are by car
- **Consider** second-hand, swaps or organic as alternatives

The UK only had 45% of waste recycled in 2018.

**Get creative;** my upcycled plastic bottle stationery holders will be travelling to work

**Switch off** not just lights but appliances when not in use. £30 a year on average is consumed by standby!



**By reducing** 1 meat meal per week for a year can save 198kg of CO2 emissions. That's 330 car miles! We tried it over lent.

***We all have the power to make a positive difference no matter how small the action.***

*Please note: Whilst Broomfield Times is supported by Broomfield Parish Council, the views expressed within it are not necessarily those of the Council.*