

## **District Councillor Monthly Report**

**Lawford, Manningtree & Mistley – February 2024**

### **Call for development and environment sites as part of Local Plan review.**

Landowners, developers and the public are being invited to suggestion how land could be used for either new development or environmental protection to support future growth up to 2041.

Tendring District Council (TDC) is in the process of reviewing its Local Plan, a master suite of planning policies acting as a blueprint to guide future development in line with government requirements.

The council's current adopted Local Plan is designed to run until 2033, but legally has to be reviewed at least every five years. The review of Tendring's Local Plan will extend its timeframe from 2033 to 2041, which might bring about the need to start planning now for additional development to meet longer-term future needs.

The process for reviewing the Local Plan includes a Call for Sites consultation exercise – where people have an opportunity to put forward for the council's consideration sites, ideas and proposals for things like new housing developments, business parks and associated infrastructure, or even community facilities, wildlife areas or open space.

Andy Baker, TDC Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning, encouraged people to think about the future use of land around them.

"While we anticipate that most of the development needed between now and 2041 is already catered for through the council's current Local Plan – which includes the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community, and Hartley Gardens in Clacton – there is a possibility that additional land could needed to meet projected needs in the longer-term, particularly towards the end of that period," Councillor Baker said.

"It is best to start planning for the long-term now, rather than leaving it too late; that's why we are inviting suggestions now, so we can start with assessing different options

before coming up with any firm proposals going forward. These would, in due course, be subject to full public consultation in their own right.

“Submitting an idea, site or development proposal as part of this Call for Sites exercise does not guarantee its inclusion in the updated Local Plan; but it will help us understand what sites could potentially be available in different locations for different uses.”

**The Call for Sites is open until 5pm on Monday, 18 March**, and people can submit proposals through the consultation page of the TDC website ([www.tendringdc.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/consultations)).

Alternatively, people can download a form and return it to Planning Policy, Tendring District Council, Town Hall, Station Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 1SE.

People should provide as much detail as possible in their submission to be as clear and helpful as possible, but may be contacted by the council’s planning team later on if further information is needed. Some of the provided information will be made public – such as your name and details of the site – but your address and contact details will not be.

### **Help shape how Council conducts planning consultations.**

The public’s views are being sought on how Tendring District Council (TDC) carries out consultation on planning applications and policies.

TDC has a Statement of Community Involvement. This sets out how the council will involve its communities and other stakeholders in the planning process.

This includes public consultation on the Local Plan and other planning policy documents, and also on planning applications; it is also used as best practice for developers on how to do early community engagement prior to submitting their applications.

The Statement of Community Involvement is regularly reviewed, and a six-week public consultation is now live inviting views on the latest version of the statement.

Andy Baker, TDC Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning, encouraged people to have their say.

“We are undertaking a review and update of our Local Plan this year, and an important part of that is making sure there are opportunities for people to be consulted on this,” Councillor Baker said.

“This is why our Statement of Community Involvement is so important as it shapes those opportunities – in addition for the more routine planning applications which we know can be so important to the communities they are in

“So please take the time to have your say during this consultation.”

The consultation closes at 5pm on Monday, 4 March, and people can have their say via the council's consultations web page at [www.tendringdc.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/consultations).

Alternatively, a paper copy of the Statement of Community Involvement can be viewed at Clacton Town Hall during normal opening hours and comments can be submitted in writing to: Planning Policy, Tendring District Council, Town Hall, Station Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 1SE.

## **Householder parking permit scheme renewed in Tendring**

Households across Tendring will once again receive a free car parking permit for the year ahead.

Since 2012 Tendring District Council (TDC) has provided each home with a permit, which allows free parking after 11am in most TDC car parks for ten months of the year.

Mark Stephenson, TDC Leader, said he was pleased to be renewing the scheme.

“In the face of rising living costs, our free parking scheme is needed now more than ever to allow residents to support our local businesses right across Tendring,” Cllr Stephenson said.

“I hope people make the most of it to not only give local firms a boost, but to enjoy everything our beautiful district has to offer by making use of one of our many award-winning car parks.

“Looking out for residents is our number one priority, so whether you pop to the local shops, take yourself up the coast for a beach walk, or go and visit friends and family, we hope this helps – in our ongoing efforts to deliver for you.”

Homes which already have a permit will have them automatically renewed, but new households wishing to set up their permit for the first time, or need to change their details – which incurs an administration fee – will need to complete a form.

A letter detailing the scheme and including the sign-up form details will be posted to each household over the coming weeks.

The scheme covers one vehicle per household, though additional permits can be bought for a fee, and allows free parking at most TDC-run car parks from 11am until midnight – though the council does not currently charge for parking between 6pm and 8am.

Permits are not valid during July and August, with an extension to cover these months available to purchase.

Holland Haven, The Naze and the Walton-on-the-Naze Lifestyles leisure centre car parks not included, nor does it permit parking in council housing car parks or those connected to council offices.

Non-Tendring residents can also buy the permit.

## **Improved financial forecast reported by Council.**

Updated figures for the next financial year show an improved budget position for Tendring District Council (TDC) in 2024/25.

**The authority's forecast deficit for 2024/25 has fallen by £960,000 to £1.7million**, a Cabinet meeting heard last week (Friday, 26 January).

A report setting out the updated position included details of the provisional grant settlement from government to local authorities, and some changes to cost pressures and savings within the council.

It also includes a marginal reduction in the proposed council tax charge for next year.

Cost pressures faced by the authority are largely outside of the council's control, including inflation, increased staff costs and reduced government funding – all of which are baked into future budgets.

Mark Stephenson, TDC Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Governance, welcomed the updated position – but cautioned there were still tough times ahead.

"It is good news that we have less of a deficit in 2024/25, but the fact remains that we face a deficit going forward," Councillor Stephenson said.

**"We are seeing ever greater demands and expectations on public services whilst balancing that with reduced funding.**

"Work will continue to balance the budget, and the long-term financial plan – which has seen us save more than £10million since 2010/11 – and we will be able to do so this year. However, Our Vision's key theme of financial sustainability means we will have to continue to work hard to ensure we remain on a strong footing in future years.

"We will not shy away from tough decisions – but will take these transparently – and this reduced deficit means we can build a solid foundation for making careful decisions and continue to deliver effective services while being mindful of taxpayer funds.

"If your household budget saw increased costs and reduced income you would have to make changes to what you spend your money on; the council is no different."

The proposed TDC council tax charge on an average (Band D) home is £193.73 - £3.72 per week – an increase of £5.62 on this year.

## **Free self-defence class offer for Tendring women**

A free self-defence class is available for women thanks to an initiative from the Tendring Community Safety Partnership.

Run by A.S Jujitsu, the class is being funded by the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's Safer Streets Fund.

Gina Placey, Chair of the Tendring Community Safety Partnership and Tendring District Council Cabinet Member for Partnerships, welcomed the initiative to help women feel safe and independent.

"While violence against women is thankfully relatively low in Tendring, we know that if women do not feel safe then it can prevent them from enjoying day-to-day activities for fear of travelling alone to venues," Councillor Placey said.

"This class will help to empower women, give them confidence, and the practical skills necessary in the rare event they are needed.

"I would urge you to sign up for this, especially as there could be a chance to run more if it is popular."

Available to women aged 16 and over, the class takes place at **St Andrew's Hall in St Andrews Road, Clacton, from 10am-1pm on Sunday, 25 February.**

Spaces are limited, but if the class proves popular then the partnership will consider running more of them.

To book a space email [selfdefence@tendringdc.gov.uk](mailto:selfdefence@tendringdc.gov.uk).

**Terry Barrett – District Councillor**

**District Report on Behalf of:**

**Terry Barrett, Matthew Bensilum & Carlo Guglielmi**

**11/02/2024**

