

District Councillor Monthly Report

Lawford, Manningtree & Mistley – July 2023

Mistley Norman School – Update

- Mistley Norman Primary School forced to close due to discovery of RAAC in walls and roof. Easter 2023
- Children educated at Lawford Primary School.
- June 13th 2023 letter from Vine Trust stating that repairs will cost £1.9m. “There was no realistic likelihood of ever raising funds for these repairs. School bus to Lawford would be cancelled from September as the cost of £24,000 was too high. Only 2 classes might run from September “will have to be taught in classes with children of three or more different year groups”. Parents were encouraged to make contact with local schools if they wanted to move their children for September.
- June 14th Parental meeting organised at Mistley Village Hall and chaired by Cllr C Guglielmi & Cllr T Barrett. Parental concerns logged. 34 questions for Vine Trust created from meeting.
- June 16th Vine Trust meeting at Lawford Primary School. Despite being invited Cllrs Guglielmi & Barrett were denied access!
- Essex County Council Education Representatives make contact with Vine Trust
- July 3rd Essex County Council Meeting. Essex CC Reps, District Councillors and Vine Trust discuss 34 questions created from parental meeting.
- Outcome from July 3rd meeting: Improved communications between key stakeholders in place. School bus secured for next year. Ramsey Primary School will be host school for Mistley Norman Children for 2023-24. All communications from Vine Trust overseen by Essex CC. More positive approach from Vine Trust to consider securing funds for a rebuild in light of future numbers from local building developments.
- ECC to put forward evidence to Department of Education (DfE) that a Primary School in Mistley is absolutely needed.
- July 5th. Cllr Guglielmi asks Question at a Conference to Secretary of State for Education (Gillian Keegan) about support for Mistley Norman. Her response was that strong consideration would be given to adding Mistley Norman to list for new school builds.
- July 7th. Cllr Guglielmi updates Baroness Barran (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of state for the school system) about current issues with Mistley Norman.

- July 11th Cllr Guglielmi submits a motion to full TDC meeting for TDC & its officers to work alongside Essex CC, The Regional Director and MP for Harwich & North Essex to ensure that Vine School Trust secures funding for the necessary repairs or a complete re-build. The motion also requests officers work with Essex CC to safeguard the future of the Pre-School. Cllr Barrett to second & support motion.

Motion is passed with unanimous backing from Councillors.

- July 13th. Cllr Guglielmi secured a 40 minutes audience with Baroness Barran and her team of officials, who confirmed that the DfE has sent its own surveyors to ascertain the conditions of the school.
- Cllr Guglielmi was assured that a decision to repair or rebuild will be made in the coming weeks, and the DfE will write to parents to inform of next steps.

<p>Council gives unanimous support to campaign to keep village school.</p>

- Tendring District Council (TDC) has given its full support to efforts to secure vital funding for a village primary school.
- Mistley Norman C of E Primary School has been forced to close its buildings after the discovery of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete – a 1960s material which can collapse without warning.
- Pupils are currently being bussed to another school three miles away, but with no funding currently available to repair or replace the existing buildings, children faced a 20-mile round trip to alternative provision from Autumn.
- At full council last night (Tuesday, 11 July), TDC councillors unanimously voted in favour of a motion offering its support to efforts to secure funding for repair or re-building works.
- The motion noted the current situation, including an estimated £1.9 million cost for the necessary works, and the level of planned growth already established in the area with approved planning applications.
- It requested that the Leader and Cabinet Member for Partnerships, alongside the Chief Executive, work with colleagues including the local MP and Essex County Council to ensure the Vine School Trust secures funding to carry out the necessary repairs, or to demolish the current building and replace it with a fit for purpose sustainable new structure. It also gave support to safeguarding the newly-built pre-school on site, which is not affected.
- Speaking after the meeting Cllr Mark Stephenson, TDC Leader, said: “I was pleased to see this motion brought forward by ward councillors and for the unanimous support it received from across the council chamber.
- “I, and my Cabinet colleagues, will work to deliver on this motion by providing our full support to efforts to secure suitable funding for this school – which not only plays a vital role in the Mistley community now, but we hope will continue to do so for generations to come.”
- The full text of the motion – which was proposed by Cllr Carlo Guglielmi, seconded by Cllr Terry Barrett and received cross-party support – can be

found on the agenda to the meeting on the TDC website here:

<https://tdcdemocracy.tendringdc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=130&MId=2164>.

- A live stream of the meeting can be watched back on the TDC YouTube channel here: https://www.youtube.com/live/65k_KAkdGI?feature=share.

Manningtree Station – Car Park Wall - Update

Background: “The Berlin Wall” is the local name given to the relatively new station retention wall erected on the border of the Manningtree Train Station (located in Lawford). This wall along with the carpark expansion and additional lighting was constructed by Greater Anglia.

Current position: A stakeholders meeting was held on 14th June 2023 to bring together the relevant parties and interested persons. This meeting was chaired by Cllr Bensilum. At this meeting, there were numerous ideas and plans discussed, with the general conclusion that we should seek a date from the enforcement officer at TDC as to when the mitigation works proposal from GA will be forthcoming. At this stage, the next steps can be agreed by the relevant stakeholders involved.

Cllr Bensilum and Cllr Barrett met with officers of TDC at “The Wall” for a site visit and open discussion about the process and possible mitigations. Cllr Bensilum also invited Cllr Scott (Chairman of TDC, due to the high profile of his position and possible publicity if required).

During the site meeting with TDC officials, Cllr Bensilum & Cllr Barrett ensured that all parties, both Officers and Councillors, including the Chairman walked the entire length of the wall to the highest point and encouraged the officers to gauge the ground level of the carpark and to reach out to the top, which clearly was not achievable due to the height of “the Wall”.

Cllr Bensilum has held further meetings with the landowner who is most affected by the erection of “The Wall” and the ANOB who cover the Dedham Vale. The most notable issue is that time is of the essence, with a deadline for enforcement action looming. This has been raised in writing with Matthew (Matt) Deal the enforcement officer dealing and we are assured the relevant dates for processing have been diarised.

We are now waiting on the head of planning and or the enforcement officer to contact Cllr Bensilum with the anticipated date from GA in relation to the mitigation proposals at which stage, we envisage a further stakeholders meeting to discuss and consider the timeline for actions suggested at this point.

This issue has been going on for a few years and Cllr Guglielmi had been actively involved in getting TDC to take action once it became obvious that the addition to the car park was not a Permitted Development, but needed planning permission.

It will be very unlikely that the Council will embark on a lengthy legal battle with Greater Anglia, as it will achieve very little.

Town Hall illuminated blue to celebrate the NHS

Clacton Town Hall was illuminated blue on the 5th of July as part of nationwide celebrations of the NHS.

The National Health Service was formed 75 years ago, and buildings across the UK will be illuminated in the NHS colour to honour the dedicated work of NHS staff across the decades.

Gary Scott, Chairman of Tendring District Council (TDC), said the NHS was an invaluable organisation to all.

“We are pleased to be lighting up our Town Hall blue to celebrate this landmark anniversary,” Cllr Scott said.

“By lighting up Clacton Town Hall we can say, on behalf of Tendring, a big ‘thank you’ to all those who work in the NHS.”

Last chance to nominate for the 2023 Tendring Youth Awards

TIME is running out to make nominations to the 2023 Tendring Youth Awards.

The awards celebrate amazing accomplishments by young people who live, study or work in Tendring, across a wide range of categories; as well as adults who support them.

The deadline for nominations for the seventh awards ceremony is fast approaching on **23rd July**, ahead of the gala awards evening taking place on 3rd October.

Individuals or groups of young people, such as youth organisations, can be nominated; while the various categories recognise academic achievement, inspirational caring, work in the community and efforts to help the environment, among others.

A panel of judges assess the nominations after the deadline of Sunday, 23 July, and compile a shortlist of finalists, who will be invited to a glitzy presentation evening at Clacton’s Princes Theatre.

Karen O’Connor, Chairwoman of the Tendring Youth Awards, said young people could only be recognised for their achievements if they were nominated.

To nominate someone for a Tendring Youth Award, complete an online nomination form at <https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/tendring-youth-awards> or request a form and submit it via thetendringyouthawards@gmail.com – alternatively you can fill it out and return it by post to Tendring Youth Awards (Nominations), Town Hall, Clacton, CO15 1SE.

THE AWARDS

Volunteer (Young Person aged 11-21) – Sponsored by Actual Radio

This award recognises the young person/s hard and dedicated work to help others with nothing in return. They put themselves out there to show kindness and volunteer their time to help. Can be as an individual or as part of a group.

Arts (Young Person/group aged 11-21) – Sponsored by the Princes Theatre

This award showcases creative, talented and ambitious young people through either drawing, writing, dancing, theatre, design and textiles or another creative art. The winners of this category will get the chance to have a tour around the Princes Theatre.

Community Improvement (Young Person aged 8-21) – Sponsored by Harwich Haven Authority

This award celebrates an individual or group who have significantly contributed to their community by making it a better and nicer place. The winner will receive a bursary from the sponsors, Harwich Haven Authority, to enable them to continue to develop the community project into the future.

Young Carer (Young Person aged 8-18) – Sponsored by Tendring Careline

This award recognises a young person who gives up their own time to help look after someone who has a condition, such as a disability, illness or mental health condition and takes on big adult jobs at a young age.

Learning Achievement (Young Person aged 11-21) – Sponsored by Tendring District Council

This award rewards the hard work and perseverance of a young person who has gone above and beyond by succeeding in their chosen subject at school, college or university, or they have shown their determination to achieve their learning goals by putting in a lot of hard work.

Outstanding Achievement (Young Person aged 11-21) – Sponsored by Essex County Council

The Outstanding Achievement category is all about celebrating an individual or group of young people achieving in any discipline or field. Achievements must be significant and exceed the norm.

Personal Growth (Young Person aged 8-21) – Sponsored by Nova Training

This person has overcome huge difficulties to achieve success. The difficulties could be with their health, work life, education, social or family problems. This person has shown dedication and strength by continuing to work hard through tough situations in their life.

Improved Attendance (young person aged 5-16) – Sponsored by Aquinas Provisions

This award recognises improved school attendance by pupils. This does not necessarily mean they have the best attendance; but rather that they have overcome adversity and in doing so have maintained or improved school attendance.

There are two awards in this category; one for primary age pupils (school years 1-6), and one for secondary age pupils (school years 7-11).

The Environmental Initiative Award (Young Person/group aged 8-21) – Sponsored by Halterman Carless

Celebrating those who have significantly contributed to improving or caring for the environment. This award includes a bursary from the sponsors to enable the winners to continue and develop their environmental initiatives into the future.

Unsung Hero (Adult) – Sponsored by Harwich Haven Authority

This award is given in recognition of the efforts of an individual adult who has supported young people to achieve their full potential, reach their dreams and/or to show the young person to stay positive through a tough time. This could be through volunteering, mentoring, coaching or work.

Summer Swim Safe sessions

Parents are being encouraged to sign their children up for free sea swimming lessons being held in August.

Swim Safe, which teaches children about water safety in the sea, is returning to Tendring this summer.

School sessions have been taking place this month (June) in Harwich and Clacton, while public sessions are being held at Clacton's Martello Beach between Monday, 7 and Friday, 11 August.

Swim Safe is a joint Swim England and RNLI initiative. In Tendring, sessions in Harwich are funded by Harwich Haven Authority with Clacton sessions funded by Tendring District Council (TDC). TDC swimming teachers instruct the sessions, with TDC Beach Patrol lifeguarding them.

Mick Barry, TDC Cabinet Member for Leisure and Public Realm, said the sessions were lots of fun – but could also save lives.

“Swim Safe teaches young children some key skills about going into the sea, such as floating to live, signalling for help, and generally respecting the water,” Cllr Barry said.

Find and book your Swim Safe session at www.swimsafe.org.uk.

Terry Barrett – District Councillor

District Report on Behalf of:

Terry Barrett, Matthew Bensilum & Carlo Guglielmi

14th July 2023