

## District Councillor Monthly Report

Lawford, Manningtree & Mistley – January 2024

### Result of By-Election for Bluehouse (Clacton) Ward

**Bernard Goldman** has been elected to serve on Tendring District Council.

He was elected to the Bluehouse ward after polling 181 votes at the by-election held yesterday (Thursday, 11 January).

The seat was vacant following the resignation of Ian Lennard late last year.

The turnout for the by-election was 14.6%.

The result, as announced by the Returning Officer Ian Davidson, is as follows:

Name of Candidate	Description (if any)	Number of Votes
Gareth Bayford	Independent	45
John Carrington	Labour Party	83
John Chittock	Independent	6
<b>Bernard Goldman</b>	<b>Independent</b>	<b>181 (elected)</b>
Josie Holland		24
Tony Mack	Reform UK	54
Danny Mayzes	Independent	52
Andrew Pemberton	UK Independence Party (UKIP)	38
Alex Porter	Conservative Party Candidate	91

Kane Silver	Liberal Democrats	22
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## Initial budget proposals set out by Cabinet

Initial budget proposals for Tendring District Council (TDC) for 2024/25 have been agreed by Cabinet.

At its meeting today (Friday, 15 December) Cabinet considered the current financial position.

The report noted a number of cost pressures facing the authority, such as inflation impacts across areas including staffing and energy bills – but noted **TDC is in a stable position.**

**Next year's budget is currently based upon a 3% rise in the TDC element of council tax bills** – putting an average Band D home on £193.75 per year, or just under £3.73 per week. This is an increase of £5.64 over the year.

The report also noted that details had not yet been received of the Government settlement for local authorities – how much grant TDC would receive from Whitehall – which could alter the shape of the budget.

**Final budget proposals will be agreed by Cabinet in January**, after going through scrutiny, before a final decision by full council in February.

Mark Stephenson, TDC Leader, said the budget would require prudent management.

“Thanks to our long-term approach to financial planning we are in a strong place as a local authority, but we cannot take our eye off the ball – just like our residents, we are all going through some tough economic times,” Cllr Stephenson said.

**“A savings programme is being developed, and we are in the good position of already identifying more than £1.2million of savings for next year;** that not only supports our long-term financial sustainability but also buys us time to make well-thought out decisions going forward rather than having to make knee-jerk cuts.

“It is worth highlighting that we still have a long way to go in terms of securing the further necessary savings required over the coming years.

“As per Our Vision, we want to be open and transparent about our finances and how decisions are made, and will continue to do so.”

## **Young people in Tendring asked to share their views on Arts and Culture.**

Young people in Tendring are invited to take part in a survey about arts and culture in the area.

The Youth Voice project, a collaboration between Tendring Cultural Education Partnership, Tendring District Council (TDC), Arts Council England and Colchester Arts Centre working with Clacton Creatives, is looking to capture views of people aged 10-18 in Tendring, and part of the initiative is a Culture and Creativity survey.

Young people can have their say, with those taking part also able to be entered into a prize draw to win a £100 Amazon voucher.

Ivan Henderson, TDC Cabinet Member for Economic Growth, Regeneration and Tourism, encouraged young people to take part.

“This study will enable us to learn about young people’s thoughts and experiences of creativity and culture in Tendring, with the results contributing to a film about creative opportunities in the area,” Cllr Henderson said.

“We really want to raise aspirations and create opportunities for our younger generations, as well as creating an area they feel proud to live in. A key step to achieving this is to see where they see their talents, skills and future careers to see if we can nurture that.

“So if you are a young person then take part, or if you know someone aged 10-18 please encourage them to make their voice heard.”

Questions within the survey include asking what creative activities participants do and what opportunities they would like to see in the sector.

To take part in the survey before it closes on **5 February** find the Youth Voices video on social media, or go to <https://lnk.bio/clactoncreatives> - people need to go via the social media post in order to enter the prize draw.

The survey is being undertaken by independent research specialist Demi Georgiou on behalf of the three Youth Voice partners. Children aged 15-years-

old and under will need to have a parent's consent before taking part in the survey.

### Tendring Conservation areas - review

On the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 Cabinet agreed to formally adopt the Council's Heritage Strategy. This Strategy contained a number of actions which were envisaged to be carried out by the Council and its partners throughout the lifetime of the Strategy. One of these actions was for Officers to update the Conservation Area Appraisals which already exist.

The next five new Conservation Area Appraisals are:

- Lawford
- Great Clacton
- Brightlingsea Hall
- Great Oakley
- Kirby le Soken

The Conservation Area Appraisals contain details of why these areas are special and will help planning officers, residents and developers better understand what is important about these Conservation Areas. The Appraisals also put forward management proposals for each of the Conservation Areas which could include; changes to the boundary, recognising non-designated buildings and promoting information about each Conservation Area.

The Council is hosting a six-week public consultation which will run from **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January and will close at 5PM on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024.** There will also be a public exhibition event held in each of the settlements. Details of these events can be found below:

Conservation Area	Venue	Date & Time
Lawford	Venture Centre, Bromley Road, Lawford CO11 2JE	Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> January 2024, 15:00 – 19:00.

A paper copy of the Conservation Area Appraisal 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.

**Terry Barrett – District Councillor**

**District Report on Behalf of:**

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

**14/01/2024**

