

District Councillor Monthly Report Lawford, Manningtree & Mistley – May 2024

New chairman's 'privilege' to be elected as Tendring District Council celebrates 50th anniversary

The new chairman of Tendring District Council (TDC) says it is a "privilege" to be elected to the role as the authority marks its 50th anniversary.

Councillor Dan Casey was voted in as chairman of TDC at a meeting of the full council on Tuesday, April 30.

Councillor Casey, who had been vice-chairman for the past year, replaces outgoing chairman Gary Scott.

Councillor Scott thanked members for their support during his time in office, during which he raised money for local good causes, including the Alresford Primary School Swimming Pool Fund and Community Voluntary Service Tendring.

Councillor Casey said his chosen causes for the year could include a local animal charity, local veterans' groups, and support for people in need in Jaywick.

Speaking to fellow councillors, Councillor Casey said: "I would like to see us all work together for the good of all.

"This is something which I have seen first-hand in my own ward of Jaywick Sands since I was first elected to represent it in 2010 - and is something I believe makes us stand apart from other councils.

"It has always been a pleasure to be part of this council, everyone is so helpful from right across the council chamber, and from our excellent cadre of officers too.

"I feel privileged to have been chosen as Chairman of the council – especially to do so as we mark 50 years since Tendring District Council was formed – and I hope I can serve you all well."

Tendring District Council was formed in April 1974 following a merger of the Borough of Harwich with Brightlingsea, Clacton and Frinton and Walton Urban Districts along with Tendring Rural District Council.

Councillor Bill Davidson was elected to serve as vice-chairman for the coming year.

As well as presiding over TDC full council meetings, the chairman of the council has a ceremonial role and represents the council and district at civic events.

Get in gear for the return of the Tour de Tendring

Cyclists, skateboarders and families are gearing up for a fun biking and community event in Tendring next weekend.

The Tour de Tendring will be returning to the district's beautiful coastline and countryside on **Sunday, 19 May**.

The event will include a host of fun activities at the starting/finishing point at Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles, in Wick Lane, Dovercourt.

The Tour de Tendring, which gets underway from 8am, is organised by Bike Events and is part-funded by Tendring District Council (TDC).

Euan Scott-Batey, from Bike Events, said: "The picturesque district of Tendring offers perfect cycling country with quiet roads, low hills and views to the sea.

"With 60 or 20-mile circular routes, the Tour is an opportunity for cyclists of all abilities to enjoy a day of fully-supported cycling, with signed routes, refreshment stops and cycle mechanics on hand as they explore the beautiful countryside between the Stour and the sea."

The Essex Pedal Power team, which is planning to give out 5,000 free bikes by next year in a bid to make cycling accessible to everyone, will also be at the event alongside accessible cycling charity Wheels for All and Essex County Council's Dr Bike workshop.

There will be food and drink and exhibitions as well as an open day at Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles.

It will include a free swim for bike ride participants with a Tour de Tendring bib, gym challenges with prizes for winners and free classes can be booked by leisure centre customers in the Studio between 8.30am and 2pm.

Alongside the cycling event, Maverick Skateparks and Harwich Town Council will be hosting Skatepark Jam at Harwich and Dovercourt Skatepark, behind the leisure centre.

The skatepark jam takes place from 12noon to 4pm and will include music, demonstrations, competitions and prizes.

Mick Barry, TDC Cabinet Member for Leisure and Public Realm, said the cycling event is a great way to explore the district.

"The Tour de Tendring is not just a wonderful event, it is a great way to get active while exploring the countryside and the Essex Sunshine Coast," he said.

"We're inviting charities to join in the fun by either signing up their own teams to take part or by encouraging people to take on the challenge to fundraise for a charity close to their heart.

"There will also be a host of activities, so don't forget to bring your friends and family to come and support this fun event."

As well as the traditional start point in Harwich, it had been hoped that a new start point could also be introduced in Holland-on-Sea, but that will now not go ahead due to a low uptake of cyclists choosing the new location.

If you want to take part on your own or with family and friends, book online at www.bike-events.co.uk/tourdetendring.

Public hearing to review development plan for Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community comes to an end.
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A public hearing to review the development plan for a sustainable and vibrant new community on the Colchester and Tendring border has come to an end.

The Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community (TCBGC) is a proposed new settlement, located between Colchester, Ardleigh, Wivenhoe, and Elmstead Market.

A hearing into the Development Plan Document (DPD), which outlines the vision and policies that will guide the development of the garden community, took place at the JobServe Community Stadium, in Colchester, between Tuesday, 7 May, and Thursday, 9 May.

The hearing, known as an Examination in Public (EiP), took place to assess if the document meets local and national planning guidelines.

The DPD covers various aspects, including land use, housing, infrastructure, and community facilities.

The project has already benefitted from extensive public engagement throughout the development process, including a public consultation exercise in May and June last year.

All comments received from residents and stakeholders were submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for consideration alongside the DPD.

Councillor Mark Stephenson, Leader of Tendring District Council, said: "These hearings signify a pivotal moment in our journey to establish a once-in-a-lifetime Garden Community.

"Our goal is to create a sustainable and vibrant space, equipped with essential facilities and infrastructure, designed for future generations to proudly call home.

"With Tendring District Council's and Colchester City Council's proven track record of collaboration, the Development Plan Document (DPD) represents years of hard work and sets out the positive strategy to meet the evolving needs of our growing population over the next 30 to 40 years."

Councillor David King, Leader of Colchester City Council, said: "The hearings are a hugely helpful test of the plans for the proposed Garden Community. We seek to deliver an attractive place to live, with walkable, low traffic neighbourhoods and sense of community.

"It is by no means the conclusion of the planning process, but an important piece of the overall jigsaw that will lead us towards the realisation of this Garden Community.

"I am grateful to everyone who has already commented on and contributed to this DPD, which has already received extensive public consultation.

"We look forward to the Inspector's decision in relation to the DPD in the coming months."

Following the independent review by the Planning Inspectorate, the finalised DPD will guide future planning applications for the Garden Community.

For more information on the TCBGC project, please visit the project website:

<https://talk.tcbgardencommunity.co.uk/>

Terry Barrett – District Councillor

District Report on Behalf of:

Terry Barrett, Matthew Bensilum & Carlo Guglielmi

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