

District Councillor Monthly Report

Lawford, Manningtree & Mistley – March 2024

<p>Public's views to be sought on future of sport and leisure provision in Tendring.</p>

A consultation will be held on a draft Sports and Leisure Strategy for Tendring District Council (TDC).

The draft strategy, which sets out a **five-year approach to developing and providing sport and leisure activity in the district**, has four over-arching objectives as well as a suggested action plan to deliver against those aims.

An aspiration is included within the draft strategy to create a new state-of-the-art Active Wellbeing Centre in the district, working with partners to bring health and leisure facilities together in one place; itself acting as a hub linked to other facilities in Tendring.

The draft strategy includes a focus on community activity – helping people to be active in the areas where they live – and Cabinet set out its support for a new Community Sport and Activity Manager role to facilitate this work.

Cabinet agreed to send the draft strategy out for an **eight-week consultation** – and in particular to seek views on it from local clubs and sport governing bodies.

Mick Barry, TDC Cabinet Member for Leisure and Public Realm, said the draft strategy reflected the way people did activity now.

“The whole landscape of sport and leisure is changing, with an increased focus on people being active where they live; and for us to ensure our leisure provision remains sustainable, we must evolve to reflect that changing landscape,” Councillor Barry said.

“This includes bringing health and leisure together, which is why we are keen to explore a new Active Wellbeing Centre; and promoting community-based activity, with this work supported by a specific post.

“I am keen to hear people’s views on this suggested new approach for us to consider before we adopt a finalised strategy, while also kick-starting some of the background feasibility work to allow us to make fully-informed decisions going forward.”

Key actions within the draft strategy’s action plan include facilitating more sports events and community facilities such as play zones and multi-use games areas; opening up cycling and walking routes; and to explore providing virtual exercise classes.

Details of the consultation will be published in the coming weeks.

Council sets highlight priority actions for coming year.

Senior councillors have agreed top level areas of focus for Tendring District Council (TDC) for the next year.

Cabinet today (Tuesday, 12 March) agreed their highlight priority actions for 2024/25 – which will help the council to deliver against Our Vision, the new Corporate Plan.

Highlight priority actions agreed include improving the council's housing stock; delivering major Levelling Up-funded projects around the district and other externally-funded schemes; implementing measures from the new Climate Change Action Plan; hosting the Clacton Airshow and Tour de Tendring; and careful budgeting.

A longlist of highlight priority actions were chosen across the six themes of Our Vision, and were then finalised following a public consultation.

Mark Stephenson, TDC Leader, said that the highlight priority actions would provide a focus and a measure of success for the council.

"These priorities allow us to deliver against Our Vision; ultimately delivering for our residents and businesses in Tendring," Councillor Stephenson said.

"At a time of constrained finances and limited resources and capacity to deliver, it is vital that we prioritise in this way to ensure we continue to deliver effective services and financial sustainability."

Specific milestones to measure progress against the highlight priority actions will be agreed by the Leader; these will focus activity towards achieving each of the priorities across the year. Cabinet Members will monitor the achievements against the milestones, and this will be shared through the council's website.

Clacton Airshow planning fantastic display

Organisers of the Clacton Airshow are lining up a spectacular 2024 event.

An exciting aerial programme – as well as fun activities on the ground – is being put together by organisers Tendring District Council (TDC), working with their flight director partners.

The crowd-pleasing RAF Red Arrows are not able to attend due to display commitments in Canada, but Clacton Airshow – **taking place on 22-23 August** – will still be a fantastic event for all the family.

Ivan Henderson, TDC Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Growth, Regeneration and Tourism, said it was too early to confirm any flights yet.

"As we do each year, we have put in bids for flights to make-up our usual stellar display line-up; and we expect to announce these in the coming months," Councillor Henderson said.

"While the Red Arrows always bring a smile to the crowds when they are available, they are just one part of our regular line-up.

“Bidding for flights is a complex process, and this also frees up some budget to spend on other amazing displays, so I am certain we will have a great line-up.”

Spectators planning a trip to the free event are urged to start making plans now, especially if they want to book an overnight stay to enjoy both days of the Clacton Airshow, which comes on the Thursday and Friday before the August Bank Holiday weekend.

Flight announcements will be made in the coming months; with a hope to pay a particular nod to the 80th anniversary of D-Day which falls this year.

To keep up-to-date follow the Clacton Airshow’s social media channels – [Essex Sunshine Coast](#) on Facebook, [@ClactonAirshow](#) on X, and [@EssexSunshineCoast](#) on Instagram, as well as the event website at clactonairshow.com.

Terry Barrett – District Councillor

District Report on Behalf of:

Terry Barrett, Matthew Bensilum & Carlo Guglielmi

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