

Questions and responses from the North Community Forum

Highways

| Question | Response |
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| Can we have a monthly list e-mailed to parish clerks listing the proposed road works within the district? We use to and was very useful to notify residents | This is currently sent to those Parish Councils which have asked for it. It can be sent to additional Councils that request it. |
| Wendens potholes are being ignored? | Any potholes reported to us, or which we see as part of our routine inspections, will be repaired within 24 hours if considered necessary, or else included in programmed work. |
| Progress on Saffron Walden to Audley End cycle way? New proposals to make Wendens Road safe for cyclists and pedestrians? | There is no progress on this particular scheme. There has been no funding allocated for this proposal this financial year. Tim Olley may have some additional information regarding this request. |
| How effective are the links between parish, district and county relating to Highways funding allocation? | This will be strengthened under the Localism arrangement currently being piloted in three districts in the county. |
| When will the new pedestrian crossing in Thaxted Road, Saffron Walden be put in? | The works have been delayed due to electrical works. The scheme is with the contractor and we should have a programme date within the next couple of weeks. |
| Could the route of the 30 mph speed restrictions through Newport be increased to incorporate additional houses at the end of the village? | This would need to be considered as part of the County's forthcoming review of existing speed limits on A and B roads and would be subject to the location conforming to the revised Speed Management Strategy. |
| Need to have more money devolved to footways maintenance as there are some dangerous and narrow paths in Saffron Walden? | ECC is looking to increase spend on estate roads and footways in the coming years. |
| Heavy vehicles entering Saffron Walden on B184 during closure of the M11 as traffic diverted through Saffron Walden? | An HGV route was signed from Stumps Cross along the B1383 to avoid the southbound weight limit on the B184 Windmill Hill. This was introduced in 2004/05. The matter should be raised with Essex & Cambridgeshire Police. |
| Thaxted hold three monthly meetings with Highways which works very well. | Thank you. Glad they are assisting. |

Essex County Council

| Question | Response |
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| Co-ordination between Parish and County Councils regarding tourism, following removal of tourism from District Council? | All new tourism signs applications should initially be directed to Elli Constantatou, Tourism Marketing and PR Manager, Essex County Council, Essex Tourism, County Hall, Chelmsford CM1 1LX |
| Need to increase bus services in district. When will there be a cycle track between Saffron Walden and Audley End? Shuttle bus between Swan Meadow and Audley End is pointless as people wont pay to park and then pay to use the bus. | Review of buses being undertaken. See previous comment regarding the cycle track between Saffron Walden and Audley End. |



Police

Question

Response

CCTV what is their use and do they cut crime – what evidence here?

We don't have many systems in Uttlesford – only in our busiest three spots and obviously more sophisticated ones at the airport. I am convinced that the existence of CCTV has an impact on crime and the fear of crime. It is not always possible to afford staff to constantly monitor CCTV in our towns – after all we get about 7 crimes a day across the whole district and only a small proportion of those are committed within the covered areas. The systems are recording though and that means that if an incident happens we can go back to the system and look at what it shows. Unfortunately, we do not measure the fact that a crime has either been solved by CCTV or has contributed evidence to specific investigations though CCTV but as systems become more sophisticated we are able to get pictures more quickly to the newspapers for appeals and also around to other agencies who may know who offenders are.

Can we have 20 mile an hour speed limits in towns?

No I don't think so. And in any case it is a matter for the Highways agency. We can still deal with careless and any other driving that falls below the standard of a careful and considerate driver so 30 mph might be inappropriate at times. Having the Road Policing Unit based at Dunmow now means they are in Uttlesford towns and villages more and where speeding is on the neighbourhood action panel priority it is genuinely being dealt with. Is there a specific area of concern?

Timing of speed traps near schools to be useful must be at peak times

I have spoken to Bob Beckwith the Road Policing Unit sergeant about this and refer you to my previous answer about the increased activity. I would also like to encourage more parish councils to get involved in Community Speed Watch schemes which are also having a real impact on the speed of vehicles – he also provides some additional information. Regular stop checks and safety events have been carried out/run, whereby we speak to motorcycle riders about safe riding and riding responsibly. These events are called either 'Bike Safe' or 'Pit Stops' which have been held throughout the summer at both Leaden Roding and at Finchingfield, both of which are on the bike circuit. We will be at Finchingfield at the end of this month again with a 'Bike Safe' event.

We have dealt with speed complaints across the district. This does not include individual daily checks carried out by our officers. Additional speed/traffic enforcement checks have also been funded via the Safety Partnership with Essex County Council, which has resulted in some areas receiving a lot of additional attention.

Again, I would prefer specific areas of concern to go to the neighbourhood action panel where a plan of action can be drawn up to counter the problem using more available resources than just the police. It is time that communities took their share of the responsibility for solving these problems.

Police Continued...

Issue with increased crime in Shire Hill since the streetlights were turned off?

Statistics show that since the street lights were switched off we have not seen a rise in crime. Indeed, in Saffron Walden town it has decreased. However, where number of incidents can be demonstrated it might be possible to make a case to turn street lights back on in those areas.

The number of incidents and crimes that occur between midnight and 5 am is very small and I do not believe has been impacted upon by this initiative. I understand that the perception maybe that the light provides safety but only the town centres have this lighting generally – our officers are patrolling all areas in the night paying particular attention to industrial areas. Any areas with CCTV are exempt from the scheme so are areas of specific criminality –we do not have these.

Please remember that there was as much, if not more, crime before the part night lighting scheme. It may be that some adjustments need to be made over the time of the pilot.

Uttlesford District Council

Question

Response

Where will social housing be built when all brown field sites in Uttlesford are filled?

Redevelopment of existing built up areas is a process that can continue to provide sites for social and mixed tenure developments. Judgements about the potential rate that brown-field opportunities will come forward over the next 15 years indicate, however, that green field sites for thousands of homes will be needed. These will include 40% affordable housing, which includes an element of social housing.

Where is the evidence that “quality councils” are being given more responsibility through delegation from UDC?

The Local Strategy Partnership (Uttlesford Futures) has in conjunction with its partners prepared a Sustainable Community Strategy. The aim is to draw all agencies and local authorities together to develop initiatives that contribute towards improving the quality of life in Uttlesford.

Engagement with the voluntary sector organisations within Uttlesford Futures. How will this work?

The Chair of the CVSU is a representative on the Uttlesford Futures Board and on the Management Team. It is anticipated that both the CVSU and District Council officers will liaise with the voluntary organisations to keep them informed about Multi-Agency Community Forum Meetings and the work of Uttlesford Futures.

Social Services

What will happen to the residents who currently reside in Stanley Wilson Lodge whilst refurbishment takes place?

There are advocates and Social Workers involved and each resident and relative are involved in a review of need and assistance to source placements. We are, as far as possible, trying to relocate residents in the locality subject to availability of beds, however, some relatives live in Cambridge/Suffolk and are looking in those areas. Paperwork detailing each residents need will be given to the new homes and all residents will be assessed to ensure the correct home is sourced to manage each residents needs. Any transfers are assisted by the home with transport arranged and staff to escort residents and help to settle them in their new home. All residents will also be reviewed by Social Workers after 2 months following relocation.