

Councillor Louise Pepper

Portfolio Holder for the Environment and Green Issues; Equalities

Full Council report – 21 February 2023

District Councillor's Report

Cllr Pepper Great Dunmow Ward

Environment & Green Issues Officers update January 2023

Climate Change Staffing

Rebecca Griffiths joined the Council in mid-January as Climate Change Project Officer and joins Vicky Reed (Climate Change Lead Officer) and Sharon Cooper (coordinator) completing recruitment to the Climate Change team that will deliver our action plan and the Saffron Walden Clean Air Project.

The team will be sending the second edition of the UDC Zero Carbon Communities e-newsletter out to subscribers on 13 February.

The Zero Carbon Communities Grant Fund was launched last year with the aim of supporting community groups in Uttlesford take action on climate change.

20 bids from groups were received and these have been evaluated by a panel consisting of Cllr Louise Pepper, Cllr Caton and Cllr Pavitt and officers.

The first round of bids totalled over £200K against an available fund of £150,000 for this round. A report detailing the evaluation process and recommended outcomes will be presented to Cabinet in March and successful bids announced immediately after. A second round of funding will follow later in the new financial year.

Further information about the Zero Carbon Communities Grant is available at www.uttlesford.gov.uk/zero-carbon-communities-grant.

Or Email climatechange@uttlesford.gov.uk

Saffron Walden Clean Air Project Update



The first meeting of the Clean Air project Stakeholders has been arranged for the 24 February and will focus on bringing stakeholders up to speed on the various initiatives within the overall project plan. The project will focus on improving active travel opportunities in Saffron Walden, reducing emissions related to transport, and through education, raising awareness of the issues that contribute to poor air quality.

The project will formally launch at the end of February with a period of stakeholder engagement. Residents, businesses, and all communities will be consulted via stakeholder surveys and focus groups on their interest in bike hire schemes, zero emission deliveries and e car clubs.

A pollution awareness and active travel campaign will also commence in the town. We will be identifying active travel champions, as well as supporting town events and activities including Ride London Essex, Clean Air Day and National Bike Week.

Work has commenced on developing a supporting education and behaviour change project working with schools in Saffron Walden.

Recycling, Waste and Resources

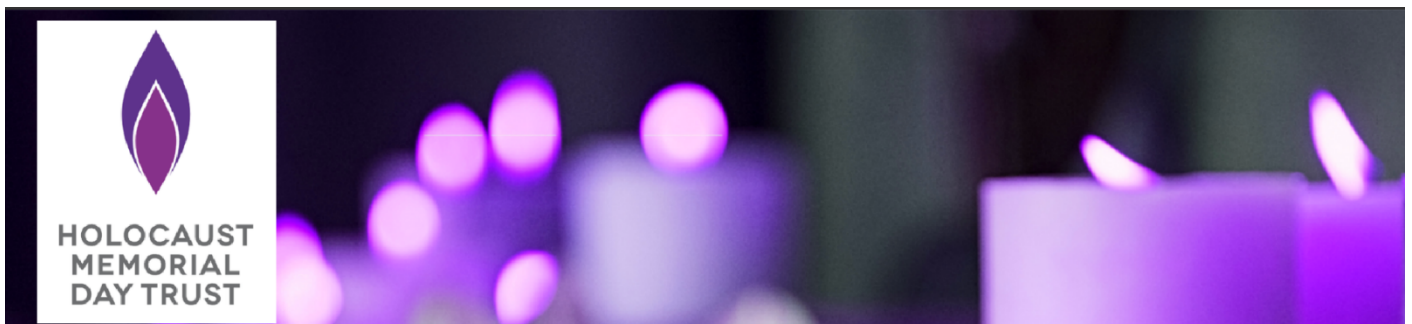
Since mid-January the Council waste and recycling crews have been unloading collections at the Braintree waste transfer station. Ahead of this change our current collection rounds were refocused and work reorganised to accommodate that major change. There have been some areas where we have needed to tweak rounds to ensure reliable collections.

Essex County Council have announced their intention to trial a booking system at all Recycling Centres for Household Waste across the County including the site at Saffron Walden. This has created some community concerns and residents are worried that a booking system could lead to increased fly tipping or further restrictions. The County will be reviewing the trial later in the year and officers will collate a response including data on fly tipped wastes.

All enquiries about the trial should be directed to Essex County Council.

Equalities update

Holocaust Memorial Day – 27th January



Equalities update – January 2023

- 4 of the 15 members of staff who signed up to the Menopause Mentors Ambassador programme have been awarded their accreditation, this was celebrated in the attached staff newsletter, the remaining Ambassadors continue to work through their learning journals.
- Community Listening Events – A meeting was held on 9th November 2022 with local secondary schools LGBTQ+ Inclusion leads and students to establish any mileage in holding an event to raise awareness around LGBTQ+ Inclusion. The students' groups and leads have been asked to consider the following questions.
 - Your involvement: Would you like to be part of an event (as a speaker or presenter) which brought students from across Uttlesford together to discuss LGBTQ+ Inclusion and what it means for you here in Uttlesford.
 - Your ideas: Do you feel it would be better to have this event in person or virtually, or even just a recorded conversation? Do you think adults (such as parents/guardians, plus school staff or youth organisation staff) should be part of the conversation?
 - Your perspective: Do you have things you want to see changed in Uttlesford? Are there any things you wish people in the community were more aware of?

A follow up email was sent w/c 23rd January to schools asking for their feedback on the proposed event.

- EqHIA – Equality Health Impact Assessment workshops are to be delivered to senior officers in the New Year, this will enable them to become critical friends to colleagues completing the EqHIA alongside any new or changes to UDC activity, a policy, strategy, procedure, project, new or change in service, initiative or other.

Session aims:

- To have an understanding of the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty
- To understand better which groups are protected from discrimination and what types of behaviour are unlawful.
- To develop an awareness of Equality Analysis as a tool for promoting equality, tackling discrimination, and fostering good relations
- To have a better understanding of the different issues and stages of the Equality Analysis process
- To develop some practical skills in how to use Equality Analysis within the organisation.

The first of 3 workshops were held on 31st January 2023 which received really good feedback from senior officers, a further 2 sessions are scheduled for 8th February and 27th March 2023.

- Essex Equality Network met on 26th January 2023, with presentations from
 - <https://the-method.com/> The Method have developed a unique interactive app to deliver engaging and memorable immersive learning programmes. The content shares real experiences, so people can understand different D,E&I issues better, and recognise how “A small change of behaviour by you, can make a big difference for others.” In just 15 minutes per day, over five days, it delivers powerful, proven results,
 - betheriot.com <https://www.betheriot.com/about>
 - The development of an Essex Equalities Hub/Centre of Excellence by the Essex Equalities & Partnerships team ECC
- Essex Faith Covenant met on the 30th of January 2023, topics covered
 - New Mult- Faith coordinator at Essex Police
 - Healthwatch Essex on their Hidden Voices Programme
<https://healthwatchessex.org.uk/get-involved/>

- Community Supermarket <https://www.essex.gov.uk/news/community-supermarket-in-jaywick-opens-doors-to-permanent-shop>
- Uttlesford Equality Duty published on the UDC website https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/media/11737/Equality-Information-and-the-Equality-Duty-2023/pdf/Equality_Information_and_the_Equality_Duty_UDC_2023.pdf?m=638059315542670000
- Holocaust Memorial Day was commemorated on the UDC website <https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/holocaust-memorial-day>

Thank you,

Cllr Pepper



One planet one race