

Chappel Parish Council. 14th December

Ward Cllr's Report

1. General

With lockdown now over, not much has changed as Essex is still in Tier 2. For most people the biggest difference will be that most shops, hair dressers, etc are now open again and meals may once again be eaten in restaurants, with suitable precautions, of course. Until I saw the latest statistics from the County Council, the infection rate was declining, but in the last fortnight rates have increased considerably in west and south Essex, but only slightly in East Essex. My hope of Essex dropping to Tier 1 at the review on 16th December have receded.

The Council has opened applications for the latest round of business grants given by government for those affected by Covid restrictions imposed when Essex entering Tier 2 and the latest lockdown.

2. Local Plan

At long last, the Inspector has formally sent the Council his proposed modifications, including the removal of West Tey. It means that the proposed yearly housing figures are approved at 920, rather than a higher figure that might have been imposed if we had to move to increases which could be proposed under new White Paper. It also means the Council can be confident it has a 5-year land supply, which safeguards us when challenged by speculative developers on appeal, as happened at Tiptree recently. Full Council will meet next month to formally adopt Part 1 of the plan. Also we can move onto the next stage, which will be the Inspection of Part 2, sometime in the Spring. This will cover industrial development land, planning policies and other housing allocations, such as land adjoining Swan Grove.

3. Highway issues

Wakes Colne PC are very concerned at the lack of progress by Highways with their requests for action, in particular a traffic survey which seems to have removed hopes of a

Zebra crossing at the crossroads. I am accompanying Cllr Anne Brown this afternoon on a visit to look at the problems. Another issue is the delay in remedying the downed finger posts at some 5 locations.

4. Flooding

Last week saw a return to flooding in the village, especially around the bridge and at Wakes Colne Mill. The speed at which this happened was worrying. I am in touch with the Environment Agency, seeking to find out whether there was a problem with control infrastructure, or purely natural forces.

I hope to attend your virtual meeting on Monday. I am happy to answer questions about these or other Council matters. Wishing you all a safe and Happy Christmas.

Peter Chillingworth

5 December 20