

County Councillor's Report – Felsted Parish Council – 15th July 2026

Cllr Kevin Mordrick

Please find below the monthly Report to the Parish Council.

100 Day Plan: first steps in reforming our county

Earlier this week, a press release was put out with regards to the new administrations 100 Day Plan, which sets out how we will begin that work. It is not an abstract vision or a distant ambition. It is a practical programme of action to get a grip on the issues that matter most to residents and to start putting Essex back on track.

For too long, the council hasn't listened to its residents, it has lost sight of what is important to people, and it has drifted away from the everyday concerns of the communities it serves. That must change. We are setting a new direction - one rooted in common sense, and a relentless focus on delivery.

In our first 100 days, we will take decisive action where it is most needed. We will get a grip on the state of our roads and tackle the pothole crisis. We will act to address the unacceptable delays facing children and families in the SEND system. We will restore pride and a sense of belonging in our communities, support our libraries, and begin to rebuild trust between residents and their council. At the same time, we will begin the hard work of putting the Council's finances on a sustainable footing — driving efficiency, rooting out waste, and ensuring every pound of taxpayers' money is spent wisely.

We will also stand up for Essex. We are clear in our opposition to the government's proposals for Local Government Reorganisation. They are costly, risky and wrong for our communities. This plan is only the beginning. Over the year ahead, we will go further - driving deeper reform of how the Council operates, strengthening services for the most vulnerable, and unlocking the full economic potential of Essex.

Change will not happen overnight. The challenges we face are real and, in some cases, long-standing. But we are clear about the direction we need to take, and we will see it through.

Through all of this, we will put Essex residents first – we will listen to their concerns, act on their priorities, and deliver the services they have every right to expect. As mentioned, this is just the start, and we shall be able to expand in more detail over the coming months ahead.

Extra Pothole Crews

Following on from last month's report, and the additional £7.5mn that was announced to be used for a Pothole emergency fund, I can provide a further update.

Extra road repair crews are now out in force across the county from last week as part of Essex County Council's drive to fix more potholes. Having declared a pothole emergency in Essex last month, the extra crews will carry out road repairs as part of the £7.5 million funding announced at the same time.

The three additional crews will join the nine already on the network tasked with fixing more potholes on the county's 5,000-mile road network. This is the equivalent distance of driving from Chelmsford to Las Vegas!

The extra repairs will be carried out alongside the council's annual resurfacing and repair programmes, which are already underway. The pothole repair programme will see crews repair what were previously considered to be "nonurgent" potholes as they were not classified as dangerous.

The programme will help fix issues quicker, improving roads and everyday journeys. The mix of new and reprioritised funding will enable the council to use a wider selection of specialised machinery, meaning extra flexibility to use the right tool for the job so that more defects can be fixed faster than before.

Hopefully, you have already seen several repairs carried out in Felsted over the past month.

Fostering Recruitment Campaign

An additional £250,000 has been allocated for a fostering recruitment campaign designed to increase the number of foster carers, improve outcomes for vulnerable children and reduce reliance on expensive external placements.

Veterans Village community to offer real help for heroes

Essex County Council has unveiled new support for armed forces community as part of its 100-Day Plan. The establishment of a dedicated housing community is being explored for ex-military personnel and their families in Essex.

More than 4,000 enlisted servicemen and women and over 50,000 military veterans live in Essex. There has been a rise in veteran homelessness nationally and there can be challenges for armed forces personnel adapting to civilian life. This can include gaining employment and securing housing.

The Essex Veterans Village would provide:

- tailored transitional and long-term housing
- on-site rehabilitation services
- community-focused hubs
- support to transition to civilian life alongside peers.

The commitment comes as part of the county council's 100-Day Plan.

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