



UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Felsted & Stebbing Ward

District Councillors Sandi Merifield & John Evans



DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT: JANUARY 2021

Cllrs Sandi Merifield and John Evans are pleased to present their Monthly Report to the Parish Council and wish you all a Happy New Year and of course a Healthy 2021.

CORONAVIRUS

We are sure that you will be following the briefings and updates from UDC as to the financial and other assistance available under different components of the Government schemes, but given its significance (and in case residents will find this reminder helpful) here is the latest link from UDC providing particulars of the help available, including as to grants/loans to businesses, including “wet pubs”, but to be noted particularly the **time limits** which are applicable at various different dates in January and February for particular applications.

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKUTTLESFORD/bulletins/2b4deb4>

We repeat, for the benefit of Residents reading this Report, that both Uttlesford District Council and Essex County Council provide up to date information as to COVID statistics and applicable restrictions/regulations as well importantly, of detailed financial and other assistance which are all accessible through focussed web pages. Individuals and Businesses are invited to subscribe to these links so as to obtain helpful information and regular updates directly themselves:

For Residents:

<https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/keepmeposted>

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/topic/support-for-residents>

Uttlesford District Council, Council Offices, London Road, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 4ER

e-mail contacts: cllmerifield@uttlesford.gov.uk and cllrevans@uttlesford.gov.uk

For Business:

<https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/6973/Get-help-for-your-business>

<https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/6642/Loans-and-grants>

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/support-for-employers-and-businesses>

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL (“UDC”)

LOCAL PLAN & POLICY MATTERS

Since our last Report, the Government has revisited the debate and consultation regarding “Housing Numbers” and “Planning Reform”, launched in August 2020, which we described in our September - December Reports.

The housing requirement for Uttlesford has, we are pleased to report been reduced substantially, and reverted to the previous formula, with the actual requirement moderated from 740 dwellings pa to 706 dwellings pa (under the proposed consultation reforms, the requirement would have amounted to 1,232 dwellings pa, so a very significant improvement for the District). These figures are based on dated (2014) household projections, as currently provided for by the Rules, but even if later (2020) projections were to be used, the requirement would be moderated only to 670 dpa. The requirement for Braintree DC, by contrast to that of UDC, has increased (using the old formula) from 776 dpa to 857 dpa, and that for Chelmsford DC reduced from 1,557 dpa to 946 dpa. This pure Governmental applied numerical approach to supply and demand does lead it seems to us to anomalies.

A new Strategic Infrastructure Delivery Group (on which John serves) has been established to review and consider all infrastructure requirements and desirables across the District in the context of the new Local Plan making exercise, which will examine not only highway requirements but also “green infrastructure”, taking into account natural resources such as water supply and drainage, as well as energy.

We continue to encourage participation by way of comment and review of the workings of the Community Stakeholder Forum. Their schedule of work may be found at:

<https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/consultation-and-the-community-stakeholder-forum>

The topic for the forum meeting on Wednesday 13 January will be discussing Transport. Consultation for all events can be reached via:

<https://uttlesford-consult.objective.co.uk/kse/folder/20790>

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STANSTED AIRPORT APPEAL

The Appeal will commence at 1000H on 12 January 2021 and will now be conducted virtually. There have in the past weeks, and even recent days, been several briefings of UDC Members by the retained barristers and Officers as to the up to date status of the evidence submitted by all parties and the issues then arising in the Appeal. The Appeal involves consideration of highly complex and technical arguments supporting the reasons why the Planning Committee refused the application by Manchester Airports Group, as the owners of the Airport, for additional taxiway capacity etc which if granted by the Inspectors would allow development beyond the current limit of 35m + passengers.

Proceedings will be broadcast however on YouTube and so the public can follow the proceedings “live”, as well as review them on recordings via:

http://stream-uk.venue-av.com/e/sai/live_stream

UDC legal representatives continue to cooperate where it is possible to do so with those appointed by SSE but there have been issues arising as to the extent to which the expert evidence from the various technical experts on noise, passenger forecasts, emissions etc. coincide. Some of these will be the subject of cross examination by the QCs appointed by MAG, UDC and SSE.

Full details of the appeal, information about the inquiry and the programme for the inquiry, core documents and inquiry documents can be found via an inquiry website

[Stansted Airport Inquiry | Helen Wilson Consultancy Limited \(hwa.uk.com\)](http://www.hwa.uk.com)

LAND EAST OF HIGHWOOD QUARRY – DUNMOW

As we advised in our last Report, LandSec, the owners of the land at Easton Park (and the promoters of Easton Park Garden Community under the previous Local Plan) have decided to apply for outline planning permission to develop up to 1,200 dwellings on the land to the east of Highwood Quarry, Dunmow i.e. to the west of Woodside Way/Tesco and North of Stortford Road/B1256. They have started an on line pre application consultation exercise on 11 January and which will run until 1st February 2021, preparatory to an application being made in February and the details are to be found at:

<http://landeasthighwoodquarry.co.uk/>

They have briefed the Planning Committee by way of pre-application advices, of their current thinking, which was attended by Sandi and John.

BULK ENERGY PURCHASE INITIATIVE

We do not think that this initiative has received wide publicity and so are including this brief mention. Essex CC has put together an initiative allowing for the collective purchase of energy and they will be

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putting it out to tender shortly to suppliers. Residents might well be interested to check if this alternative scheme would be of individual benefit to them. The details are included in this link and may well be attractive to residents who are not already locked into alternative long term supply contracts.

<https://bigcommunityswitch.co.uk/essex/landing>

GENERAL

There are still funds available from our Councillor Initiative Fund, therefore we would be very pleased to hear from any individuals or Community groups that feel we could contribute towards an activity or idea that would help residents of any age or gender.

While we are still unable to hold face to face councillor surgeries, we would be very happy to hear from any parish councillors or residents by email or phone should there be anything they think we can help with or answer any questions you may have on our report.

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Cllr John Evans

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