

SUMMER 2020



IN TOUCH

News and information from your local Conservative Team in Epping Forest



THANK YOU!

MP praises amazing local response to COVID crisis

Epping Forest MP, Dame Eleanor Laing said: "Many local organisations and individuals have made every effort to support and help others through these unprecedented times. The volunteer response has been brilliant. I am so thankful for the excellent work of our key workers across the constituency who have kept the nation running through the pandemic. As lock down eases we must stay alert, so we can control the virus and save lives."



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Leader, Cllr Chris Whitbread

DISTRICT COUNCIL IS FIT FOR THE FUTURE

EFDC has the lowest council tax in Essex

Council Leader, Chris Whitbread is confident that EFDC is in a strong position as it works towards COVID recovery. Chris said, "EFDC is an efficient and a forward looking council which is fit for the future. We have strong finances having frozen our share of tax for a decade whilst protecting front-line services. We now have the lowest council tax in Essex. The council has continued to work during the crisis without delay to essential services including bin collections."

EFDC goes above and beyond its statutory duties. For example, we fund three additional Essex Police officers and Park Guard to help keep our district safe. It also continue work on the Council House Building Programme which will deliver 300 new affordable homes by 2024 for local people who have lived in the district for at least seven years.

EFDC fund additional Essex Police Officers



EFDC will continue projects including the St Johns Road Development in Epping and the Roundhills Scheme in Waltham Abbey to bring new jobs and investment to the area.

Join the team which will take Epping Forest forward:

www.conservatives.com/join

EPPING FOREST GETS BACK TO BUSINESS

PARK LONGER FOR LESS



As part of the measures the Council is taking to help kick start the recovery of our local economy you can now park for longer for less in EFDC owned car parks. It will cost 20p for 2.5 hours. Parking in EFDC car parks has been free for key workers throughout the crisis, whilst the NEPP parking restrictions were eased during the lockdown.

£30M OF GRANTS GIVEN TO LOCAL BUSINESSES

EFDC has paid out £30 million of Government Grants to local businesses. The initial tranche of £10K/£25K grants were distributed without the need to complete an application. Thanks to a 5% uplift from the Government, EFDC is now distributing a further £1.5m of discretionary grants for those who fell outside the original scheme. EFDC has been praised for their efficiency in getting these grants out and has been recognised as the best council in Essex at doing so.

Remember to socially distance and wash your hands regularly when you are out and about!



As lock down eases, most non-essential shops and businesses have now reopened. Conservative led EFDC is supporting the safe re-opening of our high streets and urging residents to shop local to help protect jobs and help the recovery of our local economy.

The Council provided stickers to assist with social distancing. Officers have patrolled high streets to monitor and provide advice. Cafes, bars and restaurants have been encouraged to use outdoor space, including pavements, to provide customers with more room. Epping was awarded a £60K 'Safer High Streets' Government Grant to facilitate changes to help businesses trade in a COVID secure way and measures include widening pavements.

Residents can flag any concerns they have about specific locations via the Commonplace website:

www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/coronavirus/safer-spaces/commonplace



CONSERVATIVES TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

Local Conservatives are taking serious action to help tackle climate change. The County Council have established a Climate Action Commission and set aside £5m to implement its recommendations. In the meantime, the Council will plant 375,000 trees and create 40 miles of wild roadside verges. Other measures include: removing single-use plastic from the Council, replacing streetlights with LEDs, supporting residents to purchase solar panels and install more electric vehicle charging points. The District Council, amongst other things, is ensuring new council homes are eco-friendly and implementing planning policy to protect our environment.

ESSEX IS OPEN!

Schools, libraries, recycling centres and country parks re-open as lock down eases



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Libraries re-open



Tips re-open



Schools re-open

Facilities across Essex are gradually being re-opened. First to re-open in June were Essex's Country Parks. Recycling Centres are gradually re-opening with Chigwell, Waltham Abbey, Brentwood and Harlow now open. Libraries in Epping Forest re-opened in July, services offered have been adapted by Essex County Council to support safety measures and social distancing guidelines. All pupils are set to return to School by September. From June there was a phased re-opening of schools, with many Primary School Pupils returning before the summer holidays. Schools have operated throughout the crisis for children of key workers.

HIGHWAYS WORK CONTINUES DESPITE COVID

£5M extra for Highways in 2020



The County Council has put another £5 million into the Highways budget for 2020 to enable further investment in improving the condition of roads. The Highways Team have continued to work throughout the COVID crisis. You can report any local highways at: www.beta.essexhighways.org/tell-us

Local Conservatives, as requested by residents, have been pushing to improve traffic management and pedestrian safety, including addressing problems at Bell Common, and in addition to increased road re-surfacing and footway repairs, have helped implement numerous residents parking schemes.

INFORMATION AND ADVICE

CHECK YOUR SYMPTOMS

111.nhs.uk/covid-19 or call 111.

Health Guidance nhs.uk/coronavirus

GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE

Find up to date Government guidance on issues including: employment, business support, benefits and travel at: www.gov.uk/coronavirus

LOCAL SUPPORT

EFDC - COVID Helpline - 01992 564088/
www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/coronavirus

Voluntary Action - 0300 303 9988/
covidresponse@vaef.org.uk

Essex Wellbeing Service - 0300 303 9988/
www.essexwellbeingservice.co.uk

Citizens Advice - 0300 330 2107/
www.citizensadviceefd.org.uk/

OTHER USEFUL HELPLINES

Elderly People: @TheSilverlineUK - 0800 470 8090/ @Age_uk - 0800 678 1602

Mental Health: @MindCharity - 0300 123 3393

CIVIC OFFICES TO BECOME COMMUNITY HUB

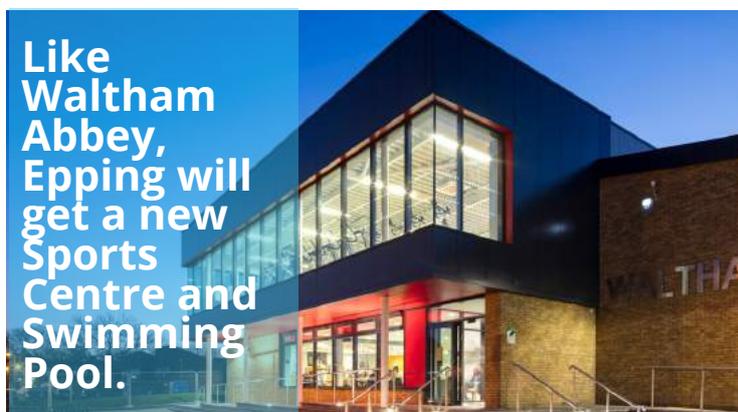
The go ahead has been given to exciting plans to redevelop the Civic Offices in Epping into a Community Hub. The investment of £5m will see **a return of £23 million over five years**, in addition, to a wider community benefit. This will enable better access to public services and bringing investment and jobs into the area.

- All EFDC staff will be brought into one building, alongside various local charities, organisations and businesses.
- The Condor Building next to the Offices will be redeveloped into much needed housing. The rent from the properties will be put back into protecting front-line services whilst keeping tax down.
- The Offices will be modernised and become more sustainable, increasing the life span of the building and decreasing maintenance costs significantly.



CONSERVATIVES INVEST IN LEISURE SERVICES

In recent years the Conservative led council has invested a significant amount of money into leisure services, including a brand new sports centre and swimming pool in Waltham Abbey.



Like Waltham Abbey, Epping will get a new Sports Centre and Swimming Pool.

Epping will also get a new leisure centre and Pool. All EFDC Sports Centres including Loughton have recently been upgraded. In June £1.5m was approved to upgrade Ongar. There has been record levels of investment in Leisure Services under the Conservatives.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

You can contact your local Conservative team by phone, email or visit our website.

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During lockdown leafleting was prohibited. However, your local Conservative team kept in touch with residents with regular digital newsletters which can be viewed on our website.