

Tendring Parish Council News.

Hopefully by the time you read this the heavy rains of January have subsided along with any mention of snow. This is always a difficult time of year for many as the cold and isolation that the winter brings takes its toll on many residents, so if you can pop in for a chat to a neighbour or friend I am sure it would be much appreciated.. However Spring is just around the corner and I have seen some catkins and some snowdrops flowering already.

This time of year starts the planning for the Scarecrow festival. The festival is now in its third year and remains a popular event for people both living in the village and neighbouring villages. The theme this year is HISTORICAL FIGURES. Please register your ideas with myself so that we do not have duplicate scarecrows if at all possible. Some of you will have realised that we have the 80th anniversary of VE day this year (May 8th). The festival will run from Friday May 2nd until Sunday 11th May. In recognition of VE day we have decided to open the Village hall for teas, coffees and also some delicious cakes on Saturday 3rd and 10th May. More details will follow nearer the event. We would be grateful for anyone who could donate cakes or serve teas/coffees and cakes to contact myself nearer the time..

An extraordinary meeting of the Council was held this month to agree the precept to be submitted to Tendring District Council. Residents will be pleased to hear that we have set our budget(precept) for next year and have agreed to maintain the residents contribution at the same level as this year. This is because we acknowledge that many of you are finding it more and more difficult to meet your financial commitments and we do not want to add to these problems. We will continue to ensure that the precept is spent wisely serving the needs of the village.

This month saw some repairs to the nest swing at Goose Green. I am sure the many children who enjoy this piece of equipment will be glad to see it continue to be in use. However, please can I remind everybody that this is for children and not adults. The nest swing is designed for children only. We have also modified the equipment to make it easier to maintain the surface on which it is built. This includes a slight extension to the mulch area and protective surrounds to the bottom of the poles.

This month the Parish Council have received few planning applications and so there is little to report for local planning matters. However, we are still pursuing the enforcement of the decision to refuse an application from Tendring Meadows Care home with regards to the metal fence around the property. The matter has been referred to the manager of the Enforcement Department and we are awaiting his decision.

Some of you will be aware of the plans for Essex County Council to debate moving from the two tier county district model to unitary local authorities. In addition, the Government has said that councils may ask to postpone their 2025 elections initially for a period of one year, but potentially for three years. There is more information available in the link below:-

https://ealc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/English_Devolution_White_Paper-December-2024.pdf

I have also received news from Travel Essex who are pleased to launch Love Your Bus Grant Fund. This initiative will provide Parish and Town Council with the opportunity to secure grants of up to £50,000 for projects aimed at increasing bus patronage and enhancing local services. Projects must

- Increase passenger numbers.
- Improve service/frequency and coverage.
- Attract new users through community engagement and marketing.

So if you have any requests please let me know by the 5th February.

The Environmental Agency plan to update its digital services in early 2025. The key one being the ability to check your long term flood risk. This can be accessed through the below link:-

<https://www.gov.uk/check-long-term-flood-risk>

Our annual flooding issue at the junction of the Little Bentley road and B1035 is back. I have reported yet again the possibility of flooding at the Little Bentley junction to the Highways agency and to Cllr Dan Land. However, the Parish Council do not have responsibility for flooding or Highways matters. Therefore, if we are to get action it will require many of you to join me in reporting the issue, attaching photos to the report seems to be the most effective way of getting

action on issues! I have reports of the issue stretching back over a year now but I feel that it is a very dangerous situation for any of us who use this road so will keep pursuing this.

Our next meetings are scheduled for

Monday 24 February

Monday 24 March

in the Village hall at 19.30-21.30

All are welcome to attend.

Jill Brattan

Chair of Tendring Parish Council.