

Updates

The **Spring Lane bridge** which has been in place for around 100 years is supposed to have commenced replacement by now but absolutely nothing has been completed by Essex County Council. The traffic regulation orders which are required to close the road have been in existence since June and run until December. However, work is yet to commence!

ECC have been asked for a new start date and are unable to tell us when it will start! We will continue to chase this up and we will update you as soon as we have more information.

Skate park

A public meeting was held at Highwoods Country Park on September 5th with local residents about the idea of putting a skate park near Turner Rise.

There was good attendance at the meeting. Dominic, Scott, Martin and Anne attended along with Highwoods Independent Councillor Gerard Oxford who has been driving the project for some years.

Residents from across Mile End who attended voiced strong concerns about the skate park being in Highwoods Country Park and they felt other locations would better serve the area. This skate park is meant to serve people from Mile End, Highwoods and St Johns.

We have listened to the valid concerns raised by local residents. We have rejected this particular site and have asked Council officers to consider the Mill Road Rugby Ground open space as being a possible area, as well as land up near the Community Stadium.

Dominic Graham said "We fully support the need for a skate park in North Colchester, but we must work with all stakeholders to find the best location that residents will be happy with. The local residents who attended the public meeting were clear that Highwoods Country Park is not the best option available. We will now therefore look at alternative sites." We will keep you updated as this progresses.

New Dog bins

We have arranged for new dog bins to be installed at the junction of Severalls Lane/Mill Road, on the footpath from Mill Road towards Severalls, next to 190 Mill Road and also in the St Michaels Church yard.

Spring Lane Flooding

Complaints have been received about the substantial flooding at the Spring Lane area where it leads from Bakers Lane to the Avenue of Remembrance roundabout. Although flooding falls under Essex County Council, we have managed to get the drainage expert from Colchester Council to set-up an onsite meeting at the location to see what can be done.

We will update you on progress as this issue does need to be urgently resolved, along with some of the other flooding issues in our area.

Food recycling

Residents should now have received their food recycling caddy which you can use to put your food waste into. These need to be put out on your day of collection weekly and you can use the rice bags provided to line the caddy. Once these rice bags run out, you can buy them cheaply from participating retailers or you can use newspaper to line the caddy. This scheme will help to further reduce the amount going to landfill.

We are also looking at some other waste policy improvements which have been suggested by Martin Goss.

Pedestrian Refuge update Tufnell Way

Good news!

Funding has now been collected from Persimmon Homes by Essex County Council for the "Pedestrian refuge" which will be built at the junction to Tufnell Way to allow for better crossing for pedestrians across what is quite a wide junction. This has been programmed in to the 2014 Highways projects list and this money cannot be spent on any other project than this crossing refuge.

Salt bins

A salt bin in Fernlea disappeared around 2 years ago and despite consistently chasing ECC for a replacement they have refused to reinstate it. No new salt bins will be provided by Essex County Council as they have decided to change the way they deliver salt. They will keep the existing bins stocked (apart from when they disappear clearly!) but nothing new will be added.

They do give Parish councils one tonne of salt so it can be left to the local community to decide how to distribute and manage the individual salt bags. However, this doesn't really help areas with no Parish Council!

If you would like to discuss these issues, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Lights out!

As reported in the local press, Essex County Council intend to switch off streetlights in Colchester between Midnight and 5.00am. The cost savings in energy for Colchester are predicted to be around 120k per annum

The big switch off is due to start around 16th November, however ECC have not yet decided which lights are essential and therefore exempt from the switch off. As a team, we have sent in our suggestions of areas in Mile End and Braiswick which we think must be left on. These include: North Station area and pedestrian bridge, Bergholt Road station walkway to New Braiswick Park

Queen Boudica School update

The Queen Boudica pathway via the Walk-in centre car park off Turner Road has now been put into the 2014 project list by Essex County Council. This is still slower than we would have liked for delivery and we hope this pathway will finally be delivered.

Sadly a child was knocked down by a car recently outside Queen Boudica school.

Queen Boudica school goes well above the call of duty when it comes to dealing with the difficult drop off and

and through Braiwick Park spine, Braiswick the road, Bergholt Road, Mile End Road, Walkway from Mile End Road to Hugh Dickson Road, Northern Approach Road development pedestrian walking from Mill Road to station via Groves Close, Northern Approach Road, Axial Way, Parts of Mill Road, Turner Road, Parts of Turner Rise and Petrolea Close. The maps have just been published and only North Station, Turner Road, part of Defoe Crescent and the Propelair Way to Bergholt Road commuter pathway will be left on. We are dismayed many of our suggestions have been ignored by ECC.

pick up facilities (or lack of them) outside the school, by ensuring staff are available to walk children into the school, the commencement of before and after school clubs and also a walking bus.

We are working with the Police, Queen Boudica School, local residents, parents and Essex County Council highways to identify the cause of the accident and look at what can be done to improve the situation outside the school and prevent similar accidents occurring in the future.

North Station junction Northern Approaches Update Turner Road resurfacing

We have noticed an increase in complaints about traffic building up at the various entry and exit points on North Station junction. We have again escalated this to Essex County Council as they control the traffic lights.

Thanks to our perseverance, we understand the traffic lights are now being checked as it appears they were only letting a few cars through at peak times, depending on what arm of the roundabout you happen to be on.

Dominic Graham said "This is probably the biggest issue facing most Mile End residents. We need to get this fixed before thousands more houses potentially get built in the near future."

The Northern Approach Road extension (known as NAR 3) is now well underway which will connect the new junction 28 A12 junction with the existing Northern Approach Road. It is good to finally see this work getting underway following a series of delays. Long-term, when the route opens in late 2014, we believe the traffic on Mill Road should reduce to a capacity that is more manageable for local residents. There will be traffic surveys carried out on Mill Road probably around 6 months after the NAR 3 opens, to see what happens to traffic levels.

Once these surveys are undertaken we will work with local residents and Essex County Council to decide on an appropriate scheme for traffic calming along Mill Road.

After a successful campaign we have finally been able to get Turner Road fully resurfaced by Essex County Council. Unfortunately, the contractors left drains blocked with building materials, so the road started to flood.

We have reported these issues, along with local residents, to Essex requesting they get these issues resolved.

we will press ECC for the work to be completed and we will update you, as usual, when we know more.

Braiswick School Update

We hope to have an update in December for local residents concerning the Primary school proposed to be built by Essex County Council on land in Braiswick, situated behind Fernlea and Apprentice Drive on New Braiswick Park (off Bergholt Road). We have already received some feedback on concerns about access to the site which have been delivered to Essex County Council whilst they consider preliminary building plans. Expressions of interest were sought from interested parties who wish to operate the school once it is built and open from September 2015 and it will be known by the end of December who the operator is. We understand a design plan for the new school will be

published in draft format in December (although this timescale is not set in stone). The public will be able to comment on the draft proposals at this informal stage. We expect the formal plan will be released in the early part of 2014 and will form part of the formal ECC consultation process and will keep you fully informed. ECC are also holding a strategic overview of the expansion of Primary school places in Colchester on November 25th at the Community Room in Apprentice Drive, CO4 5SE between 14.00 to 16.00 and 17.00 - 19.00. More info can also be found at <http://tinyurl.com/EssexCCConsultations>

Asda Litter Pick

Dominic and Martin attended the Asda litterpick which was held on 12th October. We want to thank Asda for helping to organize this local event and also to the local residents who turned up to help.

Between us we managed to litterpick Turner Road, Turner Rise and the North Station area, collecting 12 bags of litter.

Not only are these kind of events fun, they help the local community but are also a good way of getting exercise.

Please let us know if you would like to be involved in future events.

Speed Watch

The Mile End Speedwatch has successfully held a couple of sessions in Braiswick and Mill Road, with a number of drivers reported for excessive speed. We would be pleased to see more volunteers come forward to assist with this scheme, so if you can spare the odd hour each month, please do contact Martin Goss for further details.

Any problems?... Issues?... Concerns?



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Visit our website: www.mileendlibdems.org

It matters what you think...

Please take the time to let us know what you think. You can return this form to our Freepost address below.

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Help us to help you:

- I will support the Lib Dems in next year's Borough Council election
- I will display a poster for the Lib Dems at election time.
- I can deliver a few leaflets from time to time in my area.
- I would like to make a donation.
- I would like to join the party (with a donation of £12 or more). Please make cheques payable to 'Liberal Democrats.'



Please return to:

**Mile End Lib Dems, FREEPOST NAT6287,
Colchester, CO1 2BR**

We may write to you from time to time to keep you informed on issues we think you may find of interest. Please let us know if you do not wish to be contacted for this purpose.

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YOUR MILE END LIBERAL DEMOCRAT TEAM WORKING ALL YEAR ROUND

Mile End FOCUS



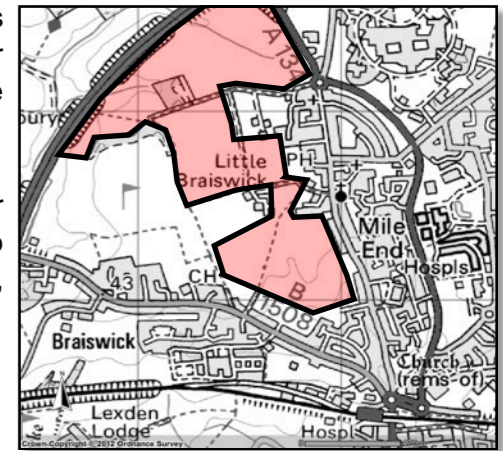
**County Councillor Anne Turrell - Councillor Scott Greenhill Winter 2013
Councillor Martin Goss - Sir Bob Russell MP - Dominic Graham**

MERSEA HOMES APPLICATION – THE NEXT STEPS

Firstly, we want to thank everyone who wrote in to object to the Mersea Homes application and also made the effort to attend the Planning meeting on September 26th.

We spoke against the application, along with other representatives from Myland Community Council where we believe we had a well researched and coherent argument against the need for this housing application. Unfortunately, the planning committee voted 8 in favour and 2 against the outline plans. We were of course very disappointed with the outcome.

The application will now be referred to Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. He will make the final decision as to whether this application goes forward to a more detailed planning application, Or whether he rejects it and calls a Public enquiry. We are making representations to him, along with Sir Bob Russell, Colchester's MP in the hope he does refer this to a public enquiry.



If this development does get the go-ahead work on the houses would commence in 2016 and completion of all houses is estimated as 2031.

We would strongly encourage residents to write to Eric Pickles MP, detailing your thoughts and reasons why he should refuse this application and call a public enquiry. **Eric Pickles MP, House of Commons, Westminster, London, SW1A 0AA, You can also email eric.pickles@communities.gsi.gov.uk**

White Lines – North Station

There is a missing white line by the traffic lights as you exit Colchester North Station which has been completely erased due to it not being repainted following maintenance to the road surface. Essex County Council has been asked to reinstate this line as drivers are not exactly aware of where to stop and end up running onto the area used by pedestrians to cross. ECC don't deem it a safety hazard and are in no hurry to repaint it. We will continue to press for this to be completed.

Braiswick Golf club pathway

We have requested via the Local Highway panel for an improved pathway surface for the pedestrian footpath which connects Braiswick and Mile End via the side of the Braiswick Golf Course. This pathway regularly floods and becomes unusable.

Severalls Housing update

Before Christmas we expect there to be an announcement from the Homes and Communities Agency in relation to the sale of the Severalls Phase 2 land. We are hopeful a commercial developer has been found for this "brownfield" site.

The Severalls Phase 2 development, if given the go-ahead, is expected to be a work-in-progress for around 10-15 years and we cannot see how two major housing developments can be supported at the same time, taking into account the current market conditions.

We will continue to voice these concerns both inside and outside the Council chamber.