

Finchingfield - Talking Notes – 24 Sept

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## County

### 1) Essex Transport Strategy - *Submitted 22 Sept*

ECC consultation re <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/essex-highways/essex-transport-strategy/> closes 22 Sept 2024

The new Essex Transport Strategy, also known as our Local Transport Plan (LTP), will provide an overarching plan, outlining our vision for transport in Essex and what we need to do to be successful.

### 2) New ECC Pothole Website "Tell Us Track it " for Highways, paths etc

<https://www.essexhighways.org/track-it#:~:text=Track%20it.%20If%20you've%20told%20us%20about%20something>

[politics] - we have asked for

**Date of first report** (included in the data available to the Public please) **new or recurring issue** (if recurring - within 5 years - so work is not billed to ECC twice)

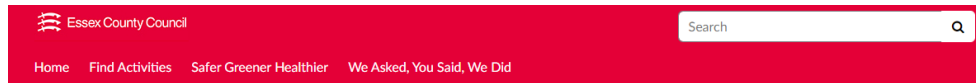
ALSO

- Add the **Local Highways Panel schemes** and status / link to agenda etc - providing much more transparency on this process.

Also

<https://essexnaturepartnership.co.uk/what-is-the-lnrs/>

### 3) ECC – Local Nature Recovery Strategy is now out and concludes 25 OCT 2024



Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) Public Consultation

Overview

Closes 25 Oct 2024  
Opened 30 Aug 2024

#### **OTHER** [Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy \(LNRS\)](#)

ECC Highways has withdrawn its plan to demolish and replace the Finchingfield Bridge

(We are awaiting the LHP review of the weight restriction on the Finchingfield Bridge & NOTE that Bardfield Bridge was struck again recently - so an area wide consideration should be given.

We note new 40mph roundel signs have been installed either side of the new Towerland's entrance on the B1053. They look very close to the entrance, so we'll see if count down signs or more road markings are added.



We continue to work to address issues with DigiGo on demand bus services.

# District - LOCAL PLAN PROCESS

Thanks to the Parishes that worked super hard to submit their comments to BDC by their deadline in mid-August. This process has now slowed by the new central Govt.

NPPF consultation response from BDC sent **24 Sept 2024** – being discussed on 16 Sept in the BDC Local Plan Sub committee

Full details of the new dates are available on-line

## WARD update

### Past

Horse Power vs Horsepower march **SUN 25 AUG** Finchingfield – 20 riders and lots of publicity for safety awareness

Finchingfield War memorial rededication **SUN 8 Sept** – well attended

Wethersfield incident Tue/Wed last week – radio silence

**HORSE POWER V HORSEPOWER**

**LOCAL HORSE RIDERS SEEK TO EDUCATE DRIVERS AND MOTORBIKERS WITH "DEAD SLOW" CAMPAIGN**

On Sunday 25th August 2024, at 11am, horse riders from Finchingfield, Wetherfield, Cornish Hall End and Great Bardfield set out into Finchingfield village to raise awareness of the British Horse Society's "DEAD SLOW" Campaign, in an effort to educate drivers and motor cyclists to slow down on the country roads. Organizer Jules Milne said "With the closure of the riding tracks on land around the villages at the end of last year there are many more horses and ponies on the local country roads. Whilst some road users drive carefully and slow or stop when passing, many of us have had near misses with cars and motorbikes opening up road blocks and seeing us too late to slow down. The roads have become so dangerous. Not all drivers understand that horses can spook (very sudden sideways or forward jumpy movement) at unexpected noises, loud engine noise and even brake in the background. We need to raise awareness of the Dead Slow Campaign so that drivers learn how to anticipate horses on country roads and how to pass a horse safely."

The British Horse Society (BHS) is proud to continue its nationwide 'Dead Slow' campaign, an initiative aimed at promoting safer driving behaviour around horses on UK roads. With over 1,500 road accidents involving horses reported in the past year, the BHS is intensifying its efforts to educate motorists and ensure the safety of both riders and horses.

The 'Dead Slow' campaign was launched in response to the rising number of road collisions involving horses, which have resulted in injuries, fatalities, and severe distress. The campaign focuses on raising awareness among drivers about how to safely share the roads with horses and riders.



**Key Campaign Messages:**

- Slow Down:** Drivers are urged to slow down to a maximum speed of 10mph when approaching a horse on the road.
- Pass Wide:** Lanes at least a car's width (2 metres) when overtaking a horse and pass from side and slow.
- Be Patient:** Horse riders may need time to move to a safer position on the road. Drivers should be patient and wait until it is safe to pass.
- Drive Quietly:** Avoid revving engines or sounding horns, which can startle horses and cause accidents.

The BHS 'Dead Slow' campaign has garnered significant support from the public, horse riders, and the wider equestrian community. The campaign includes educational materials, social media outreach, and collaboration with local authorities to ensure road safety measures are enforced.

**Heather Cliveworthy, Head of Safety at the BHS,** said, "We continue to see a worrying number of incidents involving horses on our roads. The 'Dead Slow' campaign is vital in preventing these tragedies and ensuring that both horses and riders can use the roads safely. We urge all drivers to understand the importance of passing horses with care and to follow our simple guidelines."

In addition to the ongoing campaign, the BHS has also introduced a reporting tool for riders to log any incidents on the road. This data is used to highlight hotspots and work with local councils to improve road safety in these areas.

The British Horse Society calls upon all motorists to respect the safety of horses and riders and to adhere to the 'Dead Slow' guidelines.

With the support of the public, the BHS aims to reduce the number of accidents and make the roads safer for everyone.

- Finchingfield event organizer Jules Milne, 01753501404
- For BHS media requests, interviews, or further information, please contact: Sarah Thompson Media Relations Officer British Horse Society Phone: +44 (0) 1224 507860 Email: sarah.thompson@bhs.org.uk
- The British Horse Society is the UK's largest and most influential equestrian charity, dedicated to promoting the interests of all horses and those who care for them. Through education, campaigns, and advocacy, the BHS works tirelessly to improve the lives of horses and protect their welfare.

This press release serves as a succinct reminder of the ongoing work focused to horse riders on UK roads and the crucial steps drivers can take to prevent accidents. The BHS remains committed to reducing incidents and safeguarding the equestrian community.



If I see a horse on the road then I will



10mph Be patient Pass wide Pass slow



TUE 17 Sept : 7pm : Finchingfield Village Hall : DIGI GO On Demand Bus Service

See how some digital knowhow can help...

- Make new friends
- Reconnect with old friends
- Get out more
- Get into Community stuff

**Introducing DigiGo**

Learn how DigiGo enhances accessibility and establishes essential connections to key services. Unlike conventional buses with fixed timetables, stops, and routes, DigiGo offers full flexibility to fit your schedule.

Tuesday 17 September  
7pm- 8:30pm  
Finchingfield Village Hall

[www.digigo.uk](http://www.digigo.uk)

Book, Track, Ride

SUN 15 Sept Finchingfield 3-legged race

TUE 17 Sept DigiGo Presentation plus Digital – Thanks to Ally and Bob

We teamed up with **DIGIGO** and **Digital Essex**, **NHS Social Prescribers**, **Essex Wellbeing** and **Royal Voluntary Services** – to offer advice help etc plus kit, knowhow and our community together to address the digital divide and ensure folks can engage and get around. 7pm Finchingfield Village Hall – was attended by 25 residents.

There is a big gap nationally between those eligible for and those claiming means tested benefits.

In 3 Fields Ward - Winter preparedness has identified a range of organisations that can help folks complete the forms for Attendance allowance, get Blue Badges, book hospital and health appointments and get meals and shopping – our **Essex Wellbeing Community Agents** being one.

Means-testing adds complexity and is intrusive and while a direct call with the busy folks at Department of Works and Pensions might be ok for some - many others may need specialist support from the likes of **Independent Age** to get their full entitlement.

These specialists are best introduced by our tireless **NHS Social Prescribers** as part of their wider Community support to those most in need (*of all ages*). – including helping sort emergency housing, food and other necessities we take for granted. There are also discounted Social Tariffs available to those (on JSA and UC) to help with their broadband and water which also need greater publicity.

Mark and I would like to publicly thank all those from those organisations mentioned and others that support our 3 Fields residents year round. Special thanks also go to those Community Volunteers (often supported by the **Royal Voluntary Service** that help the professional and charity teams connect with vulnerable residents so effectively, especially helping identify those unable to leave their homes. We are always looking for more local community volunteers – more to come on this in the next few weeks.

# Future

Also speak to the Bendlowes group about Winter preparedness....and help identify those that are *not* able to get to the events but could need some help – as per Finchingfield..

Horse Power vs Horsepower Shalford TBD