

COUNTY

Essex Road User Survey 11 NOV 2024

<https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/essex-highways/129be43e/>

- Green bridges
- Air Q Monitoring
- Apologies this reminder and suggested response was later than planned.

Local Highways Panel

There is no Local Highways Panel until Dec – when we hope that the Finchingfield Bridge Weight restriction will be discussed and finally implemented.

Public Bus Services

DIGIGO on-demand bus service has now operated for over 100 days since they took over the North Area - how is it going? WE DON'T KNOW! We are still awaiting confirmation of the passenger data – especially return cancellations and a face to face meeting with senior ECC Services Mgt. We have a high number of permissions to discuss resident journeys, concerns and ideas

We set-up Resident WhatsApp groups in Finch and Bard to assist folks gain digital confidence and use their smart phones to maximise the benefits of the on-demand service – (and enable good Samaritans to pick-up stranded folks).

We learnt recently that ECC is to get £12m extra to fund its bus services from central Govt.

We have also asked that the £1m over 5 years from S106 money from Towerlands development is used to bolster the North DigiGo Area and **not** a new shuttle between Towerlands and Braintree.

These will be key questions to the ECC Service Managers

[Essex County Council - Budget consultation 2025-26](#) – opened 11 NOV

Essex Devolution speculation continues but we are no nearer seeing any details – let alone what benefits / drawbacks residents can expect.

DISTRICT

Air Quality Monitoring – quick survey was undertaken to inform Local Air Quality Strategy due MAR 2025.

WARD

Great attendance at both the Finch and Bradfield Remembrance Day services – very moving.

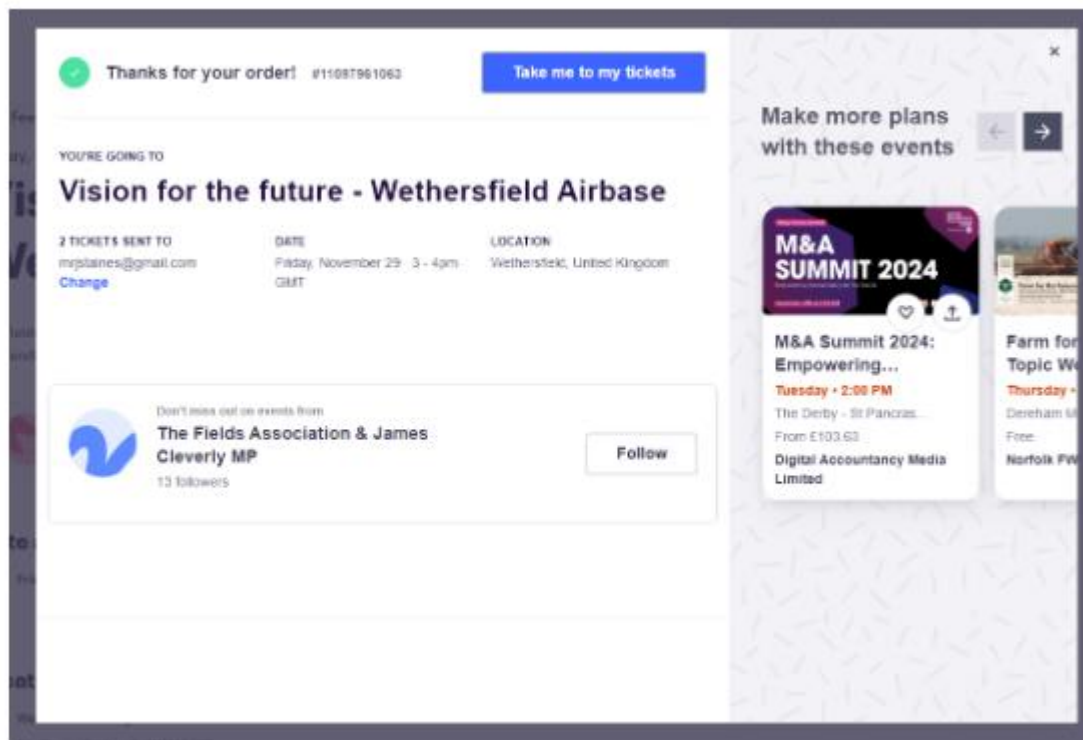
Finch Neighbourhood Plan – Public consultation concluded - another milestone met!

GtB - Great result on the Bridge Closure Works! Good Diversion and continued working hours, Lots of job's done to a high standard and finished early! Strong resident collaboration with the ECC and multiple delivery teams.

Finch - Digital Inclusion work progresses – 3 sessions have taken place on at MON 10.30am Guildhall Coffee Mornings. Now under review.

Wethersfield - Dominated by Asylum Reception Centre - going through Chancellor Reeves budget to look at upto date risk of Mega Prisons at Wethersfield.

Meeting with James Cleverly MP in Wethersfield Village Hall FRI 29 NOV 3-4pm...to discuss the Vision for the future – Wethersfield Airbase



Have repeated the ask for some of the £2.1m HO grant money held by BDC to be spent on speed management in Finch, Beasley End and Blackmore End and for Police to receive new kit to speed check at night and with smaller teams using state

of the art InfraRed TRUCAM. New noise monitoring equipment for bike education and enforcement and smart VAS signs to independently track vehicle numbers and speeds – as these relate to resident issues directly from the occupation and use of Wethersfield for Asylum reception activities.

These items were also repeated at the recent PFCC meeting at BDC members evening last week.

Reminder that BDC are working on WINTER preparedness : Warm rooms being collated by BDC – send yours to communityservices@braintree.gov.uk

As an alternative to heating the entire house BDC is looking to work with local organisations who work directly with the elderly, families and those on low incomes, **to identify a need, take bulk delivery and then distribute ELECTRIC BLANKETS this winter.**