

**Talking Notes SEPT 3 Fields – Finchingfield Tue 23 Sept 2025 @ 7.30pm**

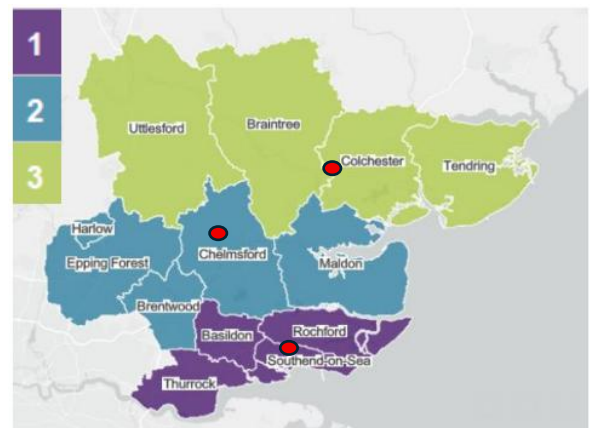
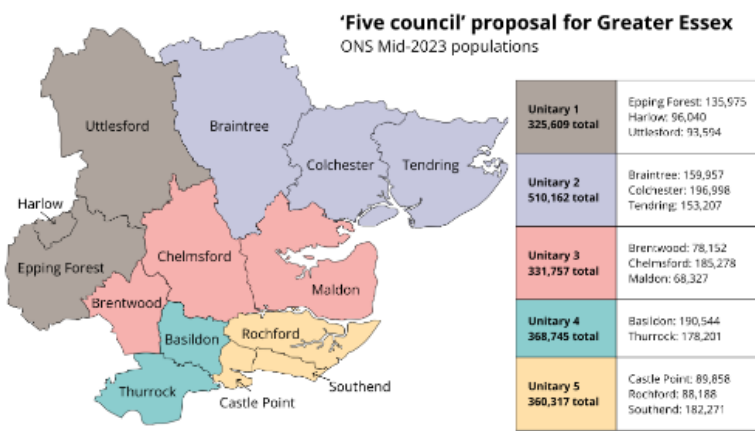
**County & District (Essex devo and LGR)**

**On Monday 15 Sept – BDC Cllrs voted for Braintree District Council to back ECC’s 3 UA proposal.**

**3UA – 28 votes** [proposed by *ECC with support of Braintree plus Epping*]

**5UA – 11 votes** [proposed by **Southend City Council** with support of *Chelmsford, Uttlesford, Colchester, Maldon plus Harlow, Tendring, Castle Point, Brentwood and Basildon*]

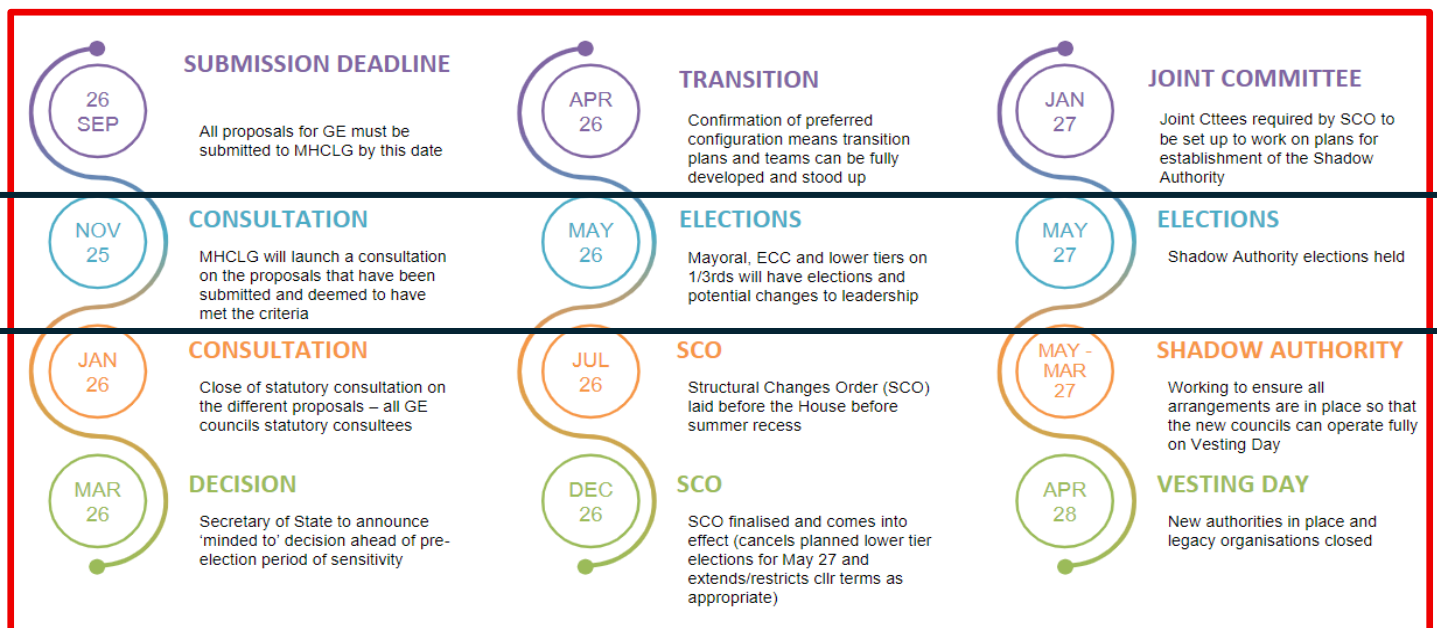
**4UA – 3 votes** [proposed by *Thurrock with support of Rochford*]




**5UA**

**3UA**

**Next Steps and public participation opportunities**



Visit [www.essexlgrhub.org](http://www.essexlgrhub.org) for details of all proposals



[About local government changes in Essex](#) [Your questions answered](#) [Proposals](#) [News](#) [Have your say](#)

## **How will UK Govt will decide which model best meets their objectives MAR 2026?**

Proposals should be for sensible economic areas with an appropriate taxbase which does not create undue advantage or disadvantage for one part of the area

Proposals should be for a sensible geography which will help to increase housing supply and meet local needs

Proposals should be supported by robust evidence and analysis and include an explanation of the outcomes it is expected to achieve, including evidence of estimated costs/benefits and local engagement

Proposals should describe clearly the single tier local government structures it is putting forward for the whole area, and explain how, if implemented, these are expected to achieve the outcomes described

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As a guiding principle new councils should aim for populations of 500,000 or more

There may be certain scenarios in which this figure does not make sense for an area, including on devolution, and this rationale should be set out in a proposal

Efficiencies should be identified to help Councils' finances and make sure that Council taxpayers are getting the best possible value for money

Proposals should set out how an area will seek to manage transition costs, including planning for future service transformation opportunities from existing budgets, including from the use of flexible capital receipts that can support authorities in taking forward transformation and invest to save projects

For areas that are in Best Value intervention and/or are in receipt of Exceptional Financial Support, proposals must additionally demonstrate how reorganisation may contribute to putting local government in the area as a whole on a firmer footing and what area-specific arrangements may be necessary to make new structures viable

In general, as with previous restructures, there is no proposal for council debt to be addressed centrally or written off as part of reorganisation. For areas where there are exceptional circumstances where there has been failure linked to capital practices, proposals should reflect the extent to which the implications of this can be managed locally, included as part of efficiencies possible through reorganisation

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Proposals should show how new structures will improve local government and service delivery, and should avoid unnecessary fragmentation of services

Opportunities to deliver public sector reform should be identified, including where they will lead to better value for money

Consideration should be given to the impacts for crucial services such as social care, children's services, SEND and homelessness and for wider public services including public safety

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It is for councils to decide how best to engage locally in a meaningful and constructive way and this engagement activity should be evidence in your proposal

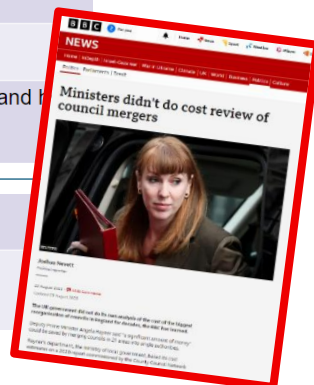
Proposals should consider issues of local identity and cultural and historic importance

Proposals should include evidence of local engagement, an explanation of the views that have been put forward and concerns will be addressed

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Proposals will need to explain plans to make sure that communities are engaged

Where there are already arrangements in place it should be explained how these will ensure strong community engagement



# Community Engagement and **NDC** Neighbourhood Delivery Committee's (3UA) also called Neighborhood Community Committees (5UA)

NC's are mandated by UK Govt and will work alongside Parish and Town Councils

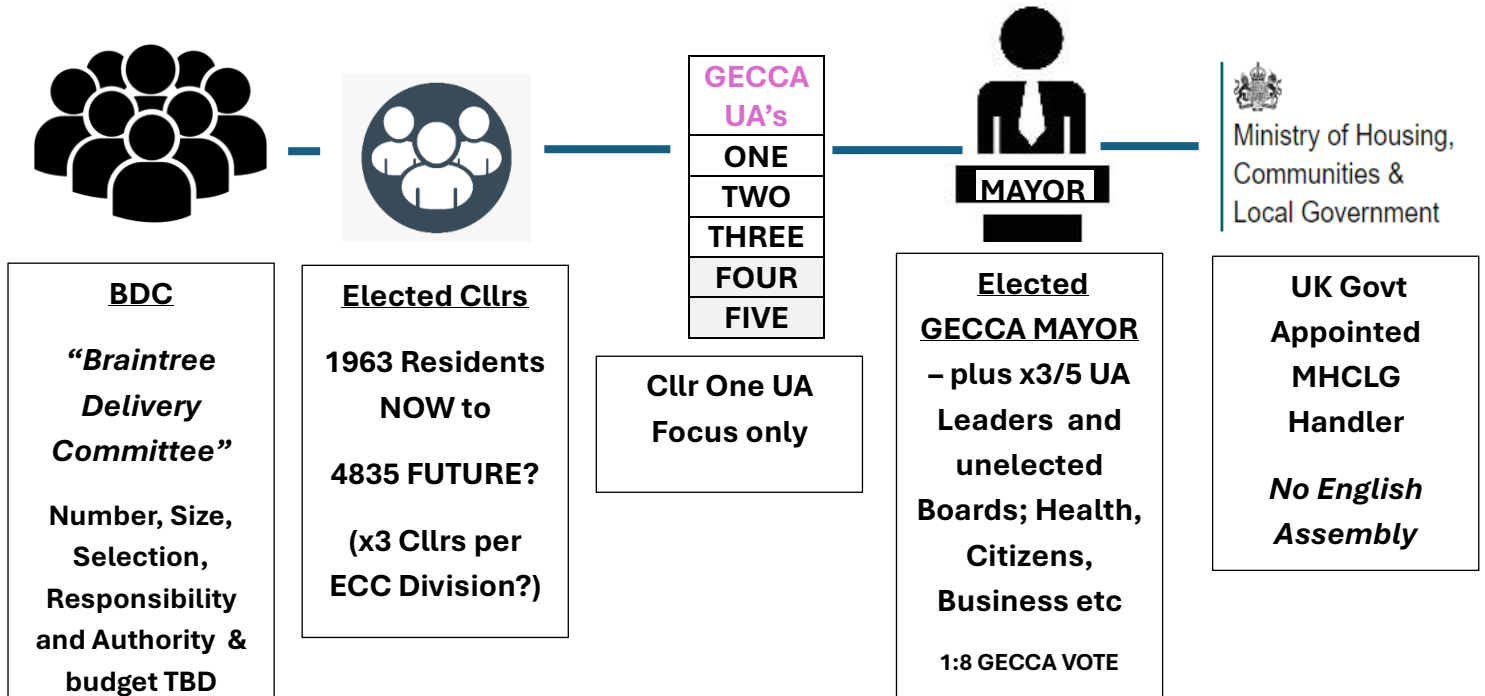


Figure 4: Indicative assets and services that could be managed and delivered at the NDC level

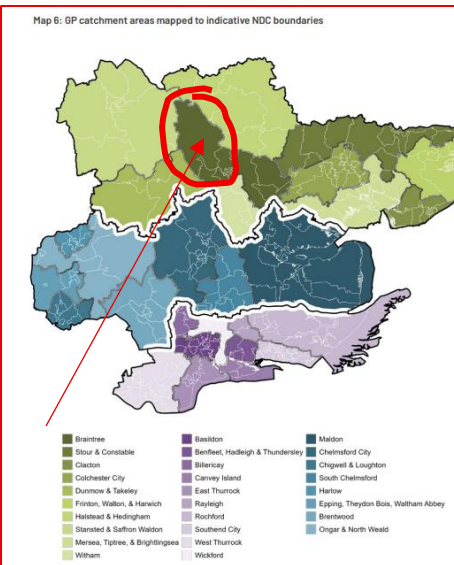
**Assets:**

- Cemeteries and church yards
- Crematoria
- Community centres
- Allotments
- Public toilets
- Local parks
- Open spaces
- Sports grounds
- Swimming pools
- Play areas
- Memorials
- Volunteering (co-ordinating, health, social care, fostering)
- Roadside verges and other small open spaces
- Leisure and arts centres

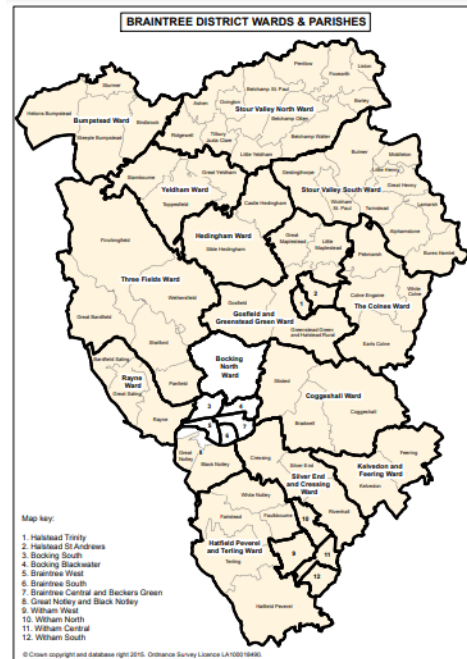
**Services:**

- Minor highways functions (e.g. minor road and footpath repairs, signage)
- Grass cutting and open space maintenance
- Fly tipping
- Street cleaning
- Abandoned vehicles
- Recycling management
- Health and wellbeing – isolation/volunteering befriending
- Libraries
- Community transport
- Community safety/ neighbourhood watch
- Footpath lighting
- Community grants
- Local tourism
- Local town economic development (e.g. job clubs)
- Local climate change initiatives
- Monitoring and enforcement of environmental health matters
- Control of markets
- Street naming
- Licensing

Although only elected members would have the right to vote in these committees, a part of their role will be convening wider partners to participate in meetings and address topics raised by local residents and businesses on key issues. As a minimum we would wish to see local NHS partners, social housing providers, local police commands, parish councils, local businesses, and the voluntary sector play a part. Although individual committees should be free to shape their own operations, we will expect all NDCs to enable members of the public to participate directly in their discussions – whether by raising local issues; asking questions of service providers; or providing local insight through membership of a local “residents’ panel”.



X28 New UC's in Essex?



## District

### Local Plan Refresh

All eyes now looking towards the BIG Sites meetings

- [24 September 2025](#) - 6:30pm (Large and strategic scale proposals (500+ homes) - Halstead and Northern Area and other associated development - inc Earls Colne, Gosfield, Halstead, Sturmer & Wethersfield). Additional report including small sites from across the district. 283 pgs issued 16 Sept - REVISIT SITES
- [1st October 2025](#) - 6:30pm (Large and strategic scale proposals (500+ homes) - Braintree and Central Area and other associated development - inc Black Notley, Bocking, Cressing, Great Notley, Rayne). 101 pgs issued 23 Sept - WOB is back!
- [6th October 2025](#) - 6.30pm (Large and strategic scale proposals (500+ homes) - Witham and Southern Area and other associated development - inc Bradwell, Coggeshall, Hatfield Peverel, Kelvedon, Rivenhall, Silver End). NO AGENDA (No Officer recommendations)
- [13th October 2025](#) - 6.30pm NO AGENDA (No Officer recommendations)
- [20th October 2025](#) - 6.30pm NO AGENDA (No Officer recommendations)
- [6th November 2025](#) - 6.30pm NO AGENDA (No Officer recommendations)

1.11. The sites to be assessed in this report relate to large sites in the northern parts of the District. These are as follows:

- EARL2125 - Colne Valley Golf Club, Earls Colne
- FINC2502 - Former RAF Wethersfield Airbase, Sculpins Lane, Wethersfield
- COLE2100 - Land east of Blue Bridge, Halstead
- GGHR2141 - Land to Southeast of Halstead
- GGHR2416 - Land East of Colchester Road, Halstead
- HASA2179 - Land North and East of Halstead
- GGHR2142 - Land West and North of Star Stile Cottages, Star Stile Road, Halstead
- GOSF2158 - Land at Aylewards Farm, Gosfield, Essex
- STUR2293 - Land south of Haverhill



Add...  
Ground contamination?  
Protect watercourses?

3.31. **Recommendation 2 – That the site FINC2502 - Former RAF Wethersfield Airbase is identified on the local plan inset map for re-development, and that the draft policy (set out below) is included in the new Local Plan.**

#### Draft Policy LPPXX – Former Airbase RAF Wethersfield

A DPD or Area Action Plan is to be produced for the former airbase at Wethersfield. The document will seek to meet the following criteria;

- To identify appropriate viable uses, locations and scale of potential development for Wethersfield Airbase
- That any development on the site minimises landscape impact.
- That any development on the site would protect and enhance sensitive historic or natural assets.
- The integration of the site into the wider countryside in order to maximise recreational opportunities.



- Wethersfield (former RAF site) **FINC 2502 24 Sept**
- Andrewsfield (Rayne & Salings) – **RAY 2241 (6k) plus SALI 2258 (0.8k) 1 Oct IS RECOMMENDED BY OFFICERS - AS A STRATEGIC GROWTH LOCATION**
- **revisits to RAY 2236 (0.1k - 0.3K) 24 Sept?**
- **Coggeshall -BRAD 2049 (10K) plus COGG 2087 (0.6K) 6 OCT ?**
- **Kelvedon – KELV 2208 (5K) KELV 2209 (0.6K) 6 OCT ?**
- **Cressing – CRES 2111 (2K) CRES 2115 (1.3K) CRES 2410 (1.6K) CRES 2411 (0.75K) 1 Oct?**

**CHALLENGE**

**Rayne**

3.65 RAYN2236 – Land to the West of Rayne (19.6ha 300 dwellings)

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3.66 This site was previously recommended for allocation by officers but rejected by the Local Plan Sub Committee due to concerns about impacts on the Flich Way and heritage assets. An alternative proposal suggested for allocation, which would include limiting development to the north of The Street is proposed. Development on this site would require appropriate consideration of nearby listed buildings, public rights of way, and avoid areas identified as being at risk of flooding. In addition, there would be an opportunity to deal with surface water drainage issues through the development management process. Impact on local services would need further consideration such as primary school provision which would occur through the Regulation 18 consultation. This area of land has not been specifically surveyed as part of the settlement fringes study as it is not a main town or key service village. As such further landscape work would be needed. Taking into account the above, a smaller section of this site north of the street is proposed for the allocation of around 100 dwellings.

3.67 **Recommendation 21 – That RAYN2236 is proposed for residential and recreational development, limited to the area North of The Street Rayne.**

LOCAL PLAN SHELF-LIFE Question.... LOCAL PLAN SHELF-LIFE Question... LOCAL PLAN SHELF-LIFE Question...









Last month, Colchester Council withdrew its interest in a potential large-scale housing development near Marks Tey.

An FOI had revealed the site had been put forward, leaving residents and campaigners highly concerned.



Both council leaders agreed on the need for **spatial planning** as the soon-to-be elected mayor of Essex would be empowered to.






 Cllrs Ault and Staines is  feeling shocked.  
Published by Michael Staines  - 33m - 









 Its back, WOB : WEST of BRAINTREE is back   
Local Plan Review - 1st Oct 2025 RAYN2241 (6K) plus SALI 2258 (0.8K)  
plus RAYN2236 (0.1-0.6K) 24 Sept 2025 meeting (after being unanimously rejected earlier in the LPSC process).

Officer recommendation 1 OCT 2025

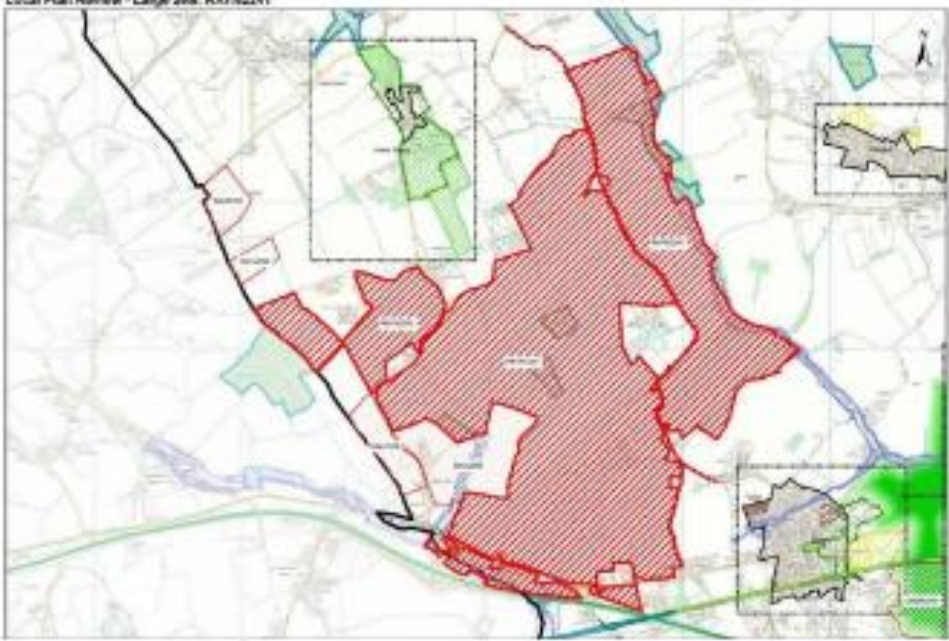
-  3.272. Recommendation 14 - RAYN2241 - Land at Andrewsfield, Braintree is allocated for development.
-  Recommendation 15 -- If RAYN2241 is allocated then it is recommended that the sections of site SALI2258 (62ha, 788 dwellings) adjacent to Blake End Craft Centre are also allocated as part of a strategic growth location.

 Why not re-read the Planning Inspectors reasons for previously finding WOB not justified or deliverable here   
<https://www.braintree.gov.uk/.../ied022-inspector-s-post...>

 What's changed since 2020... ?

-  p27 122 "Both Highways England and ECC consider that completion of the A120 dualling scheme is necessary to support the full build-out of 10,000 (now 7,000) dwellings at the West of Braintree GC23. However, partial build-out in advance of the A120 scheme could be achieved without severe detriment to the road network, when account is taken of other committed road improvements, including those to M11 junction 8, the A131 between Braintree and Chelmsford, and the A120 / B1018 junction at Braintree"
-  p29 X20 Bus - seems to be the "Rapid Transit System" (phase 1)
-  p37 Build out rates (ave 250 per year)
-  A12 and A120 - 8 JUL 2025 Transport Secretary Heidi Alexander A12 widening scheme will NOT progress (see pic) - more on RIS3 2025-2030 plans - what's in and NOT in - here   
<https://nationalhighways.co.uk/.../5-year-delivery-plan...> - what'll get into RIS4 (2030-2035 or beyond ?)
-  p39 Employment growth - even with Stansted expansion?
-  p41-48 who'll pay and who'll build? - will LA's step in if market weakens? Taxpayer impact and looming CMA (Combined Mayoral Authority) rules regarding LA's taking on additional liabilities ahead of Local Govt Reorganization.
-  p54 Conclusions on soundness...257 "West of Braintree GC is below, or at best is at the very margin of, financial viability" 260 "Even if the A120 dualling scheme has a good prospect of being delivered as part of the RIS3 programme, not to provide the necessary public transport connections from these two GCs would directly conflict with the NPPF's advice that the transport system needs to be balanced in favour of sustainable transport modes". 261 "West of Braintree GCs are not justified or deliverable"

Local Plan Review - Large Site: RAYN2241



**Finchingfield**

Thank you to Shalford PC- we had over 14 residents for our first BUG session on 11 Sept – more to follow.

# NORTH ZONE

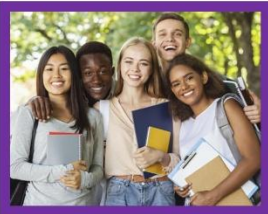


Finchingfield Gt Bardfield Panfield Rayne Salings Shalford Wethersfield

# BUS USER GROUP



Funded by Essex County Council LOVE YOUR BUS Grant



**STUDENTS**



**FAMILIES**



**OLDER RESIDENTS**



**GROUPS OF FRIENDS**  
(leaving the car at home)



**16 Chelmsford - Wethersfield**  
**#16 KonectBus**



**INDEPENDENT Cllrs Mark AULT Ann HOOKS and Michael STAINES**



**Cllrs Ault and Staines**  
Published by Michael Staines · 5h · 🌐

free cash from ECC 🏠 to fund local nature projects...  
find out more and apply here! 📄  
<https://essexnaturepartnership.com/local-nature.../>  
❤️3Fields

**Essex County Council**  
Yesterday at 11:54 · 🌐

The Essex Local Nature Partnership (LNP) has announced the launch of the LNP Community Fund 2025.

Community groups, charities, schools and other local organisations can apply for grants of £500 to £2,000 to support nature-based projects that contribute to local nature recovery and community wellbeing.

Apply today, visit the link in our bio.

**Speed checks this week: keeping our roads safer**

Speeding remains one of the leading causes of serious injuries and fatalities on our roads. It's completely understandable that residents are concerned about motorists exceeding speed limits in their communities. Speed limits exist for a reason—higher speeds reduce reaction time and increase stopping distances, making collisions more likely and more severe.

Each week, our team carries out speed enforcement checks in areas where concerns have been raised. We receive a high volume of requests from the public, and we do our best to respond to as many as possible, we're not always able to attend every location immediately. Our aim is to prioritise areas based on risk, community feedback, and available resources.

This week, we've conducted speed checks in the following areas:

- Blackmore End
- Finchingfield ←
- Wethersfield
- Maldon Road, Witham
- Rickstones Road, Witham
- Crossing Road, Witham

Highlighted resident identified speed issue from Duck End and at weekends...