

Parish Report. October 2025

Unbelievably the summer is now behind us and we are well into the autumn season. I sincerely hope that everybody enjoyed the nice weather that we all experienced.

At the County Council recent months have been dominated by the preparation of the business cases for local government reorganisation and the devolution agenda. In respect of devolution we now know that the government will publish its statutory instrument in the coming weeks which will bring into law a mayor for Greater Essex and voting for the mayoralty will take place in May 2026. At that time the mayor will oversee an interim combined authority which will consist of the three upper tier authorities, namely Essex County Council, Southend and Thurrock unitary authorities. This will operate until 2028 when the new unitary councils will take over and all of the current district, city and borough councils as well as the County Council will be abolished. In 2027 there will be elections for the new Unitaries which will operate as shadow authorities until vesting day in 2028.

I am certain that you will have seen various proposals for both the number of unitary councils and their composition in recent weeks. The government required the upper tier authorities to submit their proposal for local government reorganisation by September 26th. This proposal has been submitted which includes four separate business cases. There is a proposal supported by the County Council and a number of districts for three Unitaries, one proposal from a group of districts for five Unitaries and two cases promoting a four unitary model. Each of these business cases includes detailed financial information and all of the other the factors that the government will consider before deciding on the best option for Essex. We expect this decision early in 2026 but preparations are already underway to enable a smooth transition for all of the essential services to residents. The scale of this is almost unimaginable, services provided by the County Council account for 70% of all local government spending in the county with districts making up the remainder. Services such as adults and children's care are the most expensive, currently costing Essex County Council over £3.5 million every day of the year. Some of the financial modelling has shown that the potential tax base for some of the proposed unitaries may not be sufficient to fund items such as social care, however this is one of the aspects disputed by some district councils. One thing is absolutely certain and that is the government will not allow new authorities to set up that are not financially viable in the long term.

Before the end of this year government will decide which of these options will go out for public consultation and at the moment it is anybody's guess which ones they will select. If I was a betting man, which I'm not, I think that the Thurrock proposal for four unitary councils is likely to be one of those in the next round and it could well be the government's favourite.

I also think that the government will put the three unitary model out consultation but at the moment this is far from clear and I may be completely wrong. I have read each of the business cases which each run to a couple of hundred pages and without doubt each has its own merits. However, I personally have the view that the three unitary model will be the best for the residents of Essex.

Parish councils have been asking what devolution and local government reorganisation will mean for them. Neither Parrish no town councils were included in the government's devolution like paper and as such there are no proposed changes for this tier of local government. However I fully expect that in the fullness of time parish and town councils will be given more responsibility for local issues which would of course require sufficient funding.

Before moving on to another topic I will of course keep you appraised of any developments that occur between now and when the government announced its decision early in 2026.

One of the consequences of local government reorganisation is that the local highway panels are being wound down as there will be insufficient time to deliver any new schemes. Therefore we will not be accepting any new applications to the LHP. The Maldon panel was allocated a final budget of £300,000 for the financial year 2025 to 2026 and 2026 to 2027, it then had to decide which projects could be delivered within the life of the LHP and this was determined at an LHP meeting in June of this year. You will appreciate that £300,000 does not go very far when delivering capital highway projects however we were able to select those that the panel decided were the most urgent. Unfortunately this leaves over £1.1 million of applications in the 'schemes awaiting funding list' and regrettably it is highly unlikely that any of these projects will be delivered. I'm certain that this will be a significant disappointment too many parish councils who have had schemes in the pipeline for a long time, however it is simply not possible to fund every project that is presented to the panel. After 2028 it will be the unitary councils who are responsible for highway maintenance and I'm certain that each will develop their own system for devolving smaller capital bits to a local level. Essex County Council highways have received a significant increase in its maintenance budget which has been used for the repairs 2 potholes and other similar issues. In addition, literally thousands of drains and gulleys have been cleared over the summer which should reduce the amount of surface water flooding this winter. However, if there are still issues at a local level please report them to me as soon as possible and I will endeavour to get a solution before rain returns.

I am pleased to report that I still have some funding available for my locality fund which needs to be spent before the end of March 2026. I would therefore welcome any new applications for small projects in your area. In recent years I've managed to fund a wide variety of schemes totalling over £30,000 And it has been very nice to see some of these at first hand.

In these times it is impossible to ignore the current political climate and sadly we are witnessing extremes at both ends of the political spectrum. I'm saddened by the apparent increase in racial tensions and anti-Semitism, there is no place for this in our society. All of us are fortunate to live in a part of the country that really sees behaviour similar to that scene elsewhere but there is no doubt there are elements in society who wish to take advantage of any opportunity to cause trouble. Here in Essex we have seen violence on the streets of Epping where extremists have used the legitimate fears of local people to promote racially motivated protests. We are very lucky that parish councils maintain a very close relationship with residents and this is essential for maintaining law and order. Therefore I would encourage parish councils to be vigilant and report any potential risks to the police before we experience similar scenes on our streets.

Finally I would like to highlight a couple of elements from my cabinet portfolio at Essex County Council. The Essex film office continues to grow and several productions that were filmed in the county either soon to be released or have already hit the screens. Most recently the Apple TV series slow horses started series 5 with scenes shot in Harlow and the new TV drama the hack Features court scenes filmed in Chelmsford. The Essex library service for which I am responsible continues to grow and we are shortly to reopen significant refurbishments in Harwich and Colchester. It is now possible to borrow blood pressure metres in the libraries and the larger libraries have static blood pressure machines. These have proved to be extremely popular and many people have borrowed the machines and taken out books related to health improvement. The Essex library service is the second largest in the country and is the only one investing in new and refurbished libraries. I have also recently launched 2 new arts and culture funds which will run until 2027, details and applications can be found on the Essex County Council website. I remain as chairman of Visit Essex which serves to promote the tourism opportunities for the county. Tourism is essential so the economic prosperity of Essex and it contributes in excess of £3.5 billion to the economy. It also accounts for 11% of all jobs in Essex And this is significantly higher in some coastal areas such as Southend and Clacton. The increase in employers National Insurance and the national minimum wage has put an additional pressure on tourism and hospitality businesses, regrettably leading to an increasing number of business failures. Visit Essex provides valuable advice and marketing support for tourism businesses in the county, many of which are SME's or sole traders who did not have a larger corporate structure to support them.

I have been your county councillor for nearly nine years and it is certainly one of the most rewarding things I have been able to do in recent years. When the County Council finally closes its doors in 2028 I hope to be able to look back at the things that we have achieved together and I sincerely hope that whatever the new local government structure is in Essex that parish councils and residents continue to receive support from whoever is elected to represent them.

MFL Durham

October 2025

**Report for Tollesbury Parish Council meeting
on 4th November 2025** (report written 27th October 2025)
From Councillor Emma Stephens
Maldon District Councillor for Tollesbury (Independent)



Cllr.Emma.Stephens@Maldon.gov.uk

01621 869415 / 079 069 44443

MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Princes Road
Maldon
Essex CM9 5DL

www.maldon.gov.uk



Maldon District Council news

- ❖ **Planning committee meetings:** North Western Area 5Nov25, 3Dec25; District 26Nov25 (provisional), 25Feb25 (provisional).
- ❖ **Christmas free parking** to support local businesses and to make it easier for residents and visitors to enjoy the town centre during the festive season will be available as follows:
 - Butt Lane, White Horse Lane, Friary Fields, Promenade Park Car Park for the Town Council's 'Light Up Maldon' event, from 4pm on Thursday 27th November.
 - At Maldon's Town Centre car parks (not Promenade Park) on Thursday 4th, 11th, 18th December from 2pm, and all day on Christmas Eve.
- ❖ **Christmas Market:** The council's first-ever Christmas Market will be on Sunday 30th November from 10am to 4pm at the Promenade Park Amphitheatre. Free, festive event with stalls, food and drink, choirs and musicians, to bring the community together, and to draw residents and visitors into town to support local traders and performers. Part-funded by the UK government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
- ❖ **Amphitheatre:** The refurbished Promenade Park Amphitheatre is now open, and the Council's One Maldon District partner, Maldon and District Community Voluntary Service (CVS), is managing community use of it. Individuals and community groups can book the amphitheatre for free, for performances, shows, small events and other activities, via tinyurl.com/43z93v9r.
- ❖ **Community Mural:** A striking new mural in Promenade Park is now complete. It was funded by a street art initiative from the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex (PFCC) through the Safer Streets Fund, and delivered in partnership with the Maldon District Community Safety Fund. The mural brightens the area near the soon-to-be-built skate park. It was brought to life by Essex-based artists Brave Arts, and the design was inspired by ideas from Plume Academy students, who also had the opportunity to paint parts of it themselves.
- ❖ **Major Revamp of Promenade Park's 'Secret Garden':** Phase 2 of the project to overhaul and modernise the 'Secret Garden' area in Promenade Park is to begin in November and complete by Christmas. The Garden is at the northern end of the Park, next to the Museum. This area has already benefitted from a new inclusive play area. Phase 2 will include further inclusive and accessible play equipment, plus sensory planting. The maze will remain a central focal point. Funding is being provided through the Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

- ❖ **Replacement Skatepark gets go ahead:** The overhaul and upgrade of the Promenade Park skatepark is due to begin next week following approval by the Central Planning Committee. This is the final phase of the Council's Section 106 Youth Facilities Programme, which will see the current skatepark replaced with a larger and modern facility.



- ❖ **Highly Commended at Essex Housing Awards:** The Council is delighted to have been awarded 'Highly Commended' at the Essex Housing Awards, in the category 'Meeting Housing Need – Homelessness'. The Council's winning project was the successful refurbishment and occupation of emergency accommodation to help individuals and families facing homelessness by providing safe, secure, and adapted temporary housing whilst longer-term solutions are found. The project was funded through a mix of Section 106 contributions, Local Authority Housing Fund grants, and capital borrowing.
- ❖ **Saltmarsh Coast Walking Festival judged a huge success:** Nearly 900 people participated, enjoying 35 guided walks across the District over ten days. Highlights included:
 - Boat trips along the Chelmer & Blackwater Navigation
 - Guided tours of Northey Island with National Trust experts
 - RSPB-led walks around Wallasea Island and Tollesbury Old Hall Marshes
 - Special access to Beeleigh Abbey and Creeksea Place gardens
 - A wine tasting and vineyard walks around Purleigh
 - Maldon Ghost Walks
 - Talks on local brewing history and Maldon's lost railways

The festival received £10,000 from the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. To receive updates on next year's festival, please register at www.saltmarshcoastwalkingfestival.co.uk.

- ❖ **Heritage talks:** The Council's popular heritage talks continue with the following events:
 - 4th November 2025, Maldon: Sue Spiers, "Old St. Barnabas' Church, Mayland – a four-year excavation by Burnham u3a Archaeological Group".
 - 2nd December 2025, Bradwell-on-Sea: Tim Howson, "Historic houses in Bradwell-on-Sea".
 - 13th January, Bradwell-on-Sea: Johanna Dale: 'Bradwell and the Blackwater Estuary in the Early Middle Ages'.
 - 6th February, Tolleshunt D'Arcy: Stephen Nunn, Dr Salter of Tolleshunt D'Arcy – a larger-than-life character.
 - 3rd March, Maldon: Maria Medlycott, Recent Archaeological Discoveries in Essex.

Doors open 7pm, talk 7.30 to 9pm. Free admission, no booking needed. Full details at tinyurl.com/bp8f9mzk

- ❖ **Businesses asked to provide information:** On 1st April 2026, the Government will change the way Business Rates are calculated, so the council is asking businesses to complete a form to help ensure that next year's billing is correct. The Council will be contacting businesses in due course, but is appealing for all business ratepayers to complete a short form at www.maldon.gov.uk/businessratesreview.

- ❖ **Culture and Heritage Strategy consultation:** The council is inviting residents' input to its first Culture and Heritage Strategy, to help ensure it reflects the needs and aspirations of the entire community. The strategy aims to celebrate, support and develop the District's unique identity, preserving, promoting, and interpreting its rich history. It also aims to foster a vibrant cultural scene working with partners and enabling activities and events for everyone to enjoy.


The consultation is at www.maldon.gov.uk/cultureandheritage, and is open to everyone. The Council is keen to hear from those who may not currently take part in cultural activities to understand how the new strategy can be made more inclusive and accessible.

Development of the strategy has been part-funded by the UK government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

- ❖ **The winners of the council's 42nd Conservation and Design Awards** have been announced:

- **Building Conservation Winner:**
7&9 South Street, Tillingham
Renovation of a 17th century timber-framed, grade II listed house by owners David and Nicola Graves.
- **Nature Conservation Winner:**
'Our Wild Local Space'
The conversion of a piece of neglected and overgrown land in Maldon into 'a managed wilderness'.
- **Design Highly Commended:**
An oak-framed pergola outside the historic Purleigh Bell pub.

Full details are at tinyurl.com/yan5jmc3.





Building Conservation Winner
7&9 South Street, Tillingham



Nature Conservation Winner
Our Wild Local Space, Maldon



Design Highly Commended
The Purleigh Bell

Grants

- ❖ **'Where Quality of Life Matters' fund from Maldon District Council** – open to Parish Councils and the voluntary sector till Sunday 30th November, then – subject to funds remaining – to small businesses. tinyurl.com/3s9dnnhx
- ❖ **Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) from Essex Association of Local Councils** – open till Friday 28th November. tinyurl.com/3zbhvz2k

Other news / updates

- ❖ **Essex County Council Highways user survey:** the 2025 survey is open until 23rd November, and gives all road users the opportunity to give their views on the service and priorities: tinyurl.com/ytbf2fcv.
- ❖ **Maldon Town Council's 'Light up Maldon' event is on Thursday 27th November** from 5pm to 9pm, in Maldon High Street. The Christmas lights switch-on is at 6pm. Stalls, local traders, community groups, and charities; a craft market in the Town Hall, entertainment, Santa's Grotto, school and church choirs, Salvation Army Brass Band, and headline acts on the main stage. www.maldontowncouncil.gov.uk/christmas.
- ❖ **Police Fire & Crime Commissioner's next public meeting in the Maldon District** on Crime and Community Safety is on Thursday 6th November:

Concerned about crime and community safety in the Maldon District?

Come along to the Maldon District Public Meeting

Hosted by Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Roger Hirst

Thursday 6th November 2025

@ 7pm – 8pm

West Maldon Community Centre,
Sunbury Way, Maldon CM9 6YH



Hear from your PFCC, Essex Police, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service and Maldon Community Safety Partnership

Ask questions | Raise concerns

Your voice matters!



Free to attend | No booking required

www.essex.pfcc.police.uk

Tollesbury Parish Council
Agenda Item 7 - Planning Decisions

Agenda Item 7.1

25/00685/HOUSE Tollesbury West

Addition of window to the first-floor, insulation and cladding to the northern side elevation.

The Old Bakehouse 15 North Road Tollesbury Maldon
(UPRN - 010013997734)

Mrs Magdalen Huntington-Whiteley

APPROVE subject to the following conditions:-

1 **CONDITION**

The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission.

REASON

To comply with Section 91(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

2 **CONDITION**

The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans as stated on the Decision Notice.

REASON

To ensure that the development is carried out in accordance with the details as approved.

3 **CONDITION**

The materials used in the construction of the development hereby approved shall be as set out within the application form/plans hereby approved.

REASON

In the interest of the character and appearance of the area in accordance with policy D1 of the approved Local Development Plan and guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework and the Maldon District Design Guide.

POSITIVE AND PROACTIVE STATEMENT

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Positive and Proactive Statement:

The Local Planning Authority has acted positively and proactively in determining this application by assessing the proposal against all material considerations, including planning policies and any representations that may have been received and subsequently determining to grant planning permission in accordance with the presumption in favour of sustainable development, as set out within the National Planning Policy Framework.

Officer: Charlie Mumford
Dated : 07/10/2025

Agenda Item 7.2

25/00734/NMA Tollesbury West

Application for non-material amendment following grant of Planning Permission 24/00264/FUL (Demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings, and the erection of a pair of semi-detached houses and a pair of detached single storey dwellings)

Amendment sought: Badgers sett closure.

19 North Road Tollesbury Maldon Essex

(UPRN - 100090562889)

Mr S. Lewington

APPROVED

Officer: Matt Bailey
Dated : 07/10/2025



15 October 2025

Reference: 25/00466/HOUSE
Planning Officer: Charlie Mumford

For your information

Dear Sir/Madam

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
APPEAL UNDER SECTION 78**

Site Address: Mount Ash 1 Mell Road Tollesbury Maldon
Proposal: Part two storey, part single storey side/rear extension
Application Ref: 25/00466/HOUSE PP-13882081
Appellants Name: Mr John Barticel
Appeal Ref: APP/X1545/D/25/3373404
Appeal Start Date: 8 October 2025

I refer to the above details. An appeal has been made to the Secretary of State against the Council's decision to refuse to grant planning permission.

The appeal will be determined on the basis of **written representations**. The procedure to be followed is set out in Part 2 of The Town and Country Planning (Appeals) (Written Representations Procedure) (England) Regulations 2009, as amended.

We have forwarded all the representations made to us on the application to the Planning Inspectorate and the appellant. These will be considered by the Inspector when determining the appeal.

If you wish to withdraw any representations you made on the application, you must make this request to the Planning Inspectorate. You can do this by emailing east1@planninginspectorate.gov.uk. If you do not have access to the internet, you can write (quoting the appeal reference) to:

Rachel Martin
The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

All representations must be received by 12 November 2025. Any representations submitted after the deadline will not usually be considered and will be returned. The Planning Inspectorate does not acknowledge representations. **All representations must quote the appeal reference.**

The appeal documents are available to view on our website www.maldon.gov.uk.

Guidance on taking part in planning appeals is available from
<https://www.gov.uk/topic/planning-development/planning-permission-appeals>

When made, the decision will be published on the Planning Inspectorate website
<https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>.

Yours faithfully



Michael Johnson
Head of Development Management and Building Control

Community Engagement Tollesbury

[View in Power BI](#) ↗





TOLLESBURY
PARISH
COUNCIL

Other Patrols

Tollesbury Parish Council

Filter Date

01/09/2025



29/09/2025



Hours Patrolled

3.00

Sites Visited

Site	Occurence
On-Street	3
Recreation Ground	4
Station Road	1
War Memorial	1
Woodup Pool	2
Total	11

Number of Patrols

4

FPN's Issued

0

VMO's

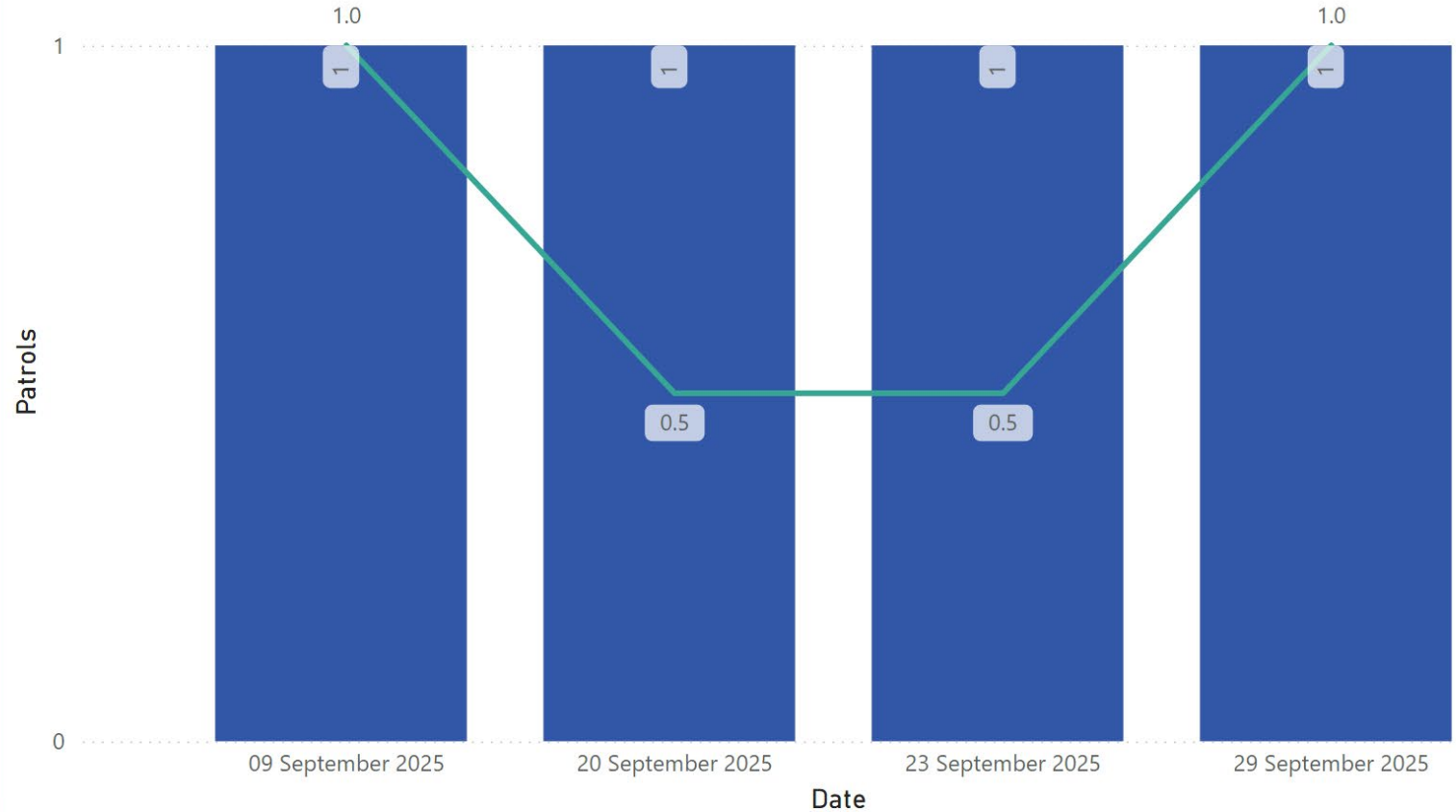
2

PCN's Issued

6

Patrol Time

PM Hours Patrolled





Speed Patrol Detail

Dates filter effects this visual

Summary of patrol	Start	Date	Duration of patrol (mins)
Patrol of playing fields and visual check of play site; no issues seen at the time of check.	04:15 PM	09 September 2025	60
Patrol of Station Road; some signs of recent fouling but not much			
Patrol of village, check on saltpool car parking.	01:00 PM	20 September 2025	30
Patrol of village, all appeared ok.	04:30 PM	23 September 2025	30
Walked rec area, checked for dog fouling, spoke to dog walkers. Checked parking lines	02:45 PM	29 September 2025	60