

### **YOUR THOUGHTS AS LOCKDOWN IS LIFTED – Closes 16<sup>th</sup> May**



Essex County Council

Essex County Council and Provide CIC are interested in how our residents, particularly those who have been classed as clinically extremely vulnerable, feel about re-entering the world and how best we can support their transition and wellbeing. Your feedback and insight will help inform our strategy and allocation of resources in supporting our residents as the country comes out of lockdown. To take part please [click here](#).

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN SUPPORT PROGRAMME – Closes 17<sup>th</sup> May**



The 2021/22 Neighbourhood Plan Support Programme is now open for applications.

<https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/apply/>

The Basic Grant, Additional Grant, Affordable Housing for Sale Grant and Technical Support Packages are all still available as last year.

In addition there is a new £15,000 stream of funding for High Streets and Social Infrastructure Support <https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/high-streets-social-infrastructure-support/> first come first served with a closing date of 17 May for applications.

### **CONTAIN OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT FUND – Closes 30<sup>th</sup> June**



Essex County Council received funding from the Department of Health & Social Care's (DHSC) Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF). This financial aid is designed to support costs associated with ongoing public health and outbreak management costs of tackling Covid-19. Throughout

the pandemic, local communities have stepped up to provide support which has ensured communities remain connected, able to self-isolate as required and provided with first-line, self-organised community support for those in need. Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) is managing the allocation of this funding; the application window is open until Wednesday 30th June. For full details please [click here](#).

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TOOLKIT**



Do you have an amazing idea for a project or service that could transform the lives of people in your community?

Whether it be a Neighbourhood Plan, or another community project, you need to make sure your ideas truly reflect local wants and needs. Community engagement is essential for such projects to be successful. This [new toolkit](#) by Locality explains the various traditional and digital community engagement tools and techniques available to you, providing an overview of how they work and when best to use them with case studies from across the country.

## VILLAGE HALLS UPDATE



ACRE has issued a revised Information Sheet v10 for the re-opening of Village & Community Halls post Covid 19 closure which has been distributed to members and is available from the [RCCE website](#). This gives guidance to trustees and hirers for the safe use of community halls in the next stage of the Government Roadmap on 17<sup>th</sup> May. There is also an updated version of Appendix D which lists activities at a hall and when these can resume.

## ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL (ECC) SEEKS INFORMATION ON HOW COVID-19 HAS IMPACTED YOUR EMPLOYMENT

ECC want to understand how your employment has been impacted by Covid-19 and what support might help in the future. To find out more please [click here](#). The survey gives you the option to volunteer for an online interview or focus group. If you are selected to take part, we will give you a £10 supermarket voucher as a thank you. If you have any questions, contact [research@essex.gov.uk](mailto:research@essex.gov.uk).



## A NEW VIRTUAL HIGH STREET SERVICE LAUNCHES IN ESSEX



A new virtual high street service that aims to support independent shops during the pandemic has launched in Essex. From April, residents can use [Click It Local Essex](#), enabling them to buy from any participating local shop and have it delivered on the same day.

The scheme, announced in partnership with Essex District Councils, will be rolled out across multiple towns and villages over the next few weeks including in Brentwood, Epping Forest, Colchester, Chelmsford, Braintree, Uttlesford, Maldon, Tendring and Rochford.

From weekly food essentials, gifts and treats to last-minute basics, customers can buy everything they need from as many participating shops as they like, with one payment and one delivery.

Help spread the word and support the local businesses you love by recommending your favourite local businesses or if you are a business interested in signing up with Click it Local contact [hello@clickitlocal.co.uk](mailto:hello@clickitlocal.co.uk)

## SPORT ENGLAND RETURN TO PLAY FUNDS



Sport England is offering a number of funding streams, providing both capital and revenue funding, to help support a safe return to sport and recreation after the pandemic. It is keen to promote them to rural areas.

For more information on what is available go

to: [www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/our-funds](http://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/our-funds).

**Please Note:** Our office still remains closed until further notice, and our staff are working from home and can be contacted by email. General enquiries can be sent to [enquiries@essexrcc.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@essexrcc.org.uk). Our phone is being monitored and will be answered during normal office hours.