



Ashington Parish Council

NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2024

County council helps Essex homeowners upgrade heating ahead of cold winter months

Homeowners are being supported to save money with more efficient heating as Summer draws to a close

RESIDENTS across Essex can [register their interest](#) in making their home's heating more efficient and eco-friendly with exclusive pricing through Switch Together.

Switch Together is delivered by iChoosr, the organisation behind the successful Solar Together Essex programme, in partnership with Essex County Council. Switch Together offers Essex homeowners professional and competitively priced air source heat pump installations from reputable and trusted installers.

Air source heat pumps can cut carbon emissions by 44% per year, according to the Energy Saving Trust, with efficiency ratings typically reaching 300%. While saving on energy bills in the long run, air source heat pumps can come with a high upfront cost, which Switch Together is able to reduce through group-buying. Group-buying simplifies the transition to air source heat pumps, making them more accessible with exclusive pricing along with help and support when deciding to switch.

The process involves:

Essex homeowners can register their interest for free and without obligation at switchtogether.com/essex by 1 November 2024. Switch Together can then access a list of vetted installers, which compete by bidding to work with local residents, offering their most competitive price without compromising on quality.

Those who have registered receive a personal offer via email detailing all costs and specifications tailored to their home, with no obligation to proceed. Homeowners can review the offer at their own pace and if they choose to

proceed, the installer will schedule a survey and complete the installation.

Telephone and email help desks are available throughout the process, allowing households to make an informed decision in a hassle-free environment.

Air source heat pumps deliver highly efficient heating and hot water. Essex homeowners can significantly reduce their carbon footprint and contribute towards a more sustainable and environmentally friendly community by making the switch.

Councillor Peter Schwier, Climate Czar and Cabinet Member for Environment, Waste Reduction and Recycling, said: "Household heating accounts for about 14% of the country's CO2 emissions. Considering how energy bills have risen, it is in everyone's interest that modern and efficient air source heat pumps are made more accessible to Essex homeowners."

"Essex County Council is delighted to be working with iChoosr on the Switch Together initiative. Reducing the county's carbon emissions is vital to our net-zero ambitions, as set out by our Essex Climate Action Commission, and improving the quality of life of all residents."

Essex residents may qualify for further savings through a £7,500 grant from the government's Boiler Upgrade Scheme towards a new heat pump installation. Heat pump installations are also currently VAT-exempt.

Homeowners can visit switchtogether.com/heat-pump by 1 November 2024 to register for the scheme and find out more information.



Parish Clerk Kathleen Parkin

NEW ASHINGDON PARISH COUNCIL CLERK

I have been serving as Ashington Parish Clerk since April of this year, bringing with me a wealth of experience from my 16-year tenure with Essex Libraries. During that time, I managed and oversaw four libraries, supervising around 30 staff members, including dedicated volunteers. I've lived in Rochford the majority of my life, where I'm happily married. We have two children, our son, who is married and gave us our first grandchild two years ago, with another on the way in the New Year, and our daughter, who has been exploring life in Australia for the past two years.

In my personal life, my husband and I enjoy the freedom of the open road, making the most of our touring caravan to escape whenever we can.

Although there is still much to learn in my current role, I relish the challenges it brings and am excited to continue growing in this position.



DO YOU LIVE IN SOUTH FAMBRIDGE?

DO you love the village you live in and take pride in where you live? If so would you consider being a Parish Councillor representing South Fambridge?

It is important that all areas of the parish have a representative on Ashingdon Parish Council, unfortunately the previous councillor has resigned due to work commitments, do you have a little spare time to represent the residents of South Fambridge? If so please contact our clerk on 07950 547731.



YOU probably pass it most days and park in the car park when using the local shops, do you give it a second glance?

Your village hall is being transformed. The small group of volunteer Trustees who took over the hall in 2021 are working hard to improve it. The hall was built in 1967 and has had little improvement since then.

The hall relies on hirers for its revenue and grants from Parish Councils, everyday costs are £2k per month. Would you consider hiring the hall for your family celebrations or as a venue for your organisation or group activity?

The kitchen which was unusable has now been refurbished, rotten windows and fascias replaced, the main hall redecorated and future improvements are planned. It has a sprung maple floor and the dance groups love it. The hall is a asset and community hub and must be preserved. The hall is not owned or financed by the local council it was left in trust to the residents of the Parish's so the community must support it or lose it. Visit our web site: www.ashingdonmemorialhall.uk and see what activities there are. The Trustees cannot do it just on their own we need volunteers and generous tradesmen to offer help and advice with the work, the hall roof is leaking in places and really needs replacing but the cost is frightening. If you can help or want more information ring 07307 692889.

Protected by the Community for the Community

If you don't use it we could lose it!



Cllr. David Catchpole
Chairman

CHAIRMAN'S NEWS

WELCOME to our December edition. At long last we have appointed a new Parish Clerk Kathleen Parkin and I offer her the warmest welcome to the Council. Kathleen is a local girl so she knows the parish pretty well. She works within our Parish Room in the Memorial Park from Monday to Thursday mornings. If you have any issues you can always pop your head in the door and speak to her directly.

Unfortunately we have lost two councilors from the council recently and we had a long term vacancy so if you have just a little spare time and would like to work on behalf of the residents why not consider becoming a parish councillor. You will be very welcome. Give our Clerk a ring and she will provide you with the information on how to apply.



England Coastal Path

ESSEX SECTION NOW OPEN



HALFa million people in Essex are set to benefit from increased access to the coast as Natural England opens 85 miles of the England Coast Path today (13th July).

This new section of path, spans from Tilbury to Wallasea Island, via Southend-on-Sea and takes in varied landscapes of saltmarsh and vast grasslands. Now 50% of the Essex coastline - 150 miles in all – is accessible via the England Coast Path (ECP) which will provide more people with better opportunities to spend time outdoors and realise the health benefits of being in nature.

The newly opened trail will also provide an economic boost to the area – it's estimated that £350 million is spent during trips to coastal paths supporting local people and businesses. It is hoped path will encourage a surge in visitor numbers which will benefit coastal communities along the route.

Highlights of the stretch include:

Varied views from the towering ships at Tilbury to industrial landscapes, quiet marshes and glimpses of the Hoo Peninsula in Kent

Canvey Island where nature has reclaimed industry as you walk past an oil terminal where construction was abandoned in the 1970's oil crisis. The 7 square mile island includes diverse grassland habitats and is home to weevils (*Sitona cinerascens*), a ground beetle (*Scybalicus oblongiusculus*) and a moth (*Hecatera dysodea*) which were previously recorded as extinct in Britain.

Nature lovers can enjoy the RSPB Nature Reserve at Wallasea Island constructed using materials from the Crossrail project. Deliberate holes have been placed in the seawalls to let in the tides with dense flocks of birds providing an autumn and spring spectacle for visitors

Two Tree Island Nature Reserve adjacent to the historic ruins of Hadleigh Castle which is renowned for its flocks of small waders and larger brent geese.

Southend-on-Sea which is home to the longest seaside pier in England, amusements and blue flag beaches
The former artillery forts at Tilbury are now connected by the ECP, allowing visitors to traverse between each historic site

ROCHFORD OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE CENTRE

The Old People's Welfare Centre in Back Lane, Rochford, is a registered charity providing warm meals and companionship for the elderly from all over the Rochford district including Canewdon, Hockley, Hawkwell, and Ashingdon on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. From the large kitchen between 20 and 40 tasty meals are provided on these days for a price of £5.50, and for a further £1.50 people can be offered a

lift there and back in the Centre's minibus. The Centre is run entirely by volunteers and more help is seriously needed in the kitchen and with the minibus – both driving and maintenance. If you would like to become involved and feel you have an hour or two to spare on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday, please phone Kay on 07779 432699 or Myra on 01 702 207764 and have a chat.



HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL RESIDENTS

Your parish council wishes to convey our best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous and Healthy New Year

FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS



Monday 2nd December

Monday 6th January 2025

Monday 3rd February 2025

Monday 3rd March 2025

Monday 7th April 2025

Monday 12th May 2025



CONTACT THE CLERK ON 07950 947731 FOR MEETING DETAILS

CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

Ashingdon & East Hawkwell Memorial Hall bookings **07307 692889**

St Andrews Church Hall bookings – Julie Goodge **01702 205918**

Neighbourhood Police **101**

1st Ashingdon Scout Group (St Andrews)

Group Scout Leader - John Blundell **01702 545666**

Cubs – Tracey Knight **07979 232322**

Brownies – Hilary Skeggs **01702 291131**

County Councillors

Laureen Shaw **01702 540398**

District Councillors

Mike Carter **07958 707070**

Danielle Belton **07824 594987**

Roger Constable **01702 548834**

Parish Councillors

David Catchpole (Ashingdon ward) **01702 544516**

Debbie Constable (Ashingdon ward) **01702 548834**

Sean Chittenden (Ashingdon ward) **01702 543704**

Pat Hennessy (Ashingdon West) **01702 205060**

David Reed (Ashingdon West) **01702 622953**

Glen Dryhurst (Ashingdon ward) **01702 543380**

Dan McCarthy (Ashingdon Heights ward) **01702 530870**

Sue Osborne (Ashingdon ward) **01702 544871**

Clerk to Ashingdon Parish Council

Contact details:

ashingdonparishcouncil@outlook.com **07950 947731**

All contacts correct at time of printing

Rochford District Council

Council Offices, South Street,
Rochford, Essex, SS4 1BW

Essex County Council

County Hall, Market Road,
Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1QH

Ashingdon and East Hawkwell Memorial Hall

Ashingdon Road, Rochford,
Essex SS4 3HF

Telephone 07307 692889

www.ashingdonmemorialhall.uk

ASHINGDON PARISH COUNCIL WEB SITE

Take a look at:

www.ashingdonparishcouncil.gov.uk

PLANNING

All planning applications are now dealt with during our regular monthly council meetings at The Parish Room, Ashingdon Memorial Park, Cricket Pavilion. Members of the public are welcome to attend along with any other interested parties. Meetings normally start at 7.30 p.m. On the first Monday of the month except Bank Holidays and August..

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF BECOMING A PARISH COUNCILLOR?

There is currently three vacant seats on the Parish Council. If you are interested in becoming a member of Ashingdon Parish Council please speak to our clerk, details below, or come along to one of our meetings which are held on the 1st Monday of each month (August no meeting) at 7.30 p.m. **Contact the Clerk on 07950 947731**