

APRIL 2020

# IN TOUCH



A DIGITAL NEWSLETTER FROM  
EPPING FOREST CONSERVATIVES

## CORONAVIRUS

FIND ADVICE AND OFFER HELP

### GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE

Find up to date Government guidance on a wide range of issues including on: protecting yourself and others, employment and business support, benefits and travel at: [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

### HEALTH GUIDANCE

If you are exhibiting symptoms of Coronavirus (a temperature and dry cough) DO NOT visit a GP or hospital. You should self isolate immediately and call **111**.

### LOCAL SUPPORT

Epping Forest District Council have a COVID-19 hotline to answer any questions and sign post you in the right direction. Call **01992 564088** or for frequently asked questions visit: [eppingforestdc.gov.uk/coronavirus/](http://eppingforestdc.gov.uk/coronavirus/) To find and access support you can contact Essex Welfare Service on **0300 303988** or email [provide.essexwelfareservice@nhs.net](mailto:provide.essexwelfareservice@nhs.net)

### VOLUNTEERING

You can volunteer to help in Essex through: [facebook.com/essexcoronavirusteam](https://www.facebook.com/essexcoronavirusteam) or contact Voluntary Action Epping Forest via [covidresponse@vaef.org.uk](mailto:covidresponse@vaef.org.uk)

You can also sign up to be an NHS Volunteer at [www.goodsam.org/NHS](http://www.goodsam.org/NHS), roles include calling people in self isolation, delivering medicine or doing shopping for people in self isolation.

## LOCAL COMMUNITY RESPOND TO COVID-19

As a result of Coronavirus the last few weeks have been extremely challenging. On a positive note it has been heartening to see the community in Epping Forest come together. Thank you to all those who work for the NHS, in adult social care, in food stores and pharmacies, council officers and civil servants who are helping to co-ordinate the response and of course the many local volunteers who have mobilised to support vulnerable people in self isolation.

This leaflet contains useful information in relation to COVID-19 - with clickable links. As well as an update about the work of the local Conservative team. We have published this leaflet digitally as due to social distancing guidance and concerns about the virus living on paper we have been advised by the national party not to deliver leaflets in the interest of public safety.

We hope you and your family are safe and well at this time. Please remember to apply social distancing rules. **STAY HOME. THIS WILL SAVE LIVES.** Only leave your house for essential food or medical shopping or one piece of exercise a day. If you need support do not hesitate to contact EFDC's COVID-19 Hotline on 01992 564088 or Essex Welfare Service on 0300 303 9988.

### OTHER USEFUL HELPLINES

For support and conversation for elderly people:

[@TheSilverlineUK](https://www.silverline.org.uk) - 0800 470 8090

[@Age\\_uk](https://www.ageuk.org.uk) - 0800 678 1602

For Mental Health support:

[@MindCharity](https://www.mind.org.uk) - 0300 123 3393



## CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CONSERVATIVE TEAM

020 8508 6608

[office@eppingforestconservatives.com](mailto:office@eppingforestconservatives.com)

[www.eppingforestconservatives.com](http://www.eppingforestconservatives.com)

Facebook: [@EppingForestConservatives](https://www.facebook.com/EppingForestConservatives)

Instagram: [@EppingForestConservatives](https://www.instagram.com/EppingForestConservatives)

Twitter: [@EFConservatives](https://twitter.com/EFConservatives)

# DELIVERING FOR EPPING FOREST

Conservative led Epping Forest District Council is an efficient and forward looking council, working to deliver the **best possible value for all residents**. For the past ten out of eleven years EFDC has FROZEN their share of council tax whilst protecting frontline services. They have also gone above and beyond providing additional services. **EFDC now has the LOWEST council tax in Essex.**

Amongst other things the council is:

- ✓Funding additional Essex Police Officers to make our streets safer
- ✓Investing in our district's future
- ✓Building new council homes for local people
- ✓Enhancing leisure services
- ✓Protecting our environment

Your local Conservative Team are here to help. You can find your ward councillor [here](#). Alternatively please email [office@eppingforestconservatives.com](mailto:office@eppingforestconservatives.com) or call **020 8508 6608** and your enquiry will be passed on.

## BUILDING NEW COUNCIL HOMES FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

### 300+ new council homes to built by 2024

In Epping Forest, we are going against the national trend and building new council homes for local people. More than 300 new, high quality and energy-efficient council homes will be built by 2024, adding to the council's existing stock of almost 7000. To be eligible for a council home we have put in place a policy that you must have lived within the district for at least seven years.

In March we saw the completion of phase 2 of the council house building programme when the final keys were handed over to 51 new properties on Burton Road, Debden, there are a mixture of flats and houses on site.

Unfortunately the official opening was postponed as a result of COVID-19 however before the social distancing requirements came into play, Cabinet Member for Housing at EFDC, Holly Whitbread visited the development with local MP, Rt Hon Dame Eleanor Laing (pictured right). Eleanor was very impressed by the new council homes and pleased to see progress continues with EFDC's council house building programme.



# PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

EFDC declared a climate emergency and the council will work to become carbon neutral by 2030. Cllr John Philip and Cllr Nigel Bedford have been appointed as the cabinet members responsible for this policy. The council is taking action both large and small to help our environment including planting trees through the green arc, ensuring new council homes are echo-friendly and implementing planning policy to protect our environment.



## ENHANCING LEISURE SERVICES

**Conservative council to deliver a new sports centre, swimming pool and cinema for Epping.**

EFDC works closely with Places for People to deliver high-quality leisure services across the district. All our local leisure centres have seen improvements whilst Waltham Abbey has a new sports centre and swimming pool, with Epping soon to follow.

The St Johns Road Scheme in Epping which will be delivered by the council's subsidiary company Qualis will deliver a brand new, state of the art sports centre, swimming pool, cinema, retail, public amenity space and some residential (indicative pictures, left).

## FUNDING ADDITIONAL POLICE OFFICERS

EFDC was the first council in Essex to hire three Essex Police Officers. The officers work exclusively in the District and are based in EFDC's offices in Epping. Following the success of the scheme, with a notable improvement in crime figures locally, the council has agreed to continue their funding. EFDC also maintain funding for park guard which are deployed to patrol our local high-streets and work to tackle anti-social behaviour. This is in addition to the 360 Police Officers recruited by Conservative Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Roger Hirst and the 135 officers to be recruited with Government funding for 2020/2021.



# NEWS FROM ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

## AN EFFICIENT COUNCIL SET FOR THE FUTURE

Conservative led Essex County Council has been recognised as **one of the top ten councils for efficiency in the country**. The council recently announced their budget for 2020/2021. The budget is laying the foundations for the future with forward looking policies, investing in our communities and supporting local residents. Highlights include:

- £5m for climate action. Lord Randall appointed as Independent Chair of the new Commission.
- £1m for hard working just about managing families.
- £500k for work with police and partners to tackle child exploitation and gangs.
- £130m programme for new roads.
- £750k ( £10k per Council division) for local councillors to spend in their areas on community and charity work.
- 1700 new school places being created.

Your Conservative team work hard all year round. If you need to get in touch with your local representative, you can find their details [here](#).

## WORKING TO KEEP OUR ROADS SAFE DURING THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY

Essex County Council is following Government guidance on the coronavirus emergency and in order to keep our workforce and the public safe, Essex Highways is adjusting how they do things.

Their primary aim is to continue to work to keep local roads safe, particularly for emergency services, key workers and distribution of essential supplies. They are currently continuing with most repair work, but are now assessing the planned programme of more extensive improvements in the light of many unknowns including likely availability of workers, materials, equipment and the need to maintain social distancing.

Please continue to [report](#) road defects online, but please try to avoid calling the highways team unless you spot an urgent road safety situation.



**STAY AT  
HOME** 

**PROTECT  
THE NHS**

 **save  
lives**