

MALDON DIVISION MONTHLY UPDATE – COUNCILLOR JANE FLEMING

NEW BANKING HUB OPENS AT MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES

The hub provides a much-needed banking facility for Maldon and the surrounding area, following the closure of several high street branches in the town centre over recent years. By bringing essential banking services together in one location under one roof, the hub will ensure residents and businesses can continue to access the facilities and support they need locally.

The hub will be open Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm, and residents can use the hub **regardless of who they bank with**, and access a full range of everyday services, including:

- Paying in cash (notes and coins) and cheques.
- Withdrawing cash (notes and coins).
- Checking account balances.
- Paying utility bills.
- Topping up gas and electricity.

Alongside the counter service, the hub also offers a Community Banker Service, providing residents with face-to-face support and personal banking advice in a dedicated private space. Different banks will be represented throughout the week, including Lloyds Bank, Santander, NatWest, Barclays, and Halifax. This will give customers the opportunity to discuss account-specific queries directly with their bank on a rotational basis.

Residents are encouraged to visit <https://www.cashaccess.co.uk/hubs/maldon-essex> or call 01621 730494 for more information about the Maldon Banking Hub and the services available, or to speak to the Banking Hub team in person at the Council Offices.

SUPPORTED LODGINGS

Supported Lodgings Week back in November celebrated carers who open their homes and prepare a young person (16+) for success. Help a young person gain essential life skills including budgeting, cooking and planning for their future. If you have a spare room and want to change a young person's life, email: FosterRecruitment@essex.gov.uk Or Phone: [0800 801 530](tel:0800801530)

ACL ESSEX POPPINS BURSARY

New childminders in Essex from low-income households can get up to £1,000 in startup costs through ACL Essex's Poppins Bursary. Fully funded training is also available for both new and existing childminders, including Skills Bootcamps in childminding and early years. [Visit our Poppins Bursary page](#) or email Poppins.Bursary@essex.gov.uk to find out more.

CHELMSFORD PARK & RIDE – SERVICE 700 AND 701

The official Park and Ride buses are run by First. The £3.10 day ticket, which is £1.60 for concessionary pass holders, covers parking and the bus ride to and from the city centre.

At Sandon, the service 700 ticket will soon activate the exit barrier from the car park. Currently, service 700 buses running from Sandon will board passengers from within the site.

At Sandon there is also a commercial 701 service which runs from outside the site. The ticket for that service covers the bus ride **but not parking at the Essex County Council site**.

If passengers chose not to buy an official Essex County Council Park and Ride ticket on a First bus, parking must be purchased separately at a cost of £3.60. Payment for parking can be made by following the instructions posted on site. Bus users are asked to factor this into travel planning if they choose to take the 701 commercial service.

FLOOD RISK

Flooding can happen fast. If you see flooding in your area, it's important to report it to the right place. Know your flood risk and report flooding quickly. [Find out what to do about flooding and who to contact](https://flood.essex.gov.uk/what-to-do-about-flooding/report-a-flood) - <https://flood.essex.gov.uk/what-to-do-about-flooding/report-a-flood>

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY – BLOCKAGE IN A WATERCOURSE ONLINE REPORTING SERVICE

The Environment Agency has launched a new **Blockage in a Watercourse** online reporting service that has now gone live. Members of the public can now report blockages - such as fallen trees, vegetation, debris, vehicles or material build-up - via the **"Report a blockage in a river"** form on GOV.UK.

This new digital route complements the existing incident hotline and provides more structured information to support our incident response and situational awareness.

You can access the service here:

[Report a blockage in a river in England - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/report-river-blockage) - <https://www.gov.uk/report-river-blockage>

BECOME A RIVERWATCH VOLUNTEER

The Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust and Essex Rivers Hub are inviting volunteers to join Essex RiverWatch. This is an exciting citizen science project that monitors rivers and helps identify where action is needed.

As a volunteer, you'll collect monthly water quality data from your local river and make observations of the wildlife and pollution.

No experience is needed and all equipment and training is provided. This is a great way to work together to keep Essex's rivers healthy for everyone.

<https://www.essexsuffolkriverstrust.org/projects/essexriverwatch>

FREE AND FLEXIBLE SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE FOR A RANGE OF HEALTH AND WELLBEING NEEDS

Essex County Council's Public Health team has launched a refreshed offer of free, friendly and flexible local services. These services are designed to help residents take small, achievable steps toward improving their health and wellbeing.

Read more about the support available in Essex at [Health and wellbeing services: Overview | Essex County Council](https://www.essex.gov.uk/adult-social-care-and-health/health-and-wellbeing-services) - <https://www.essex.gov.uk/adult-social-care-and-health/health-and-wellbeing-services>

COMMUNITY360 SOCIAL CAR SCHEME

Community360's Social Car Scheme is a volunteer-led transport service designed to support residents who struggle to access everyday journeys due to mobility challenges, rural isolation, cost of living pressures, or limited public transport.

The scheme connects local volunteer drivers with people in their own communities who need help getting to essential appointments, shopping, social activities, or simply staying connected.

Volunteers use their own cars, are fully supported under Community360's umbrella, and are deployed locally, meaning help comes from within the community, for the community. The Social Car Scheme helps:

- Reduce transport poverty
- Combat loneliness and social isolation

- Support independence and wellbeing
- Enable access to healthcare, shops, and community life

Volunteer drivers are not left out of pocket. Mileage costs are paid, and Community360 provides training, safeguarding checks, insurance cover, and ongoing support. Volunteers choose when they are available and how often they wish to drive.

The Social Car Scheme also allows communities to support themselves sustainably. Volunteers remain rooted in their parish, while Community360 ensures consistency, safety, and coordination across the wider district.

If you or someone you know could benefit from the scheme, or if you're interested in volunteering as a Social Car Driver, they would love to hear from you.

Contact Community360 Transport Team 01206 216600 ct@community360.org.uk

A REMINDER OF CARER SUPPORT CONTACTS:

Essex County Council Carers Assessment - T 0345 603 7630 | E socialcaredirect@essex.gov.uk

Reablement Care - Short-term help to support recovery and independence for those who are eligible. T 0345 603 7630 | E socialcaredirect@essex.gov.uk

Carers First T 0300 303 1555 | W carersfirst.org.uk/essex

Mobilise - Mobilise provides free online support in Essex. W

<https://support.mobiliseonline.co.uk/essex>

The Essex Wellbeing Service offers advice and will make connections for you to specialist organisations who can help you. T 0300 303 9988 | W provide.essexwellbeing@nhs.net

Cllr Jane Fleming cllr.jane.fleming@essex.gov.uk