

Clerk - Feering Parish Council

From: Feering Parish Council <clerk@feeringparishcouncil.gov.uk>
Sent: 09 February 2021 19:37
To: Clerk - Feering Parish Council
Subject: News from Feering Parish Council - February 2021



February 2021



Although we are still in lockdown, things are beginning to move in the right direction. More than 10 million people around the UK have now received at least one dose of the coronavirus vaccine. Cases of COVID-19 in the Braintree District and across the UK have started to drop rapidly and, although numbers are still very high, it's clear to see that the efforts of all those who have followed the lockdown restrictions are beginning to work.

Our thoughts are with all those who have sadly lost someone to this horrible virus, and our thanks goes out to all our key workers who have worked incredibly hard under very difficult circumstances to keep us all safe.

We'd also like to thank all those from Feering who have stepped up to offer help to their neighbours over the last 12 months, including those who have volunteered to drive people to the vaccination centres over the last few weeks,

This fantastic army of volunteers are still on standby and able to assist with shopping and pharmacy trips for anyone isolating or shielding. Please contact Lisa Collins, Clerk to the Parish Council, on 01376 572882 or email clerk@feeringparishcouncil.gov.uk for more information on the help available.

Update from Environmental Working Group

A huge thank you to all 21 volunteers that have come forward to offer their litter picking services. This has been such a success that we are waiting on additional Green Heart Scheme equipment from Braintree District Council. We would also like to thank Malcolm Dunn, who is a member of the Coggeshall litter picking volunteer group, as he is regularly litter picking all of Coggeshall Road at present – not an easy road to do with the speeding traffic.



The next Feering Parish Council's Environmental Working Group meeting will be on 23rd February at 8pm via Zoom (ID: 84573677486). If you would like to join the team of volunteers please email cllr.dobson@feeringparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Parish Councillor Vacancies

Have you been spending more time within the village during the lockdown period and thought about making a difference to the community you live in? Would you like to be involved in making decisions about the local community and local issues and make a significant contribution to the area in which you live or work? Would you like to provide a voice for the residents of Feering?

Feering Parish Council currently has two vacancies to join the Parish Council. If you want to make a positive difference to your community then please apply.

You must be aged 18 and over, eligible to vote and have lived or work in Feering within three miles of it for 12 months or more. You must also be able to commit time to monthly meetings, mainly held on the third Tuesday of the month, and other committee meetings held during the week.

If you would like to be considered, please contact our clerk, Lisa Collins, at

clerk@feeringparishcouncil.gov.uk or call 01376 572882.

Our current team of Councillors are: Paul Lees (Chairman), Lee Blackburn, Robert Carpenter, Christa Dobson, Simon Reed, Katherine Evans, and Rebecca Miedziedz. They can all be contacted via the Parish Office on 01376 572882. For information on any meeting please go to the Parish Council website at www.feeringparishcouncil.gov.uk to see the agendas and minutes.

COVID Vaccinations

Vaccinations are currently being rolled out for residents in Feering and you will hear from your GP surgery over the next few weeks to arrange appointments. Vaccinations for those registered with Kelvedon and Feering Health Centre will be taking place at a number of different vaccine centres, including Earls Colne, Colchester United Football Club and Chelmsford City Racecourse.

For many of us, this will not be a problem and we will be able to drive to their vaccine appointment. However we would like to reassure our most vulnerable residents who cannot drive that volunteer drivers are on standby and ready and willing to drive you to your appointment. Please ask the GP surgery for information when they contact you to book your appointment or call 07971 939644 to arrange your transport..



Free Printing for
homeschoolers!

Feering Parish Council
is offering a free
printing service for
residents who are
homeschooling and
require the use of a
printer.



Please email your documents to
clerk@feeringparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Kelvedon & Feering Coronavirus Support group have a small amount of funding available, thanks to the generosity of local businesses, organisations and individuals, and are offering free home school supplies for low-income families living in Feering.

If you need paper, pens, pencils etc, please get in touch with Lisa the Clerk and we will arrange this for you. All requests will be treated in confidence.

The Parish Council are also offering to print schoolwork for those of you who do not have access to a printer. Please email your documents to clerk@feeringparishcouncil.gov.uk and you will be able to collect from the Parish Council office Tuesday to Thursday from 10 am until 2 pm.

Water Refill Point

The Parish Council agreed in November that a water refill point will be fitted outside the community centre for all residents to use and that we hoped to have this installed by January. Unfortunately, this was not installed in January due to an issue with the location of the equipment. This is still being progressed and we will arrange for installation as soon as possible.

Full Council virtual meeting held on 19 January at 7.30 pm

The first Full Council meeting of the year was held on Tuesday 19 January 2021 virtually via Zoom. Copies of the full minutes can be found on the Parish Council Website once they have been agreed at the following Full Council Meeting.

During the meeting, the following items were discussed:

- District Councillor updates – update was given by District Councillor Paul Thorogood regarding Bloor Homes eco scheme; Greater Anglia consultation on timetable; Timeline for Section 2 of the Local Plan.
- County Councillor update – update was given by County Councillor Robert Mitchell to include local flooding, rafted path repairs, pothole repairs and the County Council proposed budget.
- Health and Wellbeing – A presentation was given to councillors from the Health and Wellbeing Officer at Essex Association of Local Councils setting out the various provisions that EALC are providing on behalf of Essex County Council. It was agreed,

following the presentation, that a working party would be set up to engage with the community on this issue.

- Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 16 – It was agreed that the Parish Council would adopt the text version of the draft Neighbourhood Plan for regulation 16. Thanks was given to the Neighbourhood Plan Committee for the amount of work which has been undertaken on this document.
- Greater Anglia Timetable Consultation – it was agreed that an official response would be submitted to Greater Anglia. It was noted that the Greater Anglia consultation document is incorrect and that the services during the peak hours would not be reduced at Kelvedon Station. Infrastructure, flexible ticketing and more Sunday service would also be included in the response.
- Plastic Free Feering – A resolution was passed to support the journey to plastic free community status, to commit to plastic free alternatives and plastic free initiatives within the parish. It was agreed that the Council would lead by example and phase out single use plastic.

Manned Refuse Lorry Dates for Feering 2020/2021

Feering Parish Council have been informed by Braintree District Council that the manned refuse collection has been suspended until further notice. The next scheduled collection is due on 6 March 2021 and we will keep the website and social media updated as to whether this collection will go ahead.



Star Count 2021

A dark starry sky is one of the most magical sights imaginable. But light pollution means that many of us can't see the stars. The annual Star Count is back, and the team behind it would like you to help us map of the nation's view of the night sky - this year, from home.

It's easy to be a part of Star Count: just look to the heavens between 6-14 February and count the number of stars you see in the constellation of Orion. It's a safe, outside activity to do as a family or household, from your home, garden, balcony or even bedroom window, and everyone

can take part.

As we're all asked to stay at home, please don't travel to do a Star Count.

Sign up below to register your interest here



Befriending

Do you know someone who is lonely and isolated?

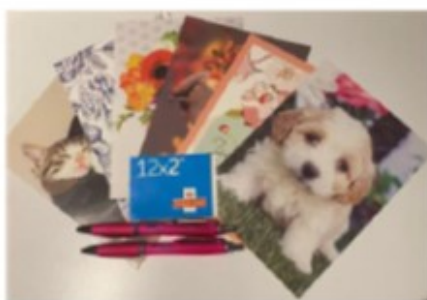
Our befriending service could be just the ticket...

The chance to chat - Telephone Befriending

Write Letters - Penfriending

Share common interests or just enjoy some company.

CONTACT 01206 368420 (option 3)



All our volunteers go through DBS checks and personal references to ensure a safe high service.



📍 63 North Hill, Colchester, Essex, C01 1PX
📍 c/o CVS, 22 Rosemary Road, Clacton, Essex, CO15 1NZ
☎ 01206 368420 (Witham & Colchester)
☎ 01255 447007 (Clacton & Harwich)
✉ befriending@ageconcerncolchester.org.uk
🌐 www.ageconcerncolchester.org.uk

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

For any resident of the Braintree District Council area who does not have access to transport. We are currently able to provide transport for emergency health related appointments including coronavirus vaccinations.

Transport is offered to those who have a mobility difficulty, people who need to travel in their wheelchair and those who are able bodied. To allow for two metre distancing we carry one passenger at a time or two from the same household or if the individual needs a carer. The driver sits behind a Perspex screen and vehicles are sanitised between every trip.

Transport for vaccinations is currently free of charge and is offered seven days a week from 8am until 6pm – for other health related appointments e.g. doctors, dentist etc a subsidised fare is chargeable.

To check availability or to book a trip call **01376 557883** Monday to Friday 9.00-15.00. An answerphone is available to leave a message outside of these hours.

COMMUNITY360

Community360 is an independent charity that aims to inspire and enable social action to improve people's quality of life. Our vision is for a more equal society. Our ambition is to use our efforts and influence to reduce inequalities and increase opportunities.

Community360 provides the following services in Braintree district:

- Volunteer recruitment and coordination through the Braintree District Volunteer Centre & Time Bank
- Welfare Calls for residents who may be lonely or isolated

- Support for families through the Essex Family Support Service
- Information, advice and guidance on how to stay warm, well and connected to local services
- Infrastructure and funding support for voluntary, community and not for profit organisations

Referrals can be made Monday - Friday by email - Information@community360.org.uk or by calling **01376 550507**

ESSEX WELLBEING SERVICE

Supports all Essex residents with easy access and referral to all the wellbeing services they need. Links all Essex residents including parents and families with the practical, emotional and social care support they need as they adapt to 'the new normal' of their lives as lockdown eases.

☎ **0300 303 9988**

✉ provide.essexwellbeing@nhs.net

WITHAM COMMUNITY HUB

The hub based in Newlands Shopping Centre are able to provide food parcels to individuals and families in Witham and surrounding areas should they be shielding, vulnerable or financially struggling due to the Covid pandemic. These can be delivered where necessary or collected. Inside the hub there is a community fridge which needs no referral and is currently open to the public - Monday – Saturday from 12 noon - 2pm.

Referrals can be made by statutory and voluntary sector organisations either by email referrals@withamhub.co.uk or by calling **01376 617998**.



FIRST STOP

First Stop collect food donations from various supermarkets and make up food parcels which can either be collected or delivered. People can just turn up at their premises based at 29 Bocking End, Braintree between 10.30a.m - 12 noon or call them on **01376 346535**.

BRAINTREE AREA FOODBANKS

Access to foodbanks is through a voucher referral system, please contact the foodbank on **01376 330694** to find out which local organisations can issue the vouchers.

Christchurch, London Road, Braintree, CM7 2LD
Opening Times: Wednesday, Thursday & Friday from 10.00a.m – 12 noon

St Andrews Church Hall, Parsonage Street, Halstead. CO9 2LD

Opening Times: Monday's from 10.00a.m – 12 noon

The Church in Great Notley, Bridge End Lane, Great Notley. CM77 7GN

Opening Times: Tuesday's from 10.00a.m – 12 noon

Witham Methodist Church, Guithavon Street, Witham. CM8 1BJ

Opening Times: Friday's from 10.00a.m – 12 noon

CITIZENS ADVICE

Citizens Advice, advice line - **0344 499 4719**

Advice line is open Monday – Friday 10:00-16:00 excluding bank holidays.

Warm Homes can help with:

- Maximising your income to make sure you are receiving all the benefits you are entitled to
- Helping you with fuel debt – if you have already fallen to arrears (in some cases we can apply to trusts and foundations to help pay these off – giving you a fresh start)
- Energy saving around the home
- Energy tariffs – are you on the best one for you?
- Access to grants for energy saving improvements – we can help you find the best scheme and help you apply
- Access to emergency fuel payments
- We can also provide free energy saving devices around the home.

BRITISH RED CROSS

The hardship fund offers up to £120 per month for up to 3 months. The Hardship Fund will support people with no access to stable income sources, people who lack recognised legal status, people with no or in temporary accommodation, families living below the poverty line and those facing domestic or sexual and gender-based violence. Call the Coronavirus support line: **0808 196 3651**

ESSEX ESSENTIAL LIVING FUND

The Essential Living Fund can help to pay for furniture, clothing, and daily living expenses. It has replaced Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants - www.southend.gov.uk/extra-financial-help/essential-living-fund

apply by calling **0300 7900124**

SAMARITANS

Available all the time to listen to anyone unable to cope.

Try the Samaritans self-help app:

<https://selfhelp.samaritans.org>

 **116 123**

 **Jo@samaritans.org**

CARERS FIRST

It is estimated there are over 145,000 people in Essex providing care for a relative or friend. Carers do an amazing job, and have the right to be supported. The earlier you get help, the more difference it can make. Find out what support we provide by visiting our website

www.carersfirst.org.uk or contact us on

0300 303 1555 to talk about your caring situation.

COMPASS

Compass is a single point of access to support victims of domestic abuse.

Essex Domestic Abuse Helpline: **0330 333 7 444**

The helpline is available from 8a.m – 8p.m weekdays and 8a.m – 1p.m weekends.

“FINDING YOUR FEET” ZOOM WALKS!

FEEL MOTIVATED



Keep active in your home whilst having fun
and meeting up with others!

Join our online ZOOM walks from the comfort of your
own home. No special clothing or equipment needed!

For more information call Jo on 07378 255181

Community360
Winsley's House, High Street, Colchester CO1 1UG
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www.community360.org.uk
Company Number: 04426567 Registered Charity Number: 1092567



Visit our Website



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