

Clerk - Feering Parish Council

From: Feering Parish Council <clerk@feeringparishcouncil.gov.uk>
Sent: 31 March 2021 20:22
To: Clerk - Feering Parish Council
Subject: News from Feering Parish Council - April 2021



Feering Parish Council Update April 2021



Spring has sprung, and it's great to see the sun shining over Feering, even if it is just for a few days.

We are delighted that some COVID-19 restrictions are beginning to lift in time for the arrival of the good weather. You can now meet with up to six people or two households outside, in public spaces and private gardens. In a few weeks, we will see the reopening of non-essential retail, and pubs and restaurants will be able to serve customers in outside spaces.

We're pleased to say that over 52,000 people aged 50+ in the Braintree District have now had their first dose of the COVID vaccine. That's about 80% of people aged 50+. Well done to the team at Pump House in Earls Colne and the vaccine centres across the region for such a great roll-out. We would also like to say thank you to the many volunteer drivers from Feering who have taken over 70 local residents to their appointments.

Organised outdoor sporting activities have started to resume which means you will see more groups using our playing field. The current Government guidance is that only

organised activities can resume. Please refrain from meeting in groups of more than six people on the playing field unless you have permission from the Parish Council to run an organised sporting activity.

While for many, the lifting of restrictions will be very welcome, we understand that there will still be others who remain shielding or nervous to venture out to public spaces like shops. Our 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.

Local Elections -Thursday 6 May 2021

Local elections will be taking place on Thursday 6 May 2021 for the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex Police Area and Election of a County Councillor for the Braintree Eastern Division.



These elections will give residents an opportunity to have a say on who represents them on issues that affect day-to-day life in Essex.

Ahead of the elections, Braintree District Council is asking residents, should they want to vote by post, to register for their postal vote as soon as possible.

There are a number of ways residents can have their say in the election in May:

1. Vote at a polling station (voters are asked to bring their own pen or pencil);

2. Vote by post;
3. Appoint someone to vote on their behalf (proxy vote).

Andy Wright, Electoral Registration Officer for Braintree District Council, said: *"Polling stations will be safe places to vote in May and voters can expect to see many of the measures we've all become used to over recent months such as hand sanitiser, floor markings and face coverings."*

However, there are other ways residents can vote including by post. If residents wish to vote by post they should request this as soon as possible. Registering for a postal vote is quick and easy and can be done online. No matter how you choose to cast your vote in May, we are working hard so you can do so safely."

Any residents who have any questions can contact the local elections team at Braintree District Council on 01376 552525 or visit the council website to find out more about postal or proxy voting: www.braintree.gov.uk/votingoptions

Anyone who would like to find out more about postal votes can visit here:

www.braintree.gov.uk/postalvotes

The deadline for Braintree District Council receiving postal vote applications is 5pm Tuesday 20 April 2021.

The deadline for Braintree District Council receiving proxy applications to vote is 5pm Thursday 27 April 2021.

Kelvedon & Feering Rugby Club

It was agreed at our last council meeting that Kelvedon and Feering Rugby Club will use the Rye Mill Lane Playing Field as its home ground for matches for this season, with a review to take place in January 2022 to consider whether to continue using the field for the following season.

Club training begins on April 3rd. For more information visit <https://kfrufc.co.uk/>



Feering Parish Council Meeting Dates

Feering Parish Council meet on the third Tuesday of every month, with the exception of December, when the meeting is held on the second Tuesday of the month. All meetings are held at Feering Community Centre at 7.30 pm. However, due to the current pandemic situation, the Parish Council is meeting online via Zoom (<https://zoom.us>). All meeting joining instructions can be found on the agenda which is published at least 3 clear days before the meeting.

If you need assistance with the joining information, please contact Lisa the Clerk (email: clerk@feeringparishcouncil.gov.uk or tel: 01376 572882 or 07401 208582).

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.

Full Council virtual meeting held on 16 February at 7.30 pm

The Full Council meeting was held on Tuesday 16 February 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 to include Braintree District Council's decision not to increase council tax for 2021-2022; A12 diversions through Feering caused by an erroneous clash of A12 and A120 works happening at the same time causing issues for residents; and update on the Local Plan.
- County Councillor update – update was given by County Councillor Robert Mitchell to include Climate crisis and the flood alleviation scheme in Coggeshall; Essex County Council's decision regarding council tax which is no increase to council tax but a 1.5% rise for adult social care; Quiet lanes proposed from Earls Colne to the airfield; and Solar Together Essex initiative.
- Kings Dene Pressure Group – Cllr Thorogood explained the background of this group which is to be ready to oppose further large applications that come forward within Feering and Kelvedon. The Parish Council agreed that they should have an observer in the group to be kept informed of the large applications.
- Dog Waste Bin request – A request was received from the Public Rights of Way and Cycleways Committee to site a dog waste bin on Old Road at the end of Footpath 10. The Parish Council agreed that a bin should be purchased, and the Clerk is to speak to Braintree District Council to find out about installation and collection of the waste.
- Tree Works – The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the planning application had been submitted in relation to the work to be carried out at Bridge Meadow. Further work has been delayed because of the wet weather and snow.
- EALC Climate Crisis Conference – Cllr Lees gave an update on the conference he attended on 28 January 2021. It was discussed that there are no bike stands at the Community Centre and that this should be looked into.

Full Council virtual meeting held on 16 March at 7.30 pm

The Full Council meeting was held on Tuesday 16 March 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 to include Braintree District Council's climate change strategy consultation together with the draft cycle strategy; litter on the A12 and the Local Plan Watchdog meeting which will focus on the Parker Strategic Land and the formation of Kelvedon Against Urban Sprawl (Kaus) formation.
 - County Councillor update – update was given by County Councillor Robert Mitchell to include additional funding to the Local Highways Panel, the Earls Colne to Kelvedon plus network; Essex Climate Action; Environment Agency Flood Scheme; the winter programme being undertaken by Essex County Council; parking review of Kelvedon High Street; Emergency Active Travel Fund; Rivenhall Incinerator and Solar Together.
 - Kelvedon & Feering Rugby Club – A discussion was held with members of the Kelvedon and Feering Rugby Club around their proposal to use the Rye Mill Lane Playing Field as their home ground for matches. It was agreed that the club should be allowed to use the field for this season with a review to take place in January 2022 to consider whether to continue using the field for the following season.
 - Emergency Powers Policy – Following the introduction of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, the legislation allowed for the use of virtual meetings until 7 May 2021. As the legislation is due to end on 7 May this means that the Council can only hold face-to-face meetings after this date, it was therefore agreed that an Emergency Powers Policy would be adopted to allow the Council to continue to operate after 7 May.
 - Meeting Dates – It was agreed that the Annual Parish Assembly meeting should be cancelled, and the Annual Council Meeting date should be changed to 5 May 2021 to enable the meeting to be held virtually. It was also agreed that the May meeting be cancelled with a decision on the June meeting to be taken at the April Parish Council meeting due to the change in legislation no longer permitting virtual meetings after 7 May.
 - Community Centre Energy Efficiency – It was agreed that the Parish Council would apply for a grant to upgrade the loft insulation and for cavity wall insulation to improve the Community Centre energy efficiency. It was also agreed that the window and doors would be investigated at a later date to see if there were grants available to assist with the replacement of these.
-

Manned Refuse Lorry Dates for Feering 2020/2021

We are in the process of discussing the collection dates for the Manned Refuse Collection for the 2021-22 financial year with Braintree District Council. Due to the current pandemic and BDC changing the operating system for the service, it has been agreed that the Parish Council will not be running this service until after the lifting of the lockdown restrictions. We are hopeful that we will be able to implement the service from June 2021, but this will need to be revisited at the next Parish Council meeting.



Befriending

Do you know someone who is lonely and isolated?

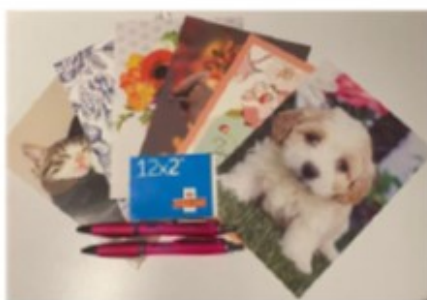
Our befriending service could be just the ticket...

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
f community360org t @community360org in community360org
www.community360.org.uk
Company Number: 04426567 Registered Charity Number: 1092567



Visit our Website



Copyright © 2021 Feering Parish Council, All rights reserved.
You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

Our mailing address is:

Feering Parish Council
Feering Community Centre
Coggeshall Road
Feering, Essex CO5 9QB
United Kingdom

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).



mailchimp