

## **Clerk - Feering Parish Council**

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**From:** Feering Parish Council <clerk@feeringparishcouncil.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 21 May 2021 11:17  
**To:** Clerk - Feering Parish Council  
**Subject:** News from Feering Parish Council - May 2021



### **Feering Parish Council Update May 2021**



We are very pleased to say that Feering has been named as the first place in Essex to achieve plastic-free status. The award was given to the people and businesses of Feering by marine conservation charity Surfers Against Sewage (SAS) and recognises the work residents and businesses have done to reduce the impact of single-use plastic on the environment.

Well done to all involved in working towards this award.

COVID restrictions continue to be lifted and it's great to see people out enjoying the warmer weather (even if it is a bit wet!) A third of people in the Braintree District have now had both doses of vaccine, and 70% of people in the area have now has one dose. 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.

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. We still have a fantastic army of volunteers who are on standby to assist with shopping and pharmacy trips. If you are isolating, shielding or have lost your usual support network due to Covid-19, please get in touch with the Clerk (01376 572882 / 07401 208582 or [clerk@feeringparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@feeringparishcouncil.gov.uk)).

We also have a number of food parcels and small grants available to support residents who have been affected financially by the outbreak.

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## MAKE A CHANGE BECOME A COUNCILLOR

### **Parish Councillor Vacancies**

- Are you passionate about your community?
- Do you want to help make a long-lasting change?
- Do you have innovative ideas for the Council?
- Do you have concerns about a specific issue and want to do something about it?

If this is you, then Feering Parish Council needs you!

We need people from all backgrounds and experiences to reflect their community to put themselves forward for co-option. #MakeAChange and become a councillor.

### **What do councillors do?**

Local councillors are the champions of their community who invest time in local projects and issues to the benefit of residents and the neighbourhood. Councillors attend to local needs of residents, local groups and businesses, make decisions on local services, collaborate with district and borough councils to adhere to local needs, and progress vital projects to invest in

the future of the community.

### **How long does it take?**

NALC's Local Councillor Census Survey found that councillors put aside, on average, three hours a week for council work. Council work often includes attending meetings, engaging with residents and speaking to local groups and bodies on behalf of the council.

### **Can I stand for election?**

You must be:

- A British citizen, or a citizen of the Commonwealth, or the European Union
- 18 years of age or older
- Live in an area that is served by a local council

### **How can I get involved?**

Contact Lisa, the Clerk ([clerk@feeringparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@feeringparishcouncil.gov.uk) or 01376 572882) for more details and information on becoming a Feering Parish Councillor.

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### **Special Constable Scheme for Feering**

We are working with Essex Police to recruit candidates for the role of Special Constables for Feering.

A Community Special Constable dedicates their voluntary service to the area that matters most to them - their town or parish. In return the local council will pay the allowances and expenses of their officers and they'll have a say in the issues that their local Specials deal with.

Community Special Constables will get the same training as regular officers and will have to complete the same accreditation, but once they've got independent patrol status then they can really get committed to their local communities.

If you are interested in finding out about the Special Constable scheme or apply for one of the roles, please contact our Clerk on 01376 572882 or email [clerk@feeringparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@feeringparishcouncil.gov.uk).



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### **Full Council virtual meeting held on 27 April**

The Full Council meeting was held on Tuesday 27 April 2021 virtually via Zoom. Copies of draft minutes can be found on the Parish Council website.

During the meeting the following items were discussed:

- District Councillor updates – update was given by District Councillor Jenny Sandum regarding the BDC Local Plan meeting to discuss the response to the Minerals Plan Consultation; the Parker Strategic planning application consultations; damage caused to the verges by weed spraying; Self Isolation grants of £500 which are available from BDC.
- Manned Refuse Collection – It was agreed that the manned refuse service would resume from 24 July, provided restrictions have been lifted.
- Emergency Powers Policy – it was agreed that the Emergency Powers policy should be activated due to the removal of legislation allowing virtual meetings.

- Tree works – It was discussed that tree works around the village were being scheduled to take place during the last week of April / beginning of May, following a period of dryer weather.
- Keep Britain Tidy Spring Clean – it was agreed that a group effort should be undertaken later in the year once restrictions are lifted.

#### **Annual Council virtual meeting held on 5 May 2021**

The Annual Council meeting was held on Wednesday 5 May 2021 virtually via Zoom. Copies of draft minutes can be found on the Parish Council website.

During the meeting the following items were discussed:

- To elect a chairman for 2021-22 – Cllr Paul Lees was elected as the Chairman of the Parish Council
- To elect a vice-chairman for 2021-22 – Cllr Christa Dobson was elected as Vice-Chairman for the coming year.

#### **Extraordinary Council virtual meeting held on 5 May 2021**

An Extraordinary Council meeting was held on Wednesday 5 May 2021 virtually via Zoom. Copies of draft minutes can be found on the Parish Council website. The purpose of the meeting was to review and agree all documents for the Feering Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 15 Submission. These documents will shortly be sent to Braintree District Council for processing through to referendum at Regulation 16.

Please note that there will be no meetings of the Parish Council during May and June. The next meeting of the Full Council will be held on 20 July 2021. This is due to the removal of legislation which allows the Parish Council to meet virtually.

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### **Feering Community Centre Survey**

As Feering Community Centre is starting to open up to more groups and hirers, the FCC team would love to know what YOU, our community, think of its services and feedback on how you might like them to adapt and develop.

Please complete the survey below to give your feedback.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/B6HDCX2>

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- \* **Advice**- assistance with benefit entitlements and support with applications.
- \* **Befriending**- connection to local friendships and community support.
- \* **Care Support**- access to assistance with home help, shopping & cleaning.
- \* **The Veranda centre**- bringing those in later life together for social connection.
- \* **Emotional support** - specialist volunteer assistance for those facing bereavement & end of life.
- \* **Dementia support**- advice and support for anyone affected by dementia.
- \* **Local service directory** – pointing you to local services.

**Contact 01206 368420**

**Option 1** food & medical supplies; care or home help

**Option 2** bereavement, emotional and end of life support

**Option 3** befriending or volunteering to befriend.

**Option 4** welfare, advice, help completing forms.

**Option 5** dementia support de-



# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](https://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](http://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 @community360org in community360org  
www.community360.org.uk  
Company Number: 04426567 Registered Charity Number: 1092567



**Visit our Website**



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United Kingdom

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