

News & Views

Inc. Stanford Rivers Parish Council News Letter

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Cllr Hume, Chairman of Essex County Council to Officially Open Village Hall Car Park

On **Monday 8th February**, Cllr Hume, Chairman of Essex County Council will official open the newly surfaced Car Park at the Toot Hill Village Hall. Stanford Rivers Parish Council were awarded a grant of £9,700 by Essex County Council's Community Initiatives Fund to resurface the car park at Toot Hill Village hall.

The Village Hall, located in the heart of Toot Hill, is a much valued local community amenity, used by many different groups encompassing all age ranges from young to old. By providing a new level, smooth surface for the car park, together with a dedicated disabled bay and improved external lighting, hall users are now able to access the Village Hall with ease and confidence. Something so simple as a level car parking surface can mean the difference between a group being able to use the hall or not, and as such it is hoped the new car park will support the continued success of the valued community asset.

Cllr Matt Tallon, Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee said "It's vital that local facilities, such as the village hall, are made accessible for all members of the community, and the works undertaken

thanks to this grant will make such a difference, not only to our regular hall hirers, but for any new prospective hirers. Over recent years, the hall has undergone a number of improvements and refurbishments, all thanks to the drive and dedication of the late Ron Hayden, and we hope to continue Ron's hard work."

Cllr John Glover, Chairman of the Parish Council said "All parishioners of all ages from the whole area are invited to the event. There will be food and drink for all ages and at no charge. These improvements have been made possible by a grant from Essex County Council and we would love to show our appreciation by ensuring a good turnout for the opening."

Members of the public should arrive for **5.30pm**, with the official ribbon cutting at **6pm**. Refreshments will be served after.



New Library card supports those with memory loss

Residents who have dementia or other conditions which cause memory loss will no longer have to count the cost of forgotten library books thanks to a new Memory Support Library Card.

Holders of the card will receive the usual reminders that their item is overdue if it is not returned on time, however, they will not incur any late fees. This applies to all items including books, DVDs or CDs taken out through that library user's account.

The card will be on offer to those who have memory loss as a result of dementia, mental health issues or learning difficulties.

Those wishing to sign up can do so at their local library where the process will be quick and easy. No evidence will be required and any one with memory problems as a result of dementia, mental health issues or learning difficulties will be eligible.



The card will be launched on 20 January which coincides with the launch of the Pan Essex Dementia Action Alliance, which aims to raise awareness of dementia whilst developing dementia friendly communities and transform the lives of people living with the condition.

Cllr David Finch, leader of Essex County Council said "The introduction of the Memory Support Library Card is a logical step towards easing the stresses of those who have dementia or other conditions which cause memory loss. It is important we continue to support these members of our community and assist them wherever possible."

To find out more about the card, visit your local library or go online at <http://www.essex.gov.uk/Libraries-Archives/Libraries/Pages/Join-the-library.aspx>

Ongar Barclays – Closing or not?

Over recent weeks, a number of residents have expressed concern that the Ongar branch of Barclays is set to close. We can confirm that after speaking with Irene East, Head of Corporate Communications for Barclays, there are no plans to close the Ongar Branch. This will come as a great relief of many, as such services contribute to ensuring towns such as Ongar remain sustainable.



Epping Forest District Cycling Action Plan

Epping Forest District Council, in conjunction with Essex County Council Highways, has begun the process of creating a Cycling Action Plan for the Epping Forest District.

Professor Phil Goodwin, Author of the 'Get Britain Cycling' report following the Parliamentary enquiry stated "Like most transport professionals of my generation, I have grown up thinking that cycling, though worthy, is of small significance compared with the great questions of cars, traffic and public transport, or the universal significance of walking. We were wrong. The evidence demonstrates quite clearly that cycling is the mode of transport 'on the cusp of greatness'. An expansion of the role of cycling accords with the different priorities of all the main political parties, and gives scope for politicians to build popularity with their voters, and a remarkable legacy."

A key commitment of the Essex Cycling Strategy is ensuring each District has an up to date Cycling Action Plan which can be

renewed every 5 years. Current aims include.

- *Doubling the number of cycling trips from 2014 levels by 2025*
- *Cultivating a mind set that sees cycling as a normal, enjoyable, and everyday activity for the majority of short journeys*
- *Establish cycling as an enjoyable participation activity for health gain and a popular competitive sport*

It is accepted that current cycling infrastructure is severely lacking in the Epping Forest District. A number of off-road routes exist, with very limited segregated pathway or on road cycle lane provision, and roads are often too narrow and parking presents safety and accessibility issues .

How the Action Plan will address such issues in this Parish remains to be seen, and for now it's a case of

**Get Britain
Cycling**



watch this
space