

# News & Views

Inc. Stanford Rivers Parish Council News Letter

March 2024

**\*\*RIDELONDON-ESSEX SPECIAL EDITION\*\***

Issue No. 117

## Ford RideLondon-Essex Returns To Stanford Rivers

Thanks to grant funding received as part of the Active Essex RideLondon Activation Fund, this is a special **bumper edition** of News and Views, not only providing you with general information about the Parish, but also including all the information about this year's event. Ford RideLondon-Essex, the world's greatest festival of cycling, will return to Stanford Rivers on Sunday 26 May 2024. The event, which is known as the London Marathon on wheels and is organised by London Marathon Events, sees around 25,000 cyclists of all abilities, taking on the personal challenge of riding either 100, 60 or 30 miles. The planned route is the same as the past two editions of the event, starting and finishing in London and passing Epping, North Weald, Ongar, Fyfield, Leaden Roding, Great Dunmow, Felsted, Great Waltham, the Melbourne Park area of Chelmsford and Writtle. While some road closures are necessary to ensure everyone is safe, not all areas will be impacted for more than 12 hours. Provision is in place so that healthcare, emergency services, businesses and communities can operate as required. Residents and communities across the event, are invited to be part of Ford RideLondon-Essex. Whether that is raising funds for your community by creating a tempting pit-stop for riders where they can buy food and drink or by creating a community fun day that runs alongside the event. Maybe you or someone you know would like to take part to raise money for a charity, or for your

community, or just for the personal challenge. The Ford RideLondon-Essex team would like to hear from any resident of Stanford Rivers who would like to input into the planning for the event in their community. If you would like to be a part of this, please email [christopher.davey@londonmarathonevents.co.uk](mailto:christopher.davey@londonmarathonevents.co.uk)

The event first came to Essex in 2022 and in the first two years in the county has raised an estimated £5m per year for charities. Hosting the event has also meant Essex has received £1.75 million in grants for projects across the county which inspire and provide opportunities for people to be active. In July, Essex County Council confirmed a three-year agreement to host Ford RideLondon-Essex until 2026. Whilst it was perhaps a bit of a shock to the system to start with, many have now embraced the event bringing deck chairs and refreshments outside their homes to encourage and support the riders. For more information on routes, timings, how to get involved, how to contact the organisers and more, visit [ridelondon.co.uk/community-info](http://ridelondon.co.uk/community-info). If you would like to take part in the 2024 Ford RideLondon-Essex, visit [ridelondon.co.uk](http://ridelondon.co.uk)

**GO TO PAGES 8, 9 & 10 FOR FULL DETAILS OF THE ROUTE AND ROAD CLOSURES, AND OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION INCLUDING CONTACT DETAILS**

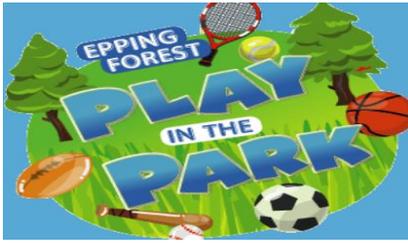


Sunday 26 May 2024



ESSEX

# FREE EASTER ACTIVITIES



Thanks to the support of local Parish Councils, Epping Forest District Council has been able to organise FREE outdoor events this Easter. Play in the park is all about playing games and having fun outdoors. No need to book, just drop in at any time. The Play in the park team bring a range of

sports equipment and arts & crafts resources for children and their parents/carers to enjoy together. The team will be there to help organise activities and games all totally free of charge! All ages welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

## Ongar

Shelley Park, Ongar, CM5 0BT  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 1.30 – 3.30pm

Jubilee Park, Ongar, CM5 9BL  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April 10am – 12pm

## Epping

Stonards Hill Recreation Ground,  
Epping, CM16 4QF  
Monday 8 April 10am – 12pm

## Abridge

Abridge Village Hall field,  
RM4 1UH  
Wednesday 3 April 10am – 12pm  
Wednesday 10 April 10am – 12pm

## District Council and PFCC Elections 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024

On 2<sup>nd</sup> May we have both District Council and Police, Fire and Crime Commission elections taking place. Whilst there are no changes to the elected Parish Councillors, this year is a 'special' year regarding the District as there are changes agreed by the Boundary Commission to the warding structure. This means there will be changes as to who will represent you at a District level. Previously, this Parish came under the 'Passingford' ward with one District Councillor – Cllr Heather Brady – representing your views. The new ward, named 'Theydon Bois with Passingford' covers a much greater area (including Theydon Bois as the name suggests), however we will be represented by an additional two district Councillors, meaning we will have three in total.



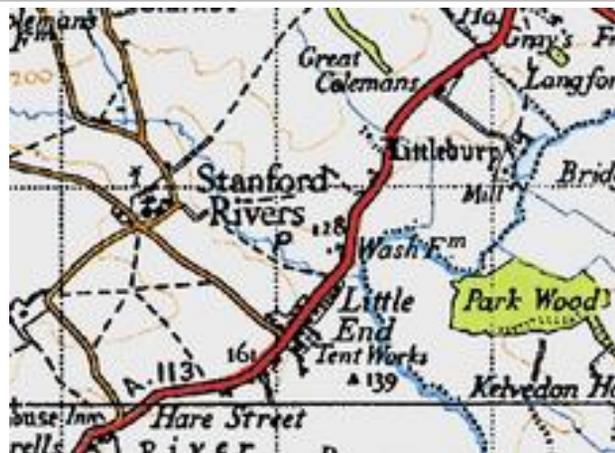
### Implications of the Elections Act 2022

Don't forget the introduction of the Elections Act mean introduced changes to how people vote. The key changes are:

- Electors needing to show an approved form of photo ID at a polling station before voting. This includes such ID as a passport, driving licence or national bus pass. If the ID has expired, it will still be applicable to use provided the photo is still a good likeness. For those voters without a suitable form of ID they can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate (VAC) via the Gov.uk website.
- Poll cards are changing. The back of the A4 "card" will list the suitable forms of acceptable ID to show.
- Some additional aids and support will be provided to assist accessibility at polling stations for voters with disabilities.
- Postal applications and some proxy applications can now be completed online for most electors. <https://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote>

## Little End? Hare Street?

In the previous edition of News and Views, I mentioned that there was a new defibrillator located in the Woodman in Little End, however a local resident (who was also the previous Parish Clerk) advised that this was technically incorrect. Apparently Little End runs from Church Road in a north easterly direction towards Ongar, whilst Hare Street runs from Church Road in a south westerly direction towards Passingford Bridge. This means that the Woodman, and subsequently the Parish Defibrillator, is located in Hare Street and not Little End. Such important historic matters often get lost over the years, and our thanks go to the local resident who was able to ensure we have all the correct info!

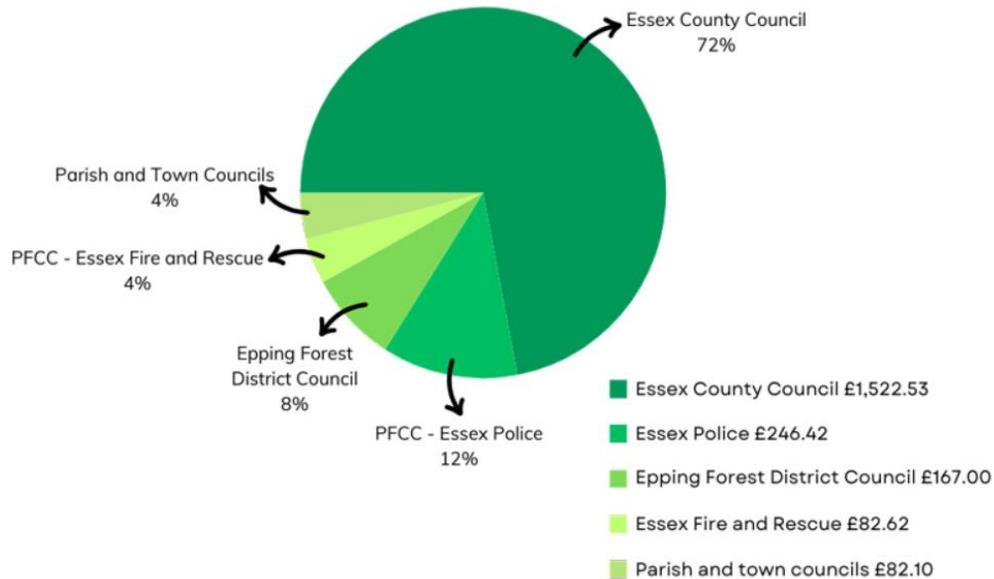


# What Does Your Council Tax Go Towards

On 20<sup>th</sup> February, Epping Forest District Council set its Council Tax rates for 24/25. Council Leader Chris Whitbread said 'We do much more than just collect the bins. We have been able to protect some of the most valued discretionary services we provide including our 3 additional police officers to safeguard local residents for at least another year. Highway rangers will continue to clean and maintain our towns, villages and countryside.

While most residents will focus on the headline numbers, Council Tax payments retained by Epping Forest District Council to fund its own services represents less than 8% of the total. Council Tax provides only a fraction of the money needed to deliver district services residents value most.' The District Council's website provides a very useful chart showing exactly how your money is spent, and which organisations it goes to. For further details, and to see what this means for you, visit <https://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/epping-forest-sets-2024-2025-council-tax/>

## COUNCIL TAX BREAKDOWN for 2024 to 2025



## ECC Minerals Waste Plan – Possible Site

Essex County Council is currently consulting on an update to its Waste Minerals Plan. As minerals and waste planning authority for Essex, they must ensure that there are enough minerals for construction to meet the needs of Essex, and to provide sites to meet those needs. The current plan was adopted in 2014 and provides planning policies for minerals development in Essex until 2029. This new review will provide enough mineral sites in the County up to the period 2040. Included as one of the possible mineral extraction sites is a site **A63 (image below)** – known as Patch Park – which falls in the territory of Lambourne, Theydon Garnon and Theydon Mount parishes. Neighbouring areas and those upstream and downstream in the River Roding catchment area may also be affected. Site A63 could be expected to yield one million tonnes of aggregate, but 79% of the site is in a flood risk zone 3 and the initial assessment of the site has identified it has a high potential for surface water flooding and a high groundwater flood risk. It is important that local residents respond to this consultation, as if this site is selected it will undoubtedly have an impact not only on traffic along the A113, but changes to the water table. For full details, visit <https://www.essex.gov.uk/replacement-essex-minerals-local-plan-review-2025-2040>. The deadline for responses has been extended to 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024.



# Want Easier Bus Access To Romford?

Stanford Rivers Parish Council has been lobbying for some time to extend the TFL 375 bus service into Ongar. The 375 service travels from Romford Station / Romford Market, Hainault, Collier Row, Stapleford Abbots, and currently stops at Passingford Bridge, however we believe that by extending this service to Ongar, it will enable many more residents of Ongar, Toot Hill and Stanford Rivers to make use of the facility. Currently, there is a sustainable transport gap between Ongar and Passingford Bridge, with no bus service provided to our residents. We would really like to hear from you if you would use this bus service, and if you feel there is a need for it. Please contact the parish clerk at [stanforddriverspc@gmail.com](mailto:stanforddriverspc@gmail.com), or by phone on 077 377 36365. Thank you.



## Easter At St Margaret's Church

Easter Sunday (31st March) is the high point of the Christian year when churches across the world celebrate the fact that Jesus rose to new life on the third day after he was crucified. The events of Easter, his death and resurrection, are what enable us to re-establish our relationship with our creator, God himself. With so much darkness and bad news in the world today it's good to be able to celebrate good news. Everyone is invited to join us for a Communion service at **St Margaret's Church at 11.00am on Easter Day** to celebrate the good news of Jesus' resurrection. Thank you, and best wishes



Revd Neil Taylor - Parish Priest for the Parishes of Greensted and Stanford Rivers

## Stanford Rivers Parish Council News

Your local Parish Councillors continue to work on your behalf, representing your views on issues of local importance. In January of this year, the 24/25 budget was set, with a number of exciting projects coming soon. We were delighted to be awarded £15,000 via the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to be used towards green, energy efficient infrastructure for Toot Hill Village Hall. We hope to be able to place solar panels on the roof of the hall, doing our bit to reduce our carbon footprint and making the hall more efficient and cheaper to run. There's quite some work to do, and a further £20,000 of funding needs to be secured to move forward with this project. Watch this space! We also hope to install CCTV at the hall, given its very secluded and hidden location. We will continue to maintain the Parish owned open spaces, along with the phone box at Sharps Green, and the Vehicle Activated Speeding signs along the A113. The Community Speedwatch team remain active, and Cllr Adams continues to spearhead the Neighbourhood Watch activity. We continue to monitor flooding, especially along the A113 near Traceys Farm and at Bridge Farm, and are working with the relevant authorities to try and get some action. We were delighted to have a stand at what was a very wet Toot Hill Show last year (picture below), and plan to continue to support this very worthwhile event. We continue to respond to planning applications, lobby

our District and County Councillors, and ensure you are represented. We were particularly disappointed to learn late last year that the Demand Responsive Transport service (DaRT) that runs from Toot Hill to Epping would no longer be supported by Essex County Council, and the service has been withdrawn. The reason given was that the service was very rarely used, and as such no longer cost effective to run. This leaves the entire parish of Stanford Rivers without any form of public transport. Whilst many of us have adapted to this way of life, some are left entirely cut off. Visit [www.stanforddrivers-pc.gov.uk](http://www.stanforddrivers-pc.gov.uk) for more information, and for dates of our 2024 meetings.



# Stanford Rivers Neighbourhood Watch



Lastly, just a reminder for everyone to make use of our online groups to inform other residents of anything suspicious going on but do note these forums are not for reporting crimes, that must be done directly with the police. Also a word of warning, if you do see something suspicious, a lot of criminals are not averse to adding assault to their offences so it is not recommended to challenge such people directly.

**Your main NHW coordinator is John Adams:**  
[srpcnw@gmail.com](mailto:srpcnw@gmail.com) - Tel 01277 362194

As the co-ordinator for our parish Neighbourhood Watch scheme, I monitor weekly police reports for the area and it is pleasing to note that overall we have very low crime rates. On the few occasions where something does crop up I will post anything significant on our Facebook and WhatsApp Groups for everyone's information and awareness. If you're not already a member of these groups you can request to join, on Facebook do this directly by looking for the group "Stanford Rivers Neighbourhood Watch". To join the WhatsApp group contact me on WhatsApp through my mobile number 07949 922516.

One area of crime that appears most frequently is vehicle theft, favourites being 4WD Land Rover and similar types, I also hear that any newish Mercedes are in vogue these days. Any work vehicles, especially with the possibility of tools inside do get targeted as well. From the reports I see it seems to me that thieves are literally able to simply walk up to a vehicle, get inside and drive it away. Police advice suggests that key fob cloning is the major culprit so here are a few tips to help minimise the risk of this.

1. Keep your key fob in a protective Faraday pouch.
2. Obviously don't leave keys on view or hanging up near any access points like doors, windows or letter boxes.
3. Be aware that your fobs can be cloned just by being close to it so be wary when you are out and about.
4. It might be possible for key fobs to be disabled, I know of one local dealership that has offered to do this free of charge in an endeavour to protect their customers from having their vehicles stolen. Worth considering, check it out with your dealership or manufacturer if your concerned.

Police UK have an informative article regarding protecting your vehicle, it can be accessed online at

<https://www.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/keeping-vehicles-safe/preventing-car-vehicle-theft/>



## Hire Toot Hill Village Hall

To hire the Toot Hill Village Hall, call 077 37736365, or email [stanforddriverspc@gmail.com](mailto:stanforddriverspc@gmail.com). Hire rates are as follows:

		Parishioner	Non Parishioner
Mon-Fri	8am – 6pm	£12/hr	£13/Hr
Mon-Fri	6pm to 12am	£13/hr	£14/Hr
Sat- Sun	8am to 6pm	£14/Hr	£15/Hr
Sat-Sun	6pm to 12am	£16/Hr	£16/Hr

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# Toot Hill Windmill

In January, a letter was received by a local resident from a lady called Mrs Juliet Betts who came across an old print cutting she found in a dismantled Victorian scrap book of Toot Hill Windmill. The cutting is over 200 years old! The windmill was built in 1824, but was struck by lightning five years later and the miller was seriously injured. On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 1829, a terrible thunderstorm raged over the area of Ongar and Stanford Rivers. As the thunder clouds hovered over Toot Hill windmill there was a hissing noise and sound like artillery and then the smell of sulphur. Mrs Rayne, the millers wife, was in her cottage when she heard the shrieks of her husband in the mill. She rushed outside to see the mill had been struck by lightning. Mrs Rayners nephew and others came to the rescue and the miller was found on the second floor of the mill. His hair was singed, he had facial injuries and his right leg was almost severed. Mr Potter, the Ongar surgeon, was called for and quickly arrived. He immediately amputated the leg. It appears that the miller survived the ordeal and a lithograph of the millers destruction was sold locally to raise funds for the miller and his family as, no doubt, he was unable to work. As for the mill, it had been struck on the sails cutting two of them off. The lightning then entered the mill demolishing the interior, thrusting two half-hundred weights out through the side of the mill. The roof was blown off, as was the weather boarding on its sides. It was left like a skeleton with its machinery exposed. The mill was repaired and operated until about 1900. It was demolished in 1935.



*Toot Hill Windmill.  
In the Parish of Stanford Rivers, Essex,  
Shattered by Lightning June 18<sup>th</sup> 1829*

# Toot Folk Club



Come along and enjoy an evening of singing and stamping feet or just enjoying your own beverages. A welcoming atmosphere with some very talented musicians and singers. Start time on Fridays is 7.00 till 11.00 and dates for the future are:-

**Friday 26th April - Friday 10th May**

**Saturday 22nd June 4.00- 8.00**

**Saturday 20th July 4.00 - 8.00.**

Both Saturdays may be outside in our marquee - weather permitting. If you want more information or have a question about the events please ring Matt Tallon on 07855170256.

**Toot Hill Folk and Music Club Committee**



 **#MyOtherLife**

If you want to make a real difference in your town then volunteer as a Community Special Constable and play a part in keeping your neighbourhood safe.

Stanford Rivers Parish are supporting Essex Police to increase local and visible policing in their area.

**Visit [www.essex.police.uk/Specials/standordrivers](http://www.essex.police.uk/Specials/standordrivers) to find out more**

# Shonks Mill Flood Storage Area - Update

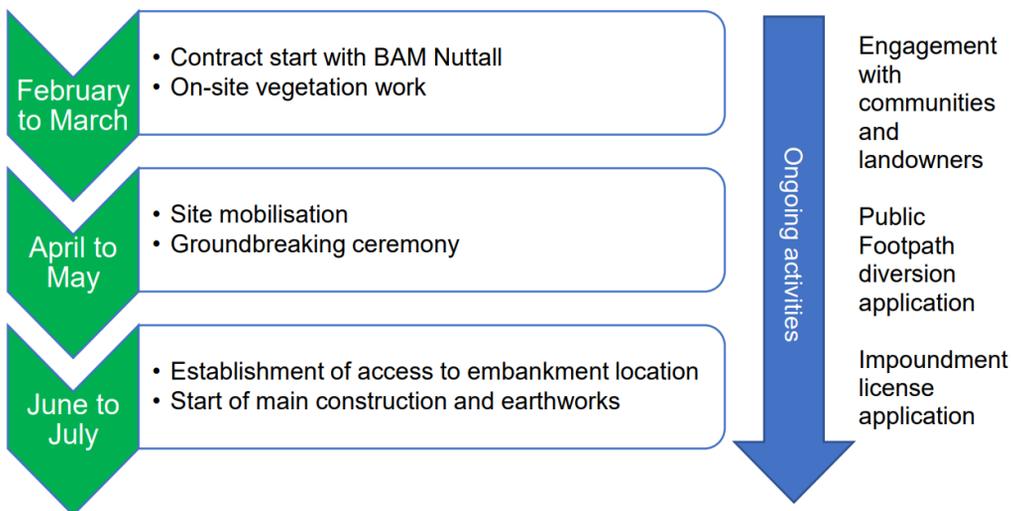
Many of you will recall that approval has been given for the creation of a new Flood Storage Area near Shonks Mill. The Environment Agency (EA) recently issued an update on progress with what is known as 'The River Roding Project', which aims to reduce flooding to homes, businesses and infrastructure in the Woodford and Ilford areas. This has obviously been quite contentious for residents in Stanford Rivers, as we receive no benefit whatsoever from the project. The update from the EA is as follows:

## Current Progress

The project has received planning permission to build a flood storage area upstream of the M25. The business case has received sign-off and we will begin construction in spring 2024. We expect to complete construction during 2026.

## 6-month project programme look ahead

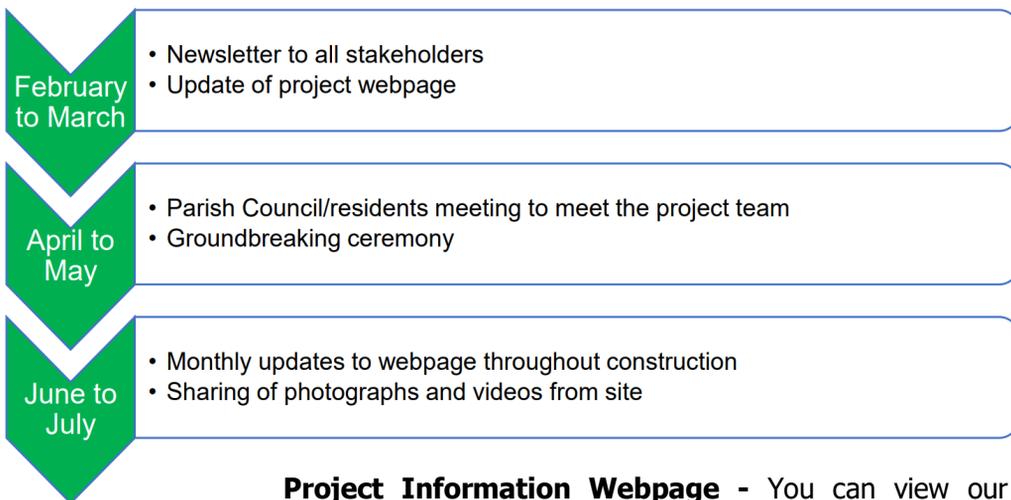
We have recently published a set of frequently asked questions on our webpage which will be kept updated throughout construction. Future project updates will be provided on our information page, but the info graphic to the right shows a summary of the outline for works over the coming months.



## Community engagement

We have produced the below graphic to show our intended community engagement activities over the coming months. We will share invites to the proposed meetings and provide details of other project activities and updates. If you would like to receive these invites/updates, please do let us know and provide your details to our project email address,

[RiverRodingProject@Environment-Agency.gov.uk](mailto:RiverRodingProject@Environment-Agency.gov.uk)



**Project Information Webpage** - You can view our project information webpage at the following address. We will be engaging with communities and landowners during construction of the storage area but this page will also contain the most up to date project information: [www.consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/hnl/theriver-roding-project-information-page](http://www.consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/hnl/theriver-roding-project-information-page). Alternatively, you can scan this QR code to view the page.

To be added to the mailing list to receive future updates directly and invites to future project events, please let us know by filling in the form available via our project webpage, or by emailing us on: [RiverRodingProject@Environment-Agency.gov.uk](mailto:RiverRodingProject@Environment-Agency.gov.uk)



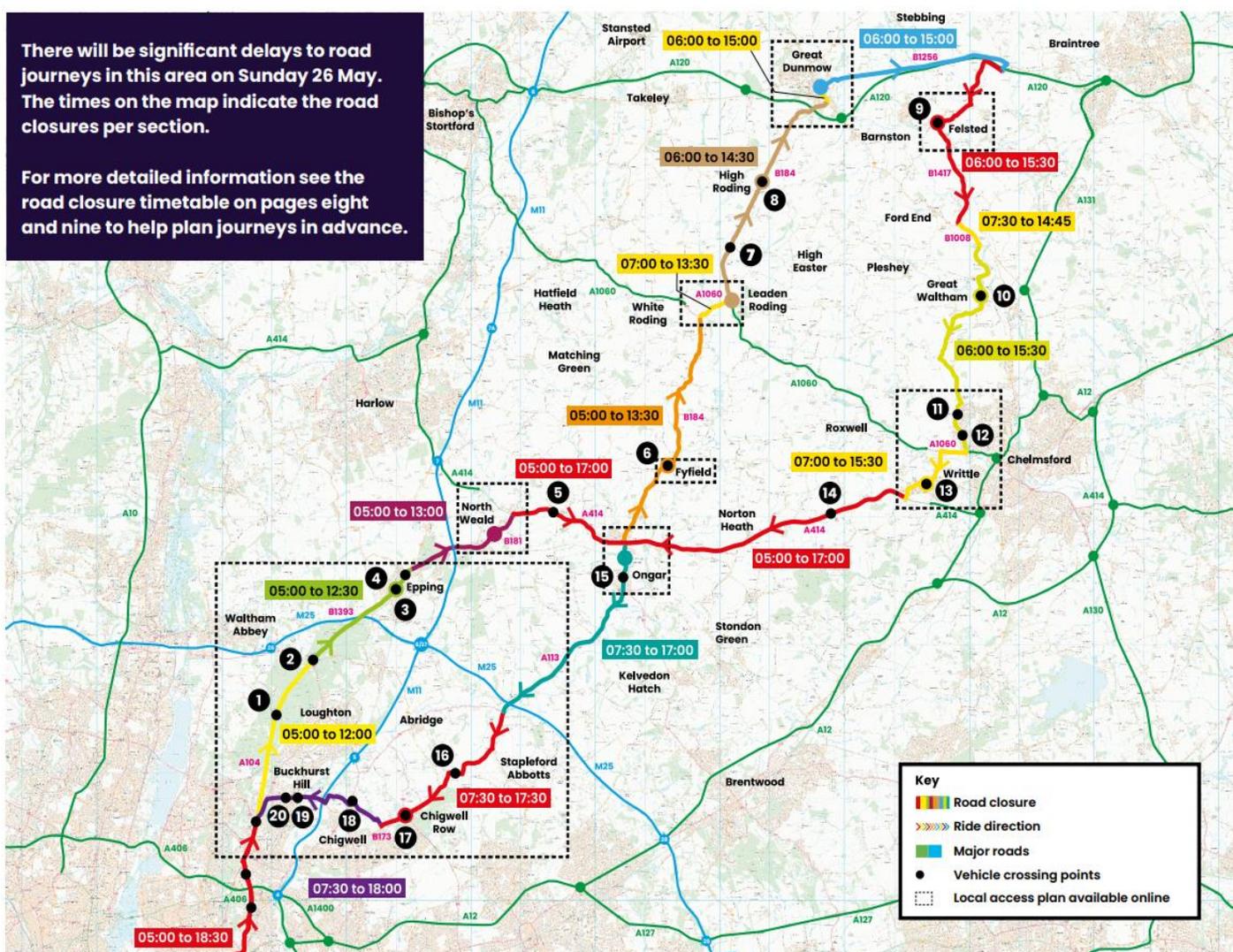
Above: Ariel photograph of the River Roding flooding in December 2019, taken by a local resident

# RIDE LONDON

## ESSEX

There will be significant delays to road journeys in this area on Sunday 26 May. The times on the map indicate the road closures per section.

For more detailed information see the road closure timetable on pages eight and nine to help plan journeys in advance.



### Emergency services

Emergencies will be treated as a priority in the usual way. If you require the emergency services, call 999. Emergency vehicle access will be maintained and prioritised throughout the Ford RideLondon-Essex event.

For the latest Ford RideLondon-Essex road closure information, please scan the QR code below



### Care providers and medical appointments

Provision is in place for care providers to make home visits as planned, and all local hospitals will be accessible throughout the event. If you have any queries or need assistance to plan care or hospital visits, please contact our dedicated Customer Services Team online at [ridelondon.co.uk/help/contact-us](http://ridelondon.co.uk/help/contact-us)

Would you like to volunteer to assist a steward? Local knowledge is invaluable at these events, and our stewards would be grateful for any local knowledge you may have, for example where they can use the loo! Please contact Chris Davey on [christopher.davey@londonmarathonevents.co.uk](mailto:christopher.davey@londonmarathonevents.co.uk) if you can help.



# Ride LONDON ESSEX

Event information for Essex

## Major roads and routes

There will be delays to road journeys in parts of Essex on Sunday 26 May, so please plan ahead.

### Open as usual

The M11, M25, A12, A120, A130 and A131 are open as usual in Essex on Sunday 26 May.

### Closure of cross-county roads

The part-closure of three cross-county roads – the A414, A1060 and Essex Regiment Way (B1008) – will be required on Sunday 26 May. Full details are provided below to help you plan your journeys.

#### A414

The A414 will be closed between junction seven of the M11 to the A414 London Road in Chelmsford from 05:00 to 17:00 on Sunday 26 May.

A local access plan for Chipping Ongar is available online.

#### A1060

On Sunday 26 May, the A1060 will be closed in both directions at Leaden Roding and between Writtle and Chelmsford from 07:00.

The A1060 will reopen at Leaden Roding only, in a westbound direction, at 13:30 for access towards Hatfield Heath and the M11. The A1060 will fully reopen at 15:30.

#### B1008 – Essex Regiment Way

B1008 – Essex Regiment Way will be

## Stansted Airport

Access to and from Stansted Airport is not directly affected.

However, please plan your journey and consider using the M11, M25, A12, A130, and A131 to access the A120.



closed between the A131 and Ford End from 07:30 to 14:45.

### Travel to London

Please note there will be significant road closures in central and east London, including the A12, which will be closed between the A406 and the A11.

### Public transport

There may be some planned engineering works taking place on the Greater Anglia rail network on the event weekend. For more details, please visit [greateranglia.co.uk/travel-information/service-alterations](https://greateranglia.co.uk/travel-information/service-alterations)

Due to event road closures, some bus services will need to be diverted, suspended or terminated earlier than usual. Some stops may also be temporarily relocated.

For up-to-date bus information, visit [essexhighways.org/getting-around/bus](https://essexhighways.org/getting-around/bus)

## Will carer visits and hospital appointments go ahead?

Provision is in place for care providers to make home visits as planned, and all local hospitals will be accessible throughout the event. If you have any queries or need assistance to plan care or hospital visits, please contact our dedicated Customer Services Team

## I need essential access in or out of the road – how do I do that?

We work with communities to ensure that essential access is possible. For example to access a carer/hospital/home or for a wedding/special event etc. We take great care that healthcare, emergency services, businesses or any specific special needs are catered for.

## Updates and assistance

### Need help?

To receive Ford RideLondon–Essex road closure updates via email, please register at [ridelondon.co.uk/road-closures-updates](https://ridelondon.co.uk/road-closures-updates)

If you have any queries or need assistance, please visit [ridelondon.co.uk/help/contact-us](https://ridelondon.co.uk/help/contact-us)

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding in the run-up to the 2024 Ford RideLondon–Essex.

### Information

[ridelondon.co.uk](https://ridelondon.co.uk)

[essex.gov.uk](https://essex.gov.uk)

[tfl.gov.uk/ridelondon](https://tfl.gov.uk/ridelondon)

[helpdesk@ridelondon.co.uk](mailto:helpdesk@ridelondon.co.uk)



[facebook.com/RideLondon](https://facebook.com/RideLondon)



[@RideLondon](https://twitter.com/RideLondon)



[instagram.com/RideLondon](https://instagram.com/RideLondon)

### Where to watch

There are lots of great places to watch the Ford RideLondon–Essex events and opportunities to take part too. For information on where to view the action, what's on and how to get involved, visit [ridelondon.co.uk](https://ridelondon.co.uk)

### The London Marathon Foundation

Ford RideLondon–Essex is organised by London Marathon Events (LME) and all surplus profit generated by Ford RideLondon–Essex and other LME events goes to the London Marathon Foundation (registered charity 283813).

In the last two years, the London Marathon Foundation has granted Active Essex £1.75 million to fund more than 250 projects across the county to inspire people to be active. Find out more about the projects at [activeessex.org/ridelondon-essex/](https://activeessex.org/ridelondon-essex/)

## How do I cross the route?

Stewards and volunteers will provide assistance during the event and help you cross the route wherever possible. If you require assistance that is not a 999 emergency during the event, please ask event staff.

### Vehicle crossing points

There will be about 30 available on the Ford RideLondon–Essex route on Sunday 26 May, allowing drivers to cross the route safely. Locations of the vehicle crossing points in your area are displayed on the map as black dots.

### Pedestrian crossing points

These are located along the event route and will be supervised to help you cross the road. Usual crossings may be suspended, but an alternative will be available where it will be easier to cross. Please be patient during the event and listen to stewards' instructions.