

AG notes- Great Bentley – February 2022 meeting

1.	Jan 20 AG chairs policy scrutiny Ctte. Place, Services & Economic Growth. Cabinet member[s] for sustainable transport and climate change.
2.	<p>Member ECC community initiative. Update. Request direct from Westcotec for specific preferences for Thorrington use. VAS & SID equipment. This will allow them to prepare individual illustrations. Can then look at proportion for grant. As mentioned may be tight for time. Money needs to be spent before March 2022. AG is aware of plans being prepared to include village owned lights as potential VAS sign holders/posts. Application form – even not 100% agreed - is needed to initiate process and allow AG to reserve a funds number!</p> <p>The closure date for applications of Feb 28. That's the deadline date for application forms to be submitted. Initially this should come from Great Bentley to AG</p>
3.	I am also asking Councils to think about "off the shelf" [oven ready] community plans are discussed. Just in case any hold up with VAS / SID signs. Assume similar amounts across the board of between £1K & £3K per parish for schemes. Match funded? A reminder of the conditions to meet. Hopefully it will not be a waste of time as any ideas may be used next year anyway. Any thoughts on allotment container?
4.	Scrutiny board task & finish group looking at Local Highway Panels.
5.	Colne College . Dec 14. AG attended handing over of new building from builders to Academy. On time and within budget. Some small items to deliver. Will be wonderful addition to our childrens education options. Millions plus! Good for students from Great Bentley.
6.	Colne School Zebra Crossing and road/pavement works. UPDATE. Was scheduled to be installed October half term together with traffic island in Bateman Road. Delayed due to shortage from supplier. Savings achieved by joining two projects together. School advised and they offered use of premises for vehicles & equipment. New date half term Feb scheduled.
7.	Feb 28. Kent & Essex Fisheries Conservation meeting. Budget £1 million plus. AG one of 3 representing Essex funding & locally based business. Still modifying old EU rules. Big issue with water company's discharge in to Thames area which includes Colne etc. Sales falling of local resources as public confidence at low ebb. Hydrogen fuel for boats discussed.
8.	Feb 28. Meeting with local MP to discuss residents concerns. Fuel issues, cost of living & EU.
9.	Feb 11. Pride of Tendring awards. 10 year anniversary.
10.	Feb 10. ECC full Council. Budget agreement meeting. Large amount of funds needed for Adult Social Care. Predicted to become a dramatically bigger issue as life expectancy increases.
11.	<p>Jan 6. AG attended several meetings re "levelling up". Justine Greening MP & Cllr. Louise McKinley. Ian Davidson too. Essex in advance of central govt white paper with plans. First in the country to be declared. Equality of opportunity wherever you live. 4 main initiatives launch in March with eligible funding:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holiday Clubs activity • Community Challenge Fund • Financial wellbeing fund • Family Friendly Employment Charter
12.	ECC pension scheme for teachers. Problems at 3 rd party admin centres. Local residents contacted AG & was able to help.
13.	Much of the UK is suffering with employees not able to work because of self isolating etc. Obviously Teachers, Nurses and HGV drivers rightly make the headlines. ECC is not immune. Much of the

workforce is unable to be as efficient as normal. Apologies if this leads to unexpected delays. I am having to **exercise some patience in areas I would not have expected.**

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“Report it” tool for road or highways issues – essexhighways.org

