

A Few Notes from your District Councillor

February 2022

LOCAL PLAN NOW ADOPTED BY TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL

The new Local Plan to guide development in Tendring up to 2033 has been formally adopted by Tendring District Council (TDC). A strategic blueprint document sets out how development should take place across the district for the future by protecting it against harmful and speculative development. The Local Plan also includes a number of policies used to determine planning applications.

The second and final section of Tendring's Local Plan was unanimously approved and adopted by councillors at the full council meeting held on Tuesday, 25th January 2022. With the adoption of the first section of the Local Plan for the wider North Essex area in 2021, and with the report from the government Planning Inspector endorsing the Tendring specific Section Two of the Local Plan, it is now legally compliant and 'sound', in line with national guidelines.

BODY WORN CAMERAS TO SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT IN TENDRING

Body worn cameras will be used by some TDC staff to support enforcement work. The miniature cameras, like those worn by police, will be used by frontline officers to capture evidence in cases such as littering, dog fouling and fly-tipping, or during visits by officers to licensed premises, evictions, and the like. In addition to strengthening enforcement action, the cameras will also help protect staff from attack by acting as a deterrent and enabling action should the officer be physically or verbally abused. Similarly, it will allow investigation of allegations of improper conduct by TDC staff.

TDC has purchased 26 cameras, at a cost of £17,000.

TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL HAS REDUCED CARBON EMISSIONS THROUGH ENERGY SUPPLY CHANGES

Carbon emissions have been cut by almost a quarter at TDC over the past three years. Figures revealed has shown the authority's emissions dropped from 5,083 tonnes in 2018/19 to 3,881 in 2020/21. While some of the impact came from reduced facility usage during the pandemic several steps had been taken to maintain the reduction going forward. These include the recent closure of the oil-heated Weeley offices, which will reduce CO2 emissions by 55 tonnes based on 2020/21 figures, and a decision to purchase carbon neutral electricity across the council from April 2022. In addition, the Transformation Project had seen efficient LED lighting and added insulation installed at other council offices. TDC is also progressing to install more electric vehicle charging points, with a grant application submitted to government to fund eight stations as part of the Starlings development in Dovercourt, and agreement to install a charge point at Clacton Town Hall. A survey was being undertaken to look at the requirements and considerations for installing additional charge points at priority car parks.

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TRANSFORMATION PROJECT COMPLETED AT TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL

A multi-million pound project to improve TDC office buildings and make them more environmentally friendly has been completed.

The council started its Transformation Project in 2018 and major refurbishment is now completed at its offices in Clacton Town Hall, Pier Avenue Clacton, and the Northbourne Depot.

In addition to the refurbishment of core offices the project has seen Westleigh House in Clacton demolished and the site turned into an extension of the High Streets car park, Barnes House has been extended and now connects to the Pier Avenue offices, and the Weeley office site has now closed, which is earmarked to be used for housing development.

All council committee meetings are now held at Clacton Town Hall.

The IT programme has supported the office work in moving from hard-wired to Wi-Fi connections, also changed from physical to cloud data storage, with all now supporting remote working.

The app. free download on both Apple and Android smartphones, promotes leisure and tourism events, as well as giving real-time beach occupancy reports during the summer season and other helpful information.

IT has also supported development of the My Tendring customer self-service portal, which launched in 2018 and now has more than 19,000 resident accounts, and new services are still being added. Further Digital Transformation projects are also being drawn up for the near future, including additional My Tendring and Love Tendring services.

Overall, the project has cost £1.2million for the alterations, including the cost of some repair issues which were uncovered in the process. It will lead to financial savings and a significant cut in carbon emissions for the authority in the long-term.

It was said from the outset that by investing in the offices and consolidating the estate overall it would reduce costs in terms of energy and maintenance, as well as creating a workplace suitable for staff going forward.

Lynda

[Cllr. Lynda McWilliams](#)

Ward Councillor to the Parishes of Great Bentley, Little Bentley and Frating and TDC Cabinet Member with the portfolio for Partnerships.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns; I am always very pleased to help and hear from you.

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