



UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Felsted & Stebbing Ward
District Councillors Sandi Merifield & John Evans



DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT: NOVEMBER 2022

Cllrs. Sandi Merifield and John Evans are pleased to present their Monthly Report to the Parish Council.

LOCAL PLAN

We are sorry that it might seem that our reports are overladen with updates regarding work being undertaken in regard to the forthcoming Local Plan, but it is indeed a topic which will remain high on the priority list for Uttlesford for quite some time – that is until the Examination in Public before the Planning Inspectorate takes place at the end of the process. We are sure that you will wish to be kept abreast of these matters accordingly and are of course very happy to discuss all aspects surrounding it with you and residents at any time.

As we last reported, the Council announced a pause in the published local plan timetable to allow more time to complete the further work required for the Regulation 18 Stage Draft Plan stage. Although this delay to the next Local Plan stage is unfortunate, the Local Plans Team intends that this will have the benefit, to parish councils and others, of a much more accessible and clearer justified 'Draft Local Plan' consultation document.

The Cabinet agreed on 20th October 2022 an updated timetable for the Local Plan. The revised timetable is shown in the following key stages:

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| • Draft Local Plan Consultation (Reg. 18) | Late Summer 2023 |
| • Pre-Submission Local Plan Consultation (Reg. 19) | Mid 2024 |
| • Submission of Local Plan for Examination | Autumn 2024 |
| • Independent Examination | Winter 2024 |
| • Adoption | October 2025 |

So, the next consultation opportunity for parish councils and others is next summer and we shall be keen to ensure that all voices and representations are heard and taken on board then.

Documents related to the local plan, as well as details of how residents can sign up to receive regular newsletter updates, can be found at: www.uttlesford.gov.uk/new-local-plan.

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COST OF LIVING & HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUNDING

So many members of the community are understandably anxious as to the looming and increasing cost of living. Uttlesford has established a household support scheme which will provide a rebate to households that were in receipt of Local Council Tax Support between 31 January and 1 April 2022. These households have been identified as most vulnerable and in need of additional support with the cost of food and utilities and we would like to publicise this further through the medium of this Report and the following link:

► [Find out more about the Uttlesford household support scheme](#)

Furthermore, at County level, Essex County Council has also announced available support whose details may be accessed via this link:

[£50 million package to support residents to help with the cost of living.](#)

The government also of course has a number of schemes to support people, particularly with [energy bills](#) and further details may be found about the help available on the [GOV.UK website](#).

UTTLESFORD ZERO CARBON COMMUNITIES GRANT

You will have received direct advice concerning The Zero Carbon Communities Grant Fund established by UDC but we feel that it is deserving of as much publicity as it might attract, being a **new grant** that has been launched to support community groups in Uttlesford to take action on climate change.

Non-profit groups or organisations, **including** any parish council within the district, can apply for funding for new projects that are focussed on carbon emission reduction, community engagement in climate change, or ecological enhancement in the community.

Community projects might include:

- Community buildings – for example, energy conservation or efficiency measures
- Sustainable transport – for example, community cycle parking or electric vehicle charging points
- Nature and biodiversity projects – this could include community allotment projects, or the restoration, creation or enhancement of a community nature area
- Other projects – such as waste reduction projects, or community initiatives that promote sustainable lifestyle choices

The first round of funding is open until **January 2023**, with bids being assessed and finalised in February. Grants of between £1,000 and £35,000 are available.

► [Get further information about the Zero Carbon Communities Grant](#)

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A webinar to support the Zero Carbon Communities Grant Fund will take place on Tuesday 15 November at 7.30pm. Anyone interested can e mail climatechange@uttlesford.gov.uk to receive a joining link for the webinar.

AIRSPACE MODIFICATIONS - ROUTEING

We have reported previously on the CAA consultation regarding reform of routeing to/from all airports in the UK and the possible resulting changes to airspace use. This programme continues – slowly – but the responses to the exercise may be found here:

<https://www.caa.co.uk/commercial-industry/airspace/airspace-modernisation/airspace-modernisation-strategy/about-the-strategy/>

and responses to the consultation submitted are found here:

<https://consultations.caa.co.uk/policy-development/draft-airspace-modernisation-strategy-2022-2040/>

Further published work is to be released again in the Spring of 2023 and we shall keep an eye on it, since there seems a risk that routeing changes will follow a pattern of proposed “respite” to be afforded to communities which historically were overflowed to a greater degree than others, while lesser overflowed communities historically will during the “respite periods” afforded to the former communities, then be overflowed to an increased extent themselves. This possible change in policy approach is likely to affect adversely residents principally in Stebbing but also those areas of Felsted which currently lie beneath the Clacton outbound routeing.

We submitted in our response to the consultation that consideration should be given to the number of listed buildings (where double glazing is difficult or not possible to install) lying below the routes and any changes should seek to avoid those locations.

We will keep you advised of matters as they evolve.

HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUNDING

We take this opportunity also of repeating some advices released centrally by UDC of which you will already be aware. The cost-of-living crisis is impacting on all residents and UDC have a household support scheme which will provide a rebate to households that were in receipt of Local Council Tax Support. These households have been identified as most vulnerable and in need of additional support with the cost of food and utilities.

- [Find out more about the Uttlesford household support scheme](#)
- Essex County Council has also announced a [£50 million package to support residents to help with the cost of living](#).
- The government also has a number of schemes to support people, particularly with [energy bills](#). Find out more about the help available on the [GOV.UK website](#).

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Additionally, there is in place an energy rebate exceptional hardship scheme whereunder the Council Tax Energy Rebate is being delivered to help households with rising energy costs. Those who qualified under the main scheme will have already received their £150 payment or been contacted on how to claim it.

If any residents who did not qualify for either scheme but are struggling to pay their energy bills, they may wish to apply for help through the UDC Energy Rebate Exceptional Hardship Scheme but it is to be noted that the scheme will close on **31 October 2022**. Full details and other information may be found here:

► [Get full details and the online application form](#)

LOCAL COUNCILS' LIAISON FORUM – 7 November 2022 @ UDC Little Canfield

We note that a meeting will take place on 7th November 2022, to be held at the new facilities at Little Canfield. This will be the first meeting held in person, rather than virtually for some time. John will be in attendance and among the topics to be discussed will be neighbourhood planning with a view to encouraging as many parishes to consider the merits of undertaking such an exercise.

We look forward to seeing those of your representatives who might be available on the evening – perhaps some will not have had the chance to visit the site before, but as previously advised, it comprises not only offices and meeting rooms (where frequently planning appeals are now held), the Depot for UDC refuse vehicles but significantly upgraded large storage/warehouse facilities also, which are to be let out and will be a significant revenue generator and go some way to enabling UDC income to be further supplemented.

OUR ASSISTANCE AND MEMBERS' INITIATIVE

We have not been approached since our last report for any assistance which might be possible using funds jointly available from our UDC Councillors' Initiative Allocation. As you know, we are always ready to consider requests for financial support for appropriate projects.

Of course, we would be very happy to hear from any parish councillors or residents and to meet them separately, whether at our Surgery held immediately before your Parish Council meeting or otherwise, should there be anything they think we can help with or answer any questions.

Cllr Sandi Merifield

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