

Saturday Training A New Service Introduced for Councillors, Clerks and Councils

Train**Inspire****Achieve****Celebrate**

The EALC responded to Members in 2016/2017 by the introduction of Saturday morning briefings and training. Following requests for more training to accommodate the needs of in particular Councillors who work, The County Training Officer Pearl Willcox, agreed to run approximately 10 briefings a year on a Saturday morning. These have become so popular, the EALC will be managing a larger number of courses and briefings throughout the year on Saturday mornings, afternoon and weekday evenings. Additionally the short course programme, delivered around the County in Council premises will continue with new subjects.

The EALC has run the following Saturday Courses: The Role of a Councillor (2 hour briefing), two Planning Briefings in March and a Saturday (full day) Chairman Training Day .

During 2017/18 we aim to run Saturday Courses on Planning (x3) and one evening course, Neighbourhood Planning, this is a course designed to brief Councils on their responsibilities as the lead body. We will be running Councillor Training Day 1 and Day 2, Financial Regulations, Marketing Plan (Social Media) Master Class.

How did the EALC do?

- Over 900 Delegates attended a course
- 55 courses delivered during the year
- 10 CiLCA Courses delivered
- A record 28 short courses delivered at Council premises
- 80 delegates attended the 2nd Police Partnership Conference
- 116 attended the ECC/EALC Annual Conference

Delegate Feedback.

- I was impressed by the standard of training and would recommend all Councillors to attend such briefings
- The days I attended were very informative, gave us lots of very useful ideas and tools
- Gained a greater understanding of the role of a Councillor.
- Tutors made it easy for you to join in and contribute during the day



Essex Association of Local Councils wishes to thank Essex County Council for the continued support and financial commitment to subsidise parish sector training and Council development.



ASSOCIATION NEWS

Essex County Council Partnership with Local Councils Funding and Support



Essex County Council works in partnership with the Local Councils (Parish, Community, Village and Town Councils) across Essex. The Community Initiative fund has provided Local Councils with provision of funding, which has benefited communities across the County, and enables these Councils to develop projects that result in the needs wants and aspirations of communities being achieved. This fund is extremely successful and the EALC thanks ECC for their continued support.

The Essex Association of Local Councils wishes to formally record their sincere thanks to ECC for the support and funding it receives in the form of a grant, a Premises Grant and the Clerks Bursary Fund. Without this support the EALC would not be able to deliver services to the sector. This partnership approach is not replicated elsewhere in the country and as always Essex is leading the way.

The EALC would also like to thank Cllr David Finch as Leader of ECC who works incredibly hard for the sector, attending Parish Council meetings and offering support and guidance where appropriate.



Transparency Funding Available for Councils with a turnover less than £25k

**Over £ 86,000 awarded to Essex in 2 years
Last Year For Application 2017/2018**

EALC has supported 100 of the 145 Councils to make an application to this grant fund. This will be the final year of the fund and all 145 Councils should be looking at making an application again this year. Support is available from the EALC.

Staff Update and Individual Staff Achievements

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Achieve	Celebrate

The EALC is committed to the development of the Staff to ensure that the Association delivers the best possible services to Member Councils. The EALC takes its responsibilities seriously and to enable the EALC to manage the business, staff are required to continue with their professional development. The EALC identify Fire Officers, Health and Safety representatives and First Aid trained staff to ensure that we are compliant with both managing the building, running courses and hosting meetings. During the year individual staff have achieved the following courses and qualifications. Allergen Training, Fire Safety, Health and Safety, SLCC Joint EALC/SLCC Training Day & Food Safety.

Staff Members

Chief Executive Officer
Joy Darby

Assistant CEO
Linda Golding

Responsible Finance Officer
Charlene Slade

County Training Officer
Pearl Willcox

Office & Training Administrator
Kerry Wood

Office & Training Coordinator
Sian Morris

Office & Training Administrator
Louise Gambardella

Parish Support Officer
Amanda Brown

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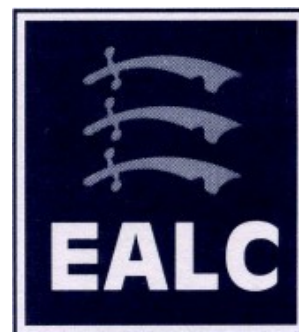
The Chairman's' Report to the EALC

EALC Annual Report 2016 Cllr John Gili-Ross

The EALC continues to be recognised nationally for the work it carries out in support of the Parish and Town sector. Change within the sector remains ever present and the EALC is committed to providing top quality support and training whilst looking for new areas where value can be added to member Councils. To meet the challenges presented during the year it is essential that we work diligently and successfully with our partners to create mutual benefit. As the County Association we must exploit every opportunity to work on your behalf primarily with Essex County Council and the National Association of Local Councils. During the year I have explored ways where the sector can help provide value within communities and at the same time help relieve some of the pressures on our County Councillors. I have produced a draft proposition, which if accepted will allow Parish and Town Councils the opportunity to act as local agents for ECC to deal with local issues such as parking on greensward areas and "fly posting" as examples. These are often very challenging issues for ECC to address, particularly when budget constraints are a factor. I hope this proposition will become a reality during the coming months



I remain immensely proud of being the EALC Chairman. The many EALC achievements this year could not have been possible without the members of Staff, the Executive Members who provide the district and borough voice that guide the association in its business and the many strategic partners the association works with to provide real benefit for the county.



Executive Committee Members (current)

Chairman

Cllr John Gili-Ross

Treasurer

Cllr David McPherson-Davis

Vice Chairmen

Cllr Sheila Jackman
Cllr Peter Davey

Committee

Cllr Alan Acott
Cllr John Anderson
Cllr Linda Belgrove
Cllr Stuart Berlyn
Cllr Peter Brown
Cllr Mandy Cohen
Cllr Jim Devlin
Cllr Helen Edwards
Cllr Abdul Hafiz
Cllr Valerie Morgan
Cllr Brian Hindley
Cllr Roy Martin
Cllr Hamish McIlwrick
Cllr Keith Miles
Cllr Richard North
Kathryn Richmond
Cllr Don Smith
Cllr Michael Talbot
Cllr Alan Townsend

Local Council Awards Chairman Essex County Accreditation Panel Cllr Peter Davey



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The EALC is currently working with 14 Councils who are seeking an award. The EALC continues to lead the way in having the most accredited Councils in the Country. In Essex we have 25 Councils with Foundation level, 9 with the Quality level and 5 with the highest achievement of Quality Gold.

The EALC works with Councils looking at achieving an award and advises all Councils that using the checklist assists the Council in reaching compliance with the sector standard. Congratulations to all the Councils who have between them received 39 awards.

Councils with Quality Gold, Quality and Foundation are Danbury PC, Hullbridge PC, Loughton TC, Rayleigh TC, and Waltham Abbey TC. Councils having achieved Quality and Foundations level are Canewdon PC, Canvey Island TC, Heybridge PC and Wakes Colne PC. Councils reaching the standard of Foundation level are Ashingdon PC, Epping TC, Epping Upland PC, Great Bardfield PC, Great Maplestead PC, Leigh on Sea TC, Little Baddow PC, Little Braxted PC, Messing cum Inworth PC, Ongar TC, Shotgate PC, South Woodham Ferrers PC, Springfield PC, West Bergholt PC, Woodham Ferrers and Bicnacre PC.

President

Cllr John Jowers

Vice-Presidents 2015—2016

Margaret Grimster
Dominic Petre
Canon John Brown
Peter Martin

The Larger Local Councils Forum

Under the organisation of Linda Golding and the Chairman of the Larger Local Councils Forum, Cllr Keith Miles, the meetings have gone from strength to strength during the year with record numbers of delegates attending. Epping Town Council hosted their first meeting in July 2016 when Epping Forest was the main topic on the Agenda. In October the new Police and Crime Commissioner Roger Hirst came to the Halstead meeting and in January 2017 Cllr Rodney Bass attended the Dunmow meeting just before he retired from Essex County Council. A presentation was made to him by the EALC Chairman Cllr John Gili-Ross to thank him for the times he had readily come to the meetings to speak about Highway issues. The LLCF meetings are held 3 times a year from 10am—12.30 and they run to time. Its a very friendly informal meeting which gives a good opportunity for networking and Councillors and Clerks from all Councils are very welcome to attend. There are regular updates from NALC, the SLCC and of course the EALC.



The EALC supports and helps to deliver the Essex Rural Strategy.



Essex Rural Partnership

During 2016/17 Essex Rural Partnership launched 'Respecting our Past, Embracing our Future'. The Essex Association worked with others around the County to develop this new 10 themed strategy to support the rural communities of Essex. The EALC Membership supported the consultation of this strategy and helped to ensure that it was appropriate for the parish sector. The EALC sends a number of Executive Members (Cllrs Davey, Cllr Gili-Ross, Cllr Mrs Jackman, Cllr Mrs Cohen and Mrs Darby) to the meetings which discuss all aspects of rural life and how the strategy can be used to benefit rural Essex. The EALC has two seats on the Essex Rural Strategy Board, and is now leading two of the themed chapters. Cllr John Gili-Ross leads "Harnessing the Potential in our Rural Economy" and Joy Darby leads "Thriving and Proactive Communities". Work is just starting on the themed chapters and the EALC is especially well placed to support the delivery of the strategy.

Neighbourhood Planning

The EALC has supported the ethos of Neighbourhood Planning, and undertaken some research on how this is being received by the Parish Sector. We now have a clear idea of the Councils that are undertaking the work (often supported by the RCCE professional team) and have identified further work to encourage Councils to consider a plan. The EALC will continue to work with Member Councils, delivering some training on how to set the correct structure



Great Dunmow—The Doctors Pond



Boxted

to remain legal. The EALC is well placed to promote Neighbourhood Planning, and now has the back up of national resources and courses to ensure Councils can meet the statutory regulations.

The EALC is pleased to offer congratulations to Great Dunmow Town Council and to Boxted Parish (the first plans to pass the referendum stage in Essex in 2016) and the many other communities that are working towards a Neighbourhood Plan.



Essex Association of Local Councils wishes to thank Essex County Council for the continued financial commitment to support the EALC.