



Cllr Julie Young
Borough Councillor
for Greenstead



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Cllr Tina Bourne
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RESIDENTS MOURN LOSS OF HEDGEROW

Claims that a hedgerow had been removed illegally from land adjoining Salary Brook, were investigated by Cllr Julie Young. There was much angst amongst local residents about this act.



Construction company Osborne Ltd of Reigate Surrey have admitted responsibility for the removal of 175m of ancient hedgerow from Salary Brook Local Nature Reserve. The land ownership is still being clarified, they may be

fined and required to reinstate the hedgerow but this will not help the loss of wildlife and habitat that small mammals and birds depend upon. This act of destruction has led to an online petition and outrage from ecological groups including Essex Wildlife Trust.

Ward Councillors were horrified by this action and demonstrates the need for radical change in planning. The developer is building 135 student flats the other side of the A133 on land east of Swan close. Ward Councillors firmly believe that delivering the Conservative Governments housing targets at 920 homes per year need to be delivered with much better control in place such as within a development corporation. We cannot go on with the piecemeal developer led approach that we currently have that deliver little in the way of benefits for local people.

Cllr Julie Young has been very clear, 'I will be watching the replacement of the hedge as promised by the developer. They will be replanting with a biodiversity offer and I will be watching with interest.'



DISASTROUS CUTS TO SCHOOL FUNDING

If you have children at a state nursery, primary or secondary school, sixth form or further education college, you will have noticed that funding cuts since 2015 have had an impact on:

- class sizes
- reduction on school trips and clubs
- difficulties in maintaining buildings
- parents asked to pay for resources or consumables
- reduction in course offer
- teaching and support staff redundancy
- ... among other changes.

Across Colchester our children have lost out on *£35 MILLION that should have been invested in their education. In Greenstead Ward, our young people learn at a variety of schools and colleges; here is the 2020 funding shortfall for a selection:

Colchester Academy	£560,000
The Gilbert School	£774,000
Unity Primary	£120,000
Hazelmere Juniors	£23,200
Hazelmere Infants & Nursery	£30,000
Parsons Heath Primary	£30,000
St James' CofE Primary	£22,000
Sixth Form College	£1,200,000

We think it is unacceptable that schools have to make do with less funding year on year. 83% of schools will still be worse off this year under the Conservatives autumn announcements on budget increases.

*SOURCE: SCHOOLCUTS.ORG.UK

HAWTHORN AVENUE GRASS VERGES

The birdmouth fencing installed along Hawthorn Avenue has made a huge difference to the look of this important arterial route and we are planning more work to clear the muddy mess which is such a blot on our landscape. Funding for this work has been allocated from our locality budget.

AVON WAY CONGESTION

We had a productive meeting with the developer "Beyond the Box" before the end of the year regarding the parking along Avon Way by Avon Way House.

With more traffic using Avon Way, avoiding Ipswich Road and Harwich Road, this bottleneck was causing tailbacks, increased air pollution and safety concerns.

The developers are working as swiftly as possible to get more cars on site and off the highway. As a result of our meeting the developer has agreed to support Greenstead Community Centre and has agreed a schedule of improvement works which demonstrates their commitment to supporting our local community.



HUNWICKE ROAD SHOPS MAKEOVER

After representations from your Labour Councillors Hunwicke Road shops have had a good tidy up and the railings have had a lick of paint making the environment look much brighter; Johnny Mac even taught Julie the tricks of the Fish and Chip Business! We are always keen to work with local residents and businesses to bring forward improvements.

EXTRA SUPPORT FOR RESIDENTS

Tots to Teens & Baby Bank

Grateful thanks go to Eunice and Barbara who run the Baby Bank; if you need help with children's clothes or equipment from tots to teens why not drop in and see them at The Greenstead Foodbank located in the Co Op Resource Centre next to the Co Op Foodstore every Tuesday and Thursday 10-12

Citizens Advice Bureau comes to Greenstead

We are pleased to welcome the CAB to Greenstead, this drop in service operates on Thursdays 10am-2pm each week at the Greenstead Housing Office, drop in if you need help and advice.



Munch Club Success

Mo Powell's Munch club run with local volunteers goes from strength to strength. During half term and Christmas families enjoyed a hot meal (usually Mondays and Fridays) at the Greenstead Social Club. Grateful thanks to Ray for welcoming the Munch Club in. We were pleased to financially support the Munch Club with our locality Budget. For more details and to book in for half term meals contact Mo on 07974113341.

Community Fridge Opens

Tim was honoured to be invited to the launch of the Community Fridge at Unity Primary Academy. This is an excellent initiative so that local families won't go hungry and the school will not waste food. We are very grateful to Unity Primary Academy, REAch2 Academy Trust and parents & volunteers for bringing this project to Greenstead. If you want to access the community fridge just contact the school on 01206 864226 or email admin@unityprimaryacademy.com.

We look forward to a time when foodbanks and community fridges are not needed but, at the moment, they are entirely necessary. Well done Unity Primary!



PROTECTING THE BEEHIVE

It was sad to see the closure of The Beehive pub on Bromley Road which has been a long standing fixture in the area. We were told that the pub was no longer considered viable.

The pub was sold on the open market to Colchester Community Islamic Centre who had their planning application approved for change of use to a community centre just before Christmas.

We organised a meeting between residents and the Islamic community to discuss the new owners plans for the site prior to the planning committee meeting. The Islamic community are adamant that the community centre will be genuinely open to everybody.

We know and understand that some residents were very disappointed to lose a pub which they enjoyed using but we hope the new community centre will become a valuable addition to the area.



A New Bench for Greenstead Centre shops

Cllr Tim Young has allocated all of his £2000 locality budget for the year funding projects at Unity Primary Academy, Hazelmere Infants School, Signpost (above Greenstead Library) and, after requests from residents, a new bench at The Centre shops. It is situated opposite Boots the Chemist and is proving very popular. It is made from recycled materials and is a boost to the local area.

Alternative Oyster Feast

Tim attended the Alternative Oyster Feast at Greenstead Social Club on. This occasion, in stark contrast to the opulent, £100 per ticket event at the Town Hall, is provided free of charge to local pensioners including many from Greenstead. The Alternative Oyster Feast involves bingo, a raffle, fish and chips, apple pie and cream and free drinks. Tim led the singing of The Red Flag at the end of the proceedings and there was a talk by Les Nicol from Essex Fire & Rescue Service. Many thanks to Cllr Dave Harris, Gerry Harris, Greg Edwards and Ron Douglas from Colchester Retired Residents Association for funding and organising the Feast this year.



CONTACT US WE'RE HERE TO HELP



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that's our promise to you

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