

County Councillor's Report, February 2020

Stansted Airport

At last week's STACC meeting there was a presentation from the Dept of Transport, regarding their consultation on Airspace Change Strategy. In short, they are reviewing the way airspace is used across the UK and wish to embrace modern technology to assist aircraft navigation, moving away from ground-based systems to satellite GPS etc. They also want to look to reducing noise and pollution by introducing steeper glided paths for landing and takeoff.

Any airspace above 7000 will be dealt with by CAA/NATTs, while that below will be with the major airports, in our case Stansted. They will be required to coordinate with their neighbours as some overflying eg to Luton will be within the 7000ft envelope. Therefore there will be two consultations the most relevant will be Stansted's and they wish to engage soon with local communities to get this process underway, so one to watch out for.

Essex 2020: A Year of Science and Creativity



"By experiencing our pioneering STEM industries and rich diversity of arts and culture first-hand, Essex 2020 will help residents of all ages feel proud of the county's past achievements and believe in our exciting future. A new decade of opportunity for our county has begun and Essex 2020 is our window to the world." - Gavin Jones, Essex County Council's Chief Executive

This year, we're shining a spotlight on the scientific and creative innovation that is unique to Essex, with the aim of creating a lasting impact for future generations in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM).

Essex already has a surprising and inspiring track record of breaking new ground; our diverse county delivered the first entertainment broadcast to global airwaves; created the Queen's favourite jam and helped bring Big Beat to the world courtesy of resident Liam Howlett of the Prodigy.

We also have a rich history of entrepreneurship, with innovators including Lord Alan Sugar and digital colour photography inventor Michael Francis Tompsett, alongside a myriad of successful businesses which are helping to revolutionise the world we live in, to name but a few.

Essex 2020 is seeking to build on this with over 360 inspiring events – at least one for each day of the year – that will celebrate Essex's pioneering past and present-day innovators. We want to elevate the aspirations of young people in terms of their future careers, drive innovation across the county and inspire residents to feel proud of where they live.

Hear Gavin share more of his thoughts about Essex 2020 in the video below and find out more about how you can get involved at essex2020.com.

Essex Energy Switch

The Essex Energy Switch ends on the 10th Feb, therefore still time to register and get a good deal. Details on the ECC website, see below:

Don't miss out on the Essex Energy Switch



If you hate spending time searching for the best energy deals, sign-up for the Essex Energy Switch today.

The collective switching initiative could beat the tariffs you find on price comparison sites and help you save up to £250 on your gas and electricity bills. The best part is, we do all the hard work for you.

All you need to register is a copy of your latest energy bill; it's free, takes five minutes and there is no obligation to switch if you change your mind. Plus, the more people the sign-up, the bigger the potential saving per household.

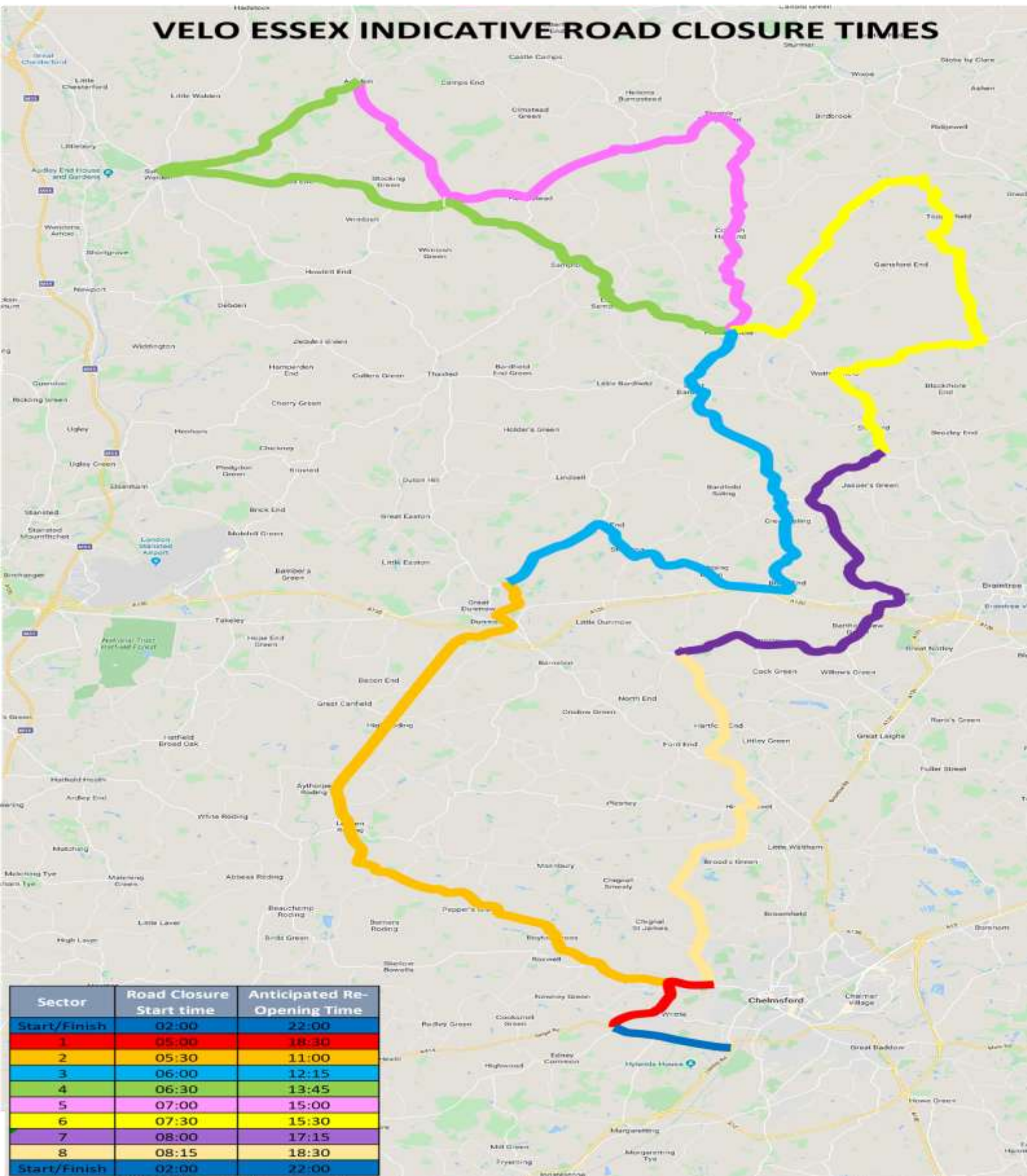
So, here's a bright idea, [register for the Essex Energy Switch](#) before 10 February and see how much you could save. If you've signed up previously, you will need to do so again in order to continue benefitting. Watt are you waiting for?

Velo Essex 2020

An early heads up about a cycling event on September 20th which is a 100 mile cycle ride from Chelmsford around Uttlesford and Braintree, many 1000s of cyclists are expected. The indicative route with timings is given below.



VELO ESSEX INDICATIVE ROAD CLOSURE TIMES



On Sunday 20 September, Velo Essex will showcase the very best of Essex County as we welcome up to 15,000 cyclists to the area. Vélo Essex; is a major new closed road cycling event for Essex County that's set to raise millions for charity. Setting off from the iconic Hylands Park, up to 15,000 cyclists of all abilities will head out on an incredible 50 or 100-mile route through the beautiful County of Essex, passing through rolling countryside and picturesque towns and villages. This is a hugely exciting event for Essex, and we are writing to you at this early stage to ensure you have all the information you need ahead of the full event launch. We would also like to hear your thoughts and feedback about how we can go above and beyond to make this an enjoyable, celebratory and safe event for locals and riders alike and one which positively gives back to the County.

Vélo has been working closely with Essex County Council along with key stakeholders to design a route which is safe, inclusive and takes riders on a beautiful tour of Essex. You will find a copy of the working route above.

There are numerous ways, residents and communities can get involved and be part of shaping the vibrant and fun day it promises to be for communities throughout the County. The event expects to bring a significantly positive economic impact to the region and will provide a platform to raise millions for both local and national charities. Working alongside Essex County Council's health and wellbeing initiatives, Vélo Essex will help to inspire thousands of residents of all ages to cycle, in turn leading a healthier and more active lifestyle and building a greener County for everyone.

The event's official charity partners include Active Essex Foundation and Prostate Cancer UK, and we will be working with a number of other regional and local charities to support their fundraising goals also. We expect riders to raise significant funds and make Vélo Essex one of the most successful UK charitable sporting events of 2020. With locals and visiting spectators expected to line the route in support of the riders, the event can also provide a great opportunity for local businesses and organisations to engage with existing and new audiences.

Council Tax

Full Council meets next week to discuss the Council Tax and Budget for 2020-2021. This has already been agreed by Cabinet. A balanced budget is proposed, with the net cost of services amounting to £990.2 million. This is in the context of accumulated savings over the past 10 years of nearly £100 million. The budget will require Council Tax funding required will be £707.9 million, meaning Council Tax will need to be increased by 1.99%, and the Social Care Funding precept by 2%. This will mean a Band D property will pay for the year 2020-2021 will be £1321.11 for the Essex County Council portion.

Simon Walsh, February 2020