

ANNUAL SUMMARY 2024/25: OUTSIDE BODIES

| Organisation | Representative (s) | Annual Reports and/or Member Comments regarding Outside Body: |
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| Armed Forces and Community Covenant | Daniel McBirnie | <p>Uttlesford District Council has signed the Armed Forces Covenant and is a holder of the Armed Forces Employer Recognition Scheme Silver award.</p> <p>This Council acknowledges the contribution and sacrifices that service families make, and this year formally reaffirmed the range of measures the Council takes to make this recognition real under in line with our signed Covenant to the Armed Forces.</p> <p>As part of this, the Council agreed to support the Royal British Legion's 'Credit their Service Campaign' and to promote the discretion that can be applied for recipients of the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme.</p> <p>This year 33 Engineer Regiment exercised the freedom of the District with a parade through Saffron Walden, with large crowds attending to support the Military.</p> <p>It was excellent that the Council agreed to grant the Freedom of the District to 35 Engineer Regiment, and we are looking forward to them finding an opportunity to exercise their freedom within the District at some point soon in the future</p> <p>UDC staff used volunteering days to support the Community Tidy-up of the Carver Barracks communal family areas, as part of ongoing efforts to continually strengthen relations between the Council and the local Armed Forces community.</p> |
| Board of Turpins Indoor Bowling Club | Alex Reeve | <p>I attended one meeting. The Board asked for help in finding catering staff for their (not operating) café. I asked my contacts but was unsuccessful in finding anyone. They also asked for help with finding players from the Ukrainian community. I circulated widely. The Club green is a highly reputable surface, and is used in national championships. The club is well attended.</p> |
| Campaign to Protect Rural Essex | Martin Foley | <p>CPRE (The Countryside Charity) is a federal organisation. It has its headquarters in London from where its national campaigns are orchestrated. Most of the work however, is carried out by a series of county branches. CPR Essex's patron is Jenny Tolhurst, the Lord Lieutenant, and the executive is formed of a small group of trustees. Our charitable purpose is the protection and enhancement of the Essex countryside. In effect, we keep abreast of what</p> |

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| | | <p>is going on by way of major development projects in Essex and respond as necessary. We regularly help parish councils , many of whom are members. We also provide individual advice where it is sought but also sponsor and promote campaigns aimed at countryside protection and enhancement. An example is a study we jointly commissioned with Suffolk and Norfolk branches examining the feasibility of undersea cabling rather than pylons to connect off-shore wind farms to the grid.</p> <p>National office meantime do a lot of work with central government with representation on select committees but also in initiating countryside related campaigns such as the promotion of roof-top solar, the provision of affordable housing in rural areas and their on-going hedgerows campaign</p> |
| Committee of the Friends of the Maltings | Alex Armstrong | The Friends of Great Dunmow Maltings exists to support the charitable objectives of The Great Dunmow Maltings Preservation Trust – further information can be found here Great Dunmow Maltings . |
| Community Safety Partnership | Maggie Sutton | <p>Within Uttlesford, the Community Safety Partnership is made up of a number of local organisations including Uttlesford District Council, Essex Police, Essex County Council, NHS West Essex, Essex Probation, Essex Fire and Rescue Service and voluntary organisations including Council For Voluntary Services Uttlesford and Victim Support. The partnership has three main priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To protect vulnerable people • To reduce crime, re-offending and the fear of crime • To continue effective partnership working, to meet emerging local threats and issues |
| Cooperation for Sustainable Development Board | John Evans | This is not an active body and there have been no meetings nor other business conducted. It was established some years ago, including members from neighbouring local authorities (including EHDC, EFDC and Harlow) at a time when cross boundary housing numbers were material. Its current purpose is perhaps moot. |
| Dunmow Day Centre Management Cttee | John Davey | I have attended Day Centre Annual Meetings. The Day Centre provides a warm space and social interaction for local residents over 55. |
| Dunmow Museum Management Cttee | John Davey | Attended committee meetings of the Museum and, recently, discussions have been had regarding the satisfactory transfer and the long term future of the Museum. |
| Essex County Traveller Unit | Chris Criscione | Unauthorised encampments (UEs) down in the last year, although UDC has the 3 rd highest number (13). Generally there is a trend demonstrating most UEs |

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| | | are left tidy. Focus on Gypsy, Roma Traveller (GRT) education, housing and health as always. Continued push to deal with issues quickly and efficiently given high profile nature when they arise. |
| Essex Coastal Forum | John Evans | We have very limited interest in this body, given its dedication to coastal and estuarine activities but receive their briefings. |
| Essex Councils Climate Forum | Neil Reeve | The Essex Climate Action Annual Report 2023 to 2024 can be found here. |
| Essex Flood Partnership Board | Richard Pavitt | There have been useful briefings by bodies such as the Environment Agency. However, as a substantial part of the board's focus is on coastal flood management there is limited practical relevance to Uttlesford. |
| Essex Waste Partnership Board | Neil Reeve | The Essex Waste Partnership work together to ensure cost-efficient and sustainable household waste management is delivered across Essex, and is made-up of county, district and borough councils. The Waste Strategy for Essex sets out the vision, targets and priorities of the Partnership. |
| Friends of Bridge End Gardens | Richard Freeman | The Friends of Bridge End Gardens (The Friends) is a small charity that supports the Town Council in the care of the Garden. Updates regarding the charity's activity, as well as news of the garden itself, can be found here |
| Harlow and Gilston Garden Town Board | John Evans | We are merely observers at this body. I attend their meetings remotely as convenient to be aware of the pace/scale of the proposed GC development |
| Herts and Essex Digital Innovation Zone (DIZ) | Neil Reeve | Together with Officers, I have attended nearly all of the meetings of the Advisory Group. These are of one hour duration and held monthly or every two months, and focus on a relevant digital topic, for example 'digital twins' looking at modern community/town planning. Typically 40-50 people attend. I have also attended all the Executive Board Meetings, which are held monthly. A current topic is black spots for 5G roll-out. This should facilitate planning permission granting for the needed masts and reflector points. For more detail see: https://diz.org.uk/ |
| Historic England Heritage Champion | Geoffrey Sell | No meetings to attend - a Heritage Champion is normally a local councillor who has been nominated by their authority to promote all aspects of the historic environment in their area. |
| Local Government Association - General Assembly | Petrina Lees | <p>The Annual meeting of the LGA Assembly was held on 2 July 2024. Members discussed annual business and the agenda for the meeting can be accessed here. The next meeting will be held of 1 July 2025. Further information regarding the body can be found here</p> <p>I am pleased as Leader to represent Uttlesford on both the Local Government Association and the District Councils Network. Both at their annual conferences and in various training and development events in between, both these networks provide a</p> |

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| | | vital opportunity for us to compare notes and to learn from other's experiences. Whether it was attending the LGA seminar run by the Health and Safety Executive about building control issues post Grenfell or the DCN conference speech from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation on promoting collegiality over competition in awarding funds to the voluntary and community sector, the positive impacts we bring back and apply onto the way we work in Uttlesford are numerous. It is simply good practice to want to soak up best practice from others' successes, as well as to have safe spaces where people can share what they learned having got things wrong too. As well as learning like a sponge, I must say how proud I am half the time to hear about how things work elsewhere and be able to conclude: we are just as good (if not better) in Uttlesford. |
| LGA – SPARSE Rural Assembly | John Evans | There has been no Assembly meeting in 2025. The Rural Services Network itself provides strong and effective advocacy services on behalf of rural interests/communities. We receive helpful and informative newsletters etc from RSN which are shared with the membership at large. Officers receive briefing memoranda from RSN. |
| Local Strategic Partnership (Uttlesford Futures) | Maggie Sutton | <p>The Uttlesford LSP (Uttlesford Futures) is a collaboration of organisations including the district council, the county council, the local health service and the emergency services. Four working groups have been established relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Families group • Community Safety Partnership • Employment, Economy, Skills, Environment and Transport (EESET) group • Uttlesford Health & Wellbeing Board |
| North Essex Economic Board | Neil Hargreaves | The North Essex Economic Board (NEEB) is a partnership of local authorities in the area working together as a catalyst to drive forward economic growth. |
| North Essex Parking Partnership (Joint Committee) | Neil Hargreaves | The most recent annual report can be found here Operational Report Part 4: April to June 2024 - North Essex Parking Partnership |
| UK Innovation Corridor | Petrina Lees | The UK Innovation Corridor joins two of the country's most productive cities, London and Cambridge. The partnership behind the Corridor is a 'coalition of the willing' bringing together local government, private business, universities and colleges in a 'bottom up' strategic partnership. |
| Parking and Traffic Regulation outside London Adjudication Committee | Geof Driscoll | The PATROL Joint Committee hosts an Annual Meeting of all authority committee members in July, with ongoing business throughout the rest of the year delegated to an Executive Sub-Committee, which meets in January and October. The papers for the previous annual meeting on 9 July 2024 can be found here Agenda-09-07-24.pdf |

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| | | Further information, including the papers for the meetings held in October 2024 and January 2025 can be found here - https://www.patrol.gov.uk/ |
| Saffron Walden Arts Trust | Chloe Fiddy | SWAT organises the tri-annual event Fete de la Musique: a one-day free music festival held across nine venues in the centre of SW, featuring a wide range of musical genres. The last Fete in June 2024 saw record numbers of attendees and we welcome additional volunteers to support the event in 2027. Throughout the year SWAT organises a range of talks on various arts, crafts and music. |
| Saffron Walden Business Improvement District (SW BID) | Neil Hargreaves | BIDs priorities are Engagement , Enhancement and Enticement. More details here https://www.saffronwaldenbid.co.uk/saffron-walden-bid-priorities/ |
| Saffron Walden Museum Society | Maggie Sutton | The SWMS annual report was considered in November 2024 and can be found here . |
| Stansted Airport Consultative Committee | John Evans | This is an active body including representatives of the airport, other users and of the wider community including county and district councillors. It meets quarterly to receive the report of the MD of STAL and has two sub groups (for users and the environment). Members of our STAAP committee receive periodical updates of STACC business. |
| Stansted Airport Community Fund | Maggie Sutton | All applications for a grant from the Community Fund are assessed by an independent Committee, which is made up of local councillors, stakeholders and airport representatives. These members bring local knowledge to the Community Fund, ensuring the money is used to the maximum benefit of the community. The airport has committed an annual contribution of £150,000 to the Community Fund until 2029. |
| Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group | John Evans | This is a LGA body and meets quarterly. Other members include elected members from local authorities located in the vicinity of airports across the country. National policy changes in the aviation and airport fields are the subject of advice from the technical adviser, based on his research and contacts with government and other agencies. We, as members, contribute towards the cost of its secretariat. |
| Thaxted Guildhall Management Cttee | Mike Tayler | The Committee meet once per year to discuss matters relating to the management of the Thaxted Guildhall. |
| Uttlesford Association of Local Councils | Petrina Lees | No meetings in the past twelve months. |
| Uttlesford Citizens' Advice Bureau | Richard Freeman | Very efficient meetings, as always, and fully focussed on the needs of the public. The service is facilitated by a very hard-working team of volunteers, providing a valuable service to the community. |

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| Uttlesford Community Travel | Geoffrey Sell | <p>I have enjoyed representing the Council on the advisory committee. I have attended most of the meetings. It is under capable leadership with Ian Shaw as Chairman and Mick Bott as General Manager. Since his appointment he has been successful in achieving efficiency gains.</p> <p>UCT has been successful in obtaining a grant from the National Lottery of £20,000. It is projecting a deficit of £506 for the current financial year, They face a significant shortage of volunteer drivers which is impacting their ability regarding provision of hospital car trips.</p> <p>The key performance indicators for April 2025/26 show that compared to the same period last year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership is up by 87 • Total bus miles up by 40% • Hospital car trips down from 423 to 343. |
| Uttlesford Norse Services Ltd Board | Petrina Lees | <p>The past twelve months has concentrated on the ending of the partnership and a transfer of the service back to the Council.</p> |