# SANDON TOPICS

Summer 2025 Newsletter from Sandon Parish Council

www.sandonparishcouncil.co.uk
https://facebook.com/groups/sandonparishcouncil

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE – Cllr Martin Cross

Firstly, a new organisation is being formed. It is to be called The Chelmsford Association of Local Councils. It will provide a link to the EALC where its two representatives will get a vote on EALC proposals. It will be planning to resurrect a team that was disbanded a few years ago.
The devolution plans are slowly evolving and our Parish Council will be attending all future presentations on this. At this stage, the impact on local parishes has not been established. See further article in this edition of The Topics for more information.
On the warehouse front, the Howe Green roundabout planning application has been appealed and the previous comments will be read by the Inspector. More calls for comments will be made in due course, but there is no time frame for this at the moment.
On the 5th June a City Council group will be clearing vegetation on Gingerbread Hill. This should then present our village better!
As well as the Association of Local Councils, your council is represented on a national 20/20 speeding group. We wait to see what any proposed reduced speed limit will have on the village. There is also a new organisation, the Chelmer Valley Landscape Group who is presently trying to form a charity to represent the valley. Further information on them can be found at CVLG.org.uk.
With regards to Sandon Quarry, we have noticed that Brett have now put some top soil on top of the "spoil", but have not finished yet. We will give you further news as and when we have it.

## JUNCTION 17 WAREHOUSE DEVELOPMENT

**This is the Howe Green huge warehouses planning application 23/01930/OUT, land north and east of junction 17 of the A12 for the commercial development of up to 120,000sqm of logistics/warehousing development**

We understand that Chelmsford City Council have now received a notice of an appeal due to non determination. This means that the applicant has been formally appealed to the Planning Inspectorate because the Local Planning Authority (LPA) failed to issue a decision on their planning application within the statutory time period. In practical terms, if you've received a "Notice of Appeal due to non-determination," it simply means that:

- The statutory window closed without a decision from your LPA.
- You (or your agent) have now lodged an appeal under Section 78.
- Your case will be examined afresh by a Planning Inspector, who will issue the final decision.

The outcome will now be decided by the Planning Inspectorate at a later date. This date is not yet known but we will keep you informed when we have further information.

# HAMMONDS FARM UPDATE

**A huge thank you from the No To Hammonds Farm team – we have made history!**

**The sheer number of objections is unprecedented.**
**You've proven that local voices do matter.**
**A campaign no one can ignore.**

The No To Hammonds Farm team are delighted to announce that the public response to Chelmsford City Council's Regulation 19 which included Hammonds Farm was one of the largest ever responses to a Regulation 19 Local Plan in the UK.

Wiltshire's Local Plan had 10,700 responses in 2023 but that was an outlier. Across all stages, we're the biggest. This is one of the largest Regulation 19 responses ever recorded in the UK and over all three stages is easily the largest.

The number of objections at each of the three stages were as follows:

| **Stage** | **Year** | **Number of objections** |
|---|---|---|
| Issues & Options | 2022 | 3,404 |
| Regulation 18: Preferred Options | 2023 | 10,418 |
| Regulation 19: Pre-submission consultation | 2024 | 5,968 |

The second and third stages in particular required more involvement and input from the public, whereas a simple petition was able to be used for the first stage.

As many of you will recall, a working group was established which included a coalition of Councillors across four Parish Councils (Sandon, Little Baddow, Danbury and Boreham) to stand up against these plans and to create a dedicated campaign, highlighting public awareness of the plans and how members of the public could object should they wished to do so.

Setting up a dedicated portal, accessed via the www.notohammondsfarm.co.uk website meant that members of the public were able to complete their objections and submissions without having to navigate all of the complex technical requirements and the clunky consultation portal. The number of objections received for Regulation 19 is particularly notable given that local residents are facing a wide number of large scale residential and commercial development plans and it was important that people who had previously objected at stages one and two were made aware that their objections did not carry forward and they would need to object again at stage three and that it was third and final opportunity to do so. This whilst also being inundated with other planning proposals all very close by and at different stages.

In terms of next steps, Chelmsford City Council must now:

1. Continue to upload and validate the thousands of objections raised on to their consultation portal.
2. Prepare documentation for the Planning Inspector
3. Respond to the technical and legal challenges we have raised.

Everyone who submitted a submission will receive an email from Chelmsford City Council once it has been validated and uploaded on to their consultation portal. For reference, these can be accessed via the following link: https://consult.chelmsford.gov.uk/kse/

Through working tirelessly on behalf of local residents, the No To Hammonds Farm team has delivered the following:

A **500-page** professional objection (on behalf of four Parish Councils).

Expert reports on flooding, traffic, heritage and planning law.

Legal representation has been secured for the Independent Examination stage which is fast approaching.

Over **£31,900 of vital funds** raised to support the above activities and the campaign.

To continue to fight these plans on behalf of local residents and reach the Inspector stage with the best strength, the team are continuing to raise funds which will provide:

Representation by a KC (King's Counsel)

Expert witnesses

Evidence packages

Administrative support

The total target for fundraising is £55,000. As you can see, we are getting close but we ask for as much support as possible to help us cross the finishing line. If you are able to donate to the campaign, it would be highly appreciated. All donations add up and together we will stand united against these plans!

This is the link to the Go Fund Me website: https://www.gofundme.com/f/No-To-Hammonds-Farm

## THE SPEEDWATCH TEAM

Are you aware that Sandon has a Speedwatch Team? They comprise of a band of volunteers who go out for an hour each week. They have a speed gun and monitor, and report, any drivers who are going over the speed limit. They are always looking for new volunteers, so if you can spare a couple of hours per month, then please contact Cllr Martin Cross (his details are on the back page)






# DEVOLUTION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ORGANISATION (LGR)

On 13th May, representatives from Sandon Parish Council attended a meeting at Chelmsford City Council which was a briefing meeting for Clerks and Chairs/Vice Chairs of the local Parish Councils regarding Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation.
To give some context to this, The White Paper on English Devolution was published on 16th December 2024 and proposes wide ranging changes to the framework of local government across England. This includes:

1. Devolution: offering additional powers and funding to local areas.
2. Creating new Strategic Authorities through which devolved powers will be coordinated locally.
3. Local Government Reorganisation, which would see the abolition of all fifteen principal councils in Essex, to be replaced with a smaller number of unitary councils.

**Devolution priority programme**

His Majesty's Government (HMG) wrote to Essex Councils on 5th February 2025 to invite Greater Essex on to the Devolution Priority Programme. In the letter, the Government set out the criteria for Local Government Reorganisation and a deadline of 21st March 2025 was set for interim plans and 26th September 2025 for detailed proposals. The letter also confirmed the suspension of elections from May 2025 in Essex and Thurrock and confirmed that Mayoral elections would take place in May 2026.

Devolution is the decentralisation of powers, decision making and funding away from Central Government to local democratically elected and accountable bodies elsewhere in England.

It is over ten years since the first devolution deal which was in Greater Manchester. Devolution from central government means that strategic authorities will have more power and funding locally to focus on tackling strategic priorities of sub-regional importance such as around economic growth, infrastructure and skills. Strategic Authorities should cover geographies of at least 1.5 million people. Essex currently has circa 1.9 million people.

The top-level timings for Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation are as follows:

## Indicative High-Level Timeline

| Devolution | | Local Government Reorganisation | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Devolution / Combined County Authority** | | **New Local Authorities** | | **ECC, Southend and Thurrock** | **Districts** |
| 2025 | Proposals approved by ECC/SSCC/TC, are consulted on and then approved by Government | 2025 | Proposals submitted by LAs autumn (**interim proposals 21 March 2025, final 26 Sept**), subjected to consultation and agreed by Government | Elections postponed* initially until 2026 (but see 2026 below) | Business as usual |
| 2026 | Goes live with Mayoral election | 2026 | Order made to set out timescale and process | Elections cancelled, preparing for transition | Elections cancelled, preparing for transition |
| 2027 | Operational | May 2027 | Election to shadow authorities, preparing for transition, recruit key staff | Preparing for transition | Preparing for transition<br>Elections cancelled |
| 2027 *OR* 2028 | Updated governance to reflect reorganisation, potentially with PCC and fire (PFCC election due 2028) | April 2028 | Shadow authorities become live authorities | Abolished | Abolished |

*ECC and Thurrock only: Southend is not due to have ordinary elections in 2025.

Note the above has been provided to Sandon Parish Council by Chelmsford City Council.

At this stage, there is not much information about how all of this will affect Parish Councils but we will be sure to keep you updated.

Chelmsford City Council have provided the below information which may be of interest:

## Impact on Parishes

- There is minimal mention of parishes in the White Paper – leaving us with limited information
- Parishes will forge relationships with the combined authority and the unitary council
- Any changes in functions would flow from discussions with the new unitary
- The Government have made no comment on Parish precepts so you should assume current criteria will still apply
- Government focus is on creation of the combined authority and Unitary Councils there has been no mention of changes in the role of Parishes
- Parish Elections will be held in line with new Unitary so assume these will also be postponed until 2027




## THE SANDON COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE



All the responses to our recent consultation survey have now been received, for which we are extremely grateful. Considering the size of our catchment area, we received a seriously good response amounting to 446 submitted papers. All the comments on the survey will now be collated and used to help us develop a definitive strategy on which funders to approach and, maybe, amend our drawings. The Trustees will meet with the fundraiser shortly to set out the next steps of our funding strategy for the project.
Thanks once again for your valued support

# BE PROUD OF OUR VILLAGE – Cllr Darren Chaplin

I have lived in Sandon for over 21 years now and have raised two children during that time, so this village is special to me. There is now more pressure than ever on our village way of life including potential property developments and environmental threats from traffic and the climate. Our Parish Council have recognised this and are working hard to protect our village life. However, as we have seen recently with planning proposals, we all need to work together to influence the future.
As part of my role as a parish councillor, I have responsibility for sustainability and conservation for our parish. With the full support of the parish council, I am keen that we establish a team of 'like minded' volunteers to pursue some change in our village for the benefit of all residents and importantly our environment. Walking around our village there are a number of areas where I believe we can work together to enhance. These include the following:

**The pond in Gablefields**.



This could become a focal point of our village and provide an area for conservation that can be enjoyed by everyone, including children.

**The Village Green.** Could we improve the area, maybe introduce wild flowers, bringing new colour to the village and support bees and other insects?

**Bees.** How about having community honey with our very own bee hive?



**The playground in The Lintons.**



How much is this enjoyed by our local children? Could this area be improved and become a more sustainable part of the village?

**Fields at the back of The Lintons.** This would appear to be a prime wilding area where we could introduce wild flowers and other plants to encourage wild life and insects. There are other local parishes that have done this that we can work with.

**Verges throughout the parish.** Could some of these be used as wilding areas?

**Bird spotting throughout the village.** Encourage children to participate, as well as all parishioners, to build a picture of our local bird population. We can then work with organisations such as the RSPCA to improve and care for our local birds.



These are just my initial thoughts, I am sure there are many residents who will have other ideas and we would love to hear them. Please do make contact if you would like to get involved in any capacity. I suggest that the first meeting should be in a pub! My contact details are on the back page

## YOUR COUNCILLORS

In case you were not already aware, here are your six councillors! Note that we should have eight. We are actively looking for two more people to join your council. Please contact the clerk if you are interested. Remember, you don't have to be a "political animal". All we want is someone who cares about the village, and is able to attend a two hour meeting on the evening of the second Monday each month.



Chairman Cllr Martin Cross



Vice Chair Cllr Charlotte Lyons



Cllr Cedric Calmeyer



Cllr Darren Chaplin



Cllr Alan Kalbfell



Cllr Gary Nicholls

Their areas of responsibilities, and their contact details, can be found on the next page.

## OUR NEW LITTER PICKER

We are pleased to announce that we have new litter picker. You may have already seen him with his yellow jacket and green plastic sack. His name is Jock (but isn't Scottish) and he is very approachable. He used to be a postie, so going out and about in the fresh air is just what he likes doing. Note that he is only collecting litter from certain areas in the parish. These are: Church car park and surrounding area, Church footpath, Sports Club car park and surrounding area, Hall Lane incl. Brookview and Cards Road, Brick Kiln Road and Woodhill Rd (from the school to the A12 bridge). Note that all the roads and verges in the parish are the responsibility of Essex County Council. If we did not employ our own litter picker, then the rubbish will just build up, as ECC does not have the resources to monitor all of the roads in the county. We all know that litter attracts yet more litter. It is not something that we can ignore.

Throwing litter is an offence and can attract a fine. If you see anybody littering, then report this to the police.

# PARISH COUNCILLOR CONTACT DETAILS

**TED MUNT – CLERK**
**Sandon Parish Council, Recreation Ground, Rectory Chase, Sandon, Chelmsford, CM2 7SQ.**
**Tel: 01245 477111** parishclerk@sandon-essex-parishcouncil.gov.uk
**Hours 09:30 – 12:30 Mon a.m. and Wed a.m.**

| Parish Councillors | Areas of responsibility/representation |
|---|---|
| **MARTIN CROSS**<br>**Magrathea,East Hanningfield Road,Howe Green CM2 7TQ**<br>**Tel: 01245 478910** cllrrmkcross@sandon-essex-parishcouncil.gov.uk | **CHAIRMAN**<br>**Planning**<br>**Finance**<br>**Speed Watch** |
| **CHARLOTTE LYONS**<br>cllrclyons@sandon-essex-parishcouncil.gov.uk | **VICE CHAIR**<br>**Website and social media** |
| **CEDRIC CALMEYER**<br>**25 Hall Lane, Sandon, CM2 7RJ Tel: 01245478900**<br>cllrccalmeyer@sandon-essex-parishcouncil.gov.uk | **Maintenance and Allotments**<br>**Community Centre** |
| **ALAN KALBFELL**<br>**4, The Tythings, Howe Green CM2 7TU Tel:07802 762620**<br>cllrakalbfell@sandon-essex parishcouncil.gov.uk | **Village Hall Committee Rep**<br>**Personnel**<br>**Community Centre** |
| **DARREN CHAPLIN**<br>cllrdchaplin@sandon-essex-parishcouncil.gov.uk | **Sandon Sports Club Rep**<br>**Conservation and sustainability**<br>**Community Centre** |
| **GARY NICHOLLS Tel: 07712 535313**<br>cllrgnicholls@sandon-essex-parishcouncil.gov.uk | **Community Centre** |
| | |

**ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLOR**
**SUE DOBSON** cllr.sue.dobson@essex.gov.uk **01245 605908**

**CITY COUNCILLORS (LITTLE BADDOW, DANBURY & SANDON)**
**JULIA JEAPES** (the CCC councillor looking after Sandon and Howe Green)
**Tel 07752 533341** julia.jeapes@chelmsford.gov.uk
**JACOB ARMSTRONG**
**Tel 01245 605880** jacob@chelmsford.gov.uk
**STEPH SCOTT**
**Tel: 07775 870638** stephanie.scott@chelmsford.gov.uk

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Chelmsford City Council** | **01245** | **606606** |
| **Police** | **01245** | **491491 or ring 101** |
| **Broomfield Hospital** | **01245** | **443673** |
| **Citizens Advice Bureau** | **01245** | **205605 For U.C. 0800 1448444** |
| **Neighbourhood Watch** | **01245** | **471589** |

**LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **St Andrew's Church - Priest in Charge** | **Position vacant** | | |
| **Church Wardens** | **Mr R. Cecil** | **01245** | **224747** |
| | **Mr A. Horne** | **01245** | **475279** |
| **Safeguarding officer** | **Mrs A. Read** | | |
| **PCC Secretary** | **Mrs J. Cecil** | **01245** | **224747** |
| **PCC Treasurer** | **Mr N. Bobeldijk** | **01245** | **471756** |
| **Bell Ringers** | **Dr M. Worboys** | **01245** | **224612** |
| **Women's Institute** | **Mrs D. Gray** | **01245** | **223609** |
| **Howe Green URC Elder** | **Mrs P Knott** | **01245** | **471691** |
| **Village Hall Management Committee** | **Ms J. Fisher** | **01245** | **475976** |
| **Village Hall Bookings https://www.sandonvillagehall.co.uk** | | | |
| **Cubs** | **Mr Steve Eatley** | **07957** | **802898** |
| **Scouts** | **Ms J. Blake** | **07956** | **580404** |
| **Sandon Tiny Tots/Mother and Toddler Group** | **Mrs A Read** | **01245** | **474858 or 07720 718372** |
| **Danbury and Villages Rotary** | **Mr M Penry (sec)** | mikepenry@btinternet.com | |
| **Chelmsford Rambling Club** | **Ms M Say** | **01245** | **381262** |
| **Sandon Parish Magazine Editor** | **Mr R. Cecil** | **01245** | **224747** |
| **Sports Club** secretary.baddowspartakfc@gmail.com | **Mr R Pegrum** | **07903** | **824276** |

**Are your details correctly listed? If not, please contact the Parish Council Clerk on 01245 477111**

**All Parish Council information is available on our website including minutes of meetings at** www.sandonparishcouncil.co.uk. **The Council meets at 7.15 pm on the 2nd Monday of each month. We alternate between St Andrew Church Hall and the Howe Green Reformed Church. Members of the public are welcome to attend.**

**WE EXTEND A VERY WARM WELCOME TO ALL NEW RESIDENTS**