



CENTURION

YOUR NEWSPAPER FROM COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL | MARCH 2020

Lighting up our heritage

Residents and visitors can now see some of Colchester's rich heritage lit up after dark, with Colchester Castle and a 30 metre stretch of the Roman Wall now illuminated by LED lighting at night.

The installation of new LED colour-changing lighting at Colchester Castle was completed at the beginning of last month (February).

Now a 30 metre stretch of the Roman Wall - extending to the south

of Balkerne Gate, the largest surviving gateway in Britain - has also been permanently lit up from dusk until 11pm each night.

The project to light both the castle and a section of the oldest town wall in Britain has been undertaken as part of Colchester Borough Council's Better Colchester.

Better Colchester was an initiative designed to make the borough an even more attractive place to live, work in and visit.



Thousands of trees planted in first year of Colchester Woodland Project

The Colchester Woodland Project



#bettercolchester

Planting trees in Colchester for now and the future

Thousands of trees have been planted across the borough as part of the first year of the Colchester Woodland Project.

Residents, volunteers and community groups have helped plant

trees at Spring Lane Park, Tilehouse Farm, Greenstead Slopes and Pondfield open space as part of the initiative to plant more than 200,000 trees across Colchester over the next five years.

The project is one of the steps we are

taking to support the declaration of a climate emergency last year. It will help offset 32,000 tonnes of carbon over the lifetime of the trees.

There are a few planting days left this season including the planting of 30 fruit trees to create a Community Orchard at Colchester Cemetery on Wednesday 25 March, and 200 trees at Riverside Walk Open Space on Saturday 28 March to create a mayoral woodland.

On top of this, 10,000 trees were handed out free of charge to residents last month as part of the annual Trees for Years scheme. Work is also continuing to find a site for a community woodland which it is hoped will start planting later this year.

The names of those who have planted a tree as part of the Colchester Woodland Project, as well as the future planting dates, can be seen at colchester.gov.uk/colchesterwoodlandproject



New signs introduced to aid visitors

New and improved signs are being introduced across the borough to help visitors and residents find their way to some of Colchester's attractions.

The initiative will see improved wayfinder signs being put up in the town centre and Castle Park.

There will also be updated welcome boards at Old Heath Recreation Ground and Victoria Esplanade on Mersea Island.

As well as new wayfinder signs, clearer dog fouling and cycling signage will also be installed in Castle Park.

LOVE THE CASTLE?

Get unlimited entry to Colchester Castle for a whole year with the Resident Pass!

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cimuseums.org.uk/residentpass

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 @yourcolchester
 colchester.gov.uk

Also available online as a downloadable PDF

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The publication is produced by Colchester Borough Council. To contact us please email communications@colchester.gov.uk.

New-look Mercury Theatre taking shape



The multi-million pound Mercury Rising initiative is designed to turn the theatre in Balkerne Gate into a hub for local performing arts. The improvement work is being managed by Colchester Borough Homes.

Anyone walking past the theatre will see the new production block – housing a double height purpose-built rehearsal space, a professional dance studio, new dressing rooms, wardrobe and stage management departments – is almost complete.

The new box office at the front of the theatre is also taking shape. This new entrance will be a dedicated box office and ticket sales space, with a new lift ensuring better and quicker access to the auditorium for all visitors.

On the first floor will be a new community participation studio housing the theatre's arts educational and community engagement activity, including: youth theatre groups; sessions with young people with additional needs; and a range of

community engagement workshops. This space will also be available for use by other organisations and community groups in Colchester, providing a great hub in the centre of town.

The £9.8 million project has been supported by £4 million from Arts Council England, £1.2 million of European Regional Development Fund money, £1 million from Colchester Borough Council, Essex County Council and South East Local Enterprise Partnership, as well as public fundraising from the local community, private trusts and foundations.

Ahead of the theatre's official reopening in the autumn, the final few months will culminate with a weekend of celebration and performances in and around the theatre. There will be activities for and from young people, community groups and professionals celebrating the theatre and the town's history.

The theatre's Autumn/Winter season will soon be announced with more information on the exciting shows and activities on offer at www.mercurytheatre.co.uk.

Anyone wanting to support this important moment in the Mercury Theatre's history can text MERCURY to 70085 to donate £5 towards the Mercury Rising fundraising campaign. (Standard network charges apply).

The Science Museum London teams up with Colchester Castle!

This Easter it's all about making science fun at Colchester Castle! Throughout the Easter holidays (6-17 April) head to Colchester Castle to understand the science of archaeology. Feed their imaginations and discover surprising facts about archaeology by handling museum objects and taking part in a range of fun activities, all available for free after castle admission.

As an extra special treat over the Easter weekend (10-13 April) the castle will be welcoming its colleagues from the Science Museum in London to help bring science to life! Ensure you book early to watch and take part in a series of special fun-packed presentations, from arguably the most famous Science Museum's experts. Hurry though as spaces are strictly limited and these sessions must be pre-booked.

To find out more visit colchester.cimuseums.org.uk/events or call 01206 282941 to book. Cost £3.50 (£2.50 members & Resident Pass holders) + castle admission.



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For advice and to book your appointment visit colchester.gov.uk/pests

*Terms and conditions apply

Boost for 14 voluntary and community groups

Fourteen voluntary and community groups are to receive a share of £221,000 from Colchester Borough Council's Voluntary Welfare Grant 2020/2023, including Colchester Citizens Advice Bureau, Age Concern Colchester and Open Door.

The Voluntary Welfare Grant is a three-year funding initiative.

The grant is designed to support projects or services that strengthen Colchester's communities, reduce social isolation and loneliness, and help the physical and mental wellbeing of residents.

Here is a full list of successful applicants and the funding amounts received:

- Colchester Citizens Advice Bureau: £30,000
- Colchester Youth Enquiry Service: £20,000

- Dance Network Association: £20,000
- Outhouse East: £22,834
- Age Concern Colchester: £15,000
- Centre for Action and Rape Abuse (CARA): £20,000
- Colchester Gateway: £20,000
- Open Road: £10,963.76
- Open Door: £10,000
- Colchester CAP Debt Centre: £9,237.58
- Refugee Action Colchester: £8,000
- Alife James Productions: £3,250
- Hi Tension Trampoline Club: £1,714.66
- Community360: £30,000

For more information on the Voluntary Welfare Grant see colchester.gov.uk/voluntarywelfaregrant



New five-year strategy to tackle homelessness

A new five-year strategy to prevent homelessness and rough sleeping across the borough comes into effect next month.

Colchester Borough Council and a range of partners have developed a Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy to prevent homelessness and provide support and accommodation for people that are or may become homeless.

The vision for the strategy – to build collaborative partnerships increasing early intervention and prevention of homelessness in Colchester – is underpinned by four key aims:

- increasing access to accommodation and providing settled homes;
- helping people to sustain their accommodation;
- improving the health and wellbeing of people that experience homelessness;
- improving communication and challenging the perception and culture of homelessness.

Colchester Borough Homes, Sanctuary Housing, Beacon House, Colchester Emergency Night Shelter and Youth Enquiry Service are among the partners who have helped develop the strategy and will also help deliver it.

It includes actions: to help create opportunities for accessing housing; prevent people from becoming homeless; to continue providing tenancy, debt and welfare advice, and support to young tenants to help them sustain a tenancy. The strategy also seeks to minimise social isolation in a bid to reduce the chance of homeless people reverting to their former lifestyle once housed.

Improving the health and wellbeing of homeless people and providing better access to healthcare services is central in reducing health inequalities as is encouraging more employment, volunteering and

training opportunities.

We will work with partners to change perceptions of homelessness and rough sleeping through educating people on how they can help homeless people, and the difference between rough sleepers and street beggars.

The approach builds on the successes of the last strategy including: the establishment of a multi-agency group of support services for single homeless and rough sleepers; increasing the prevention of homelessness caused by domestic violence; and providing services to support tenants to maintain their tenancy and prevent evictions as a result of anti-social behaviour and rent areas.

It has also been developed to: meet the fresh challenges threatening to increase homelessness; make it more difficult for people to find and keep housing, and address the impact of the Homelessness Reduction Act introduced in 2017.

Twenty six new council homes agreed

The 26 new council homes, recently given the green light for development by Colchester Borough Council, are part of the initial phase of the drive to deliver up to 350 new council homes in the next five years.

Four houses and 12 flats have been given the green light to be built on three former garage sites across the borough. Two three-bed and two two-bed homes will be built in Hardings Close, together with six two-bed homes in Buffett Way and six two-bed flats in Scarfe Way.

This forms the second phase of development of former garage sites, to help support the borough's housing needs. Work has now started to take forward a third phase of the project later this year.

These latest developments are on top of the two affordable flats given permission in Creffield Road and two homes and six flats agreed for Military Road at the end of last year.

We are continuing to look at a wide range of ways to deliver these new affordable homes through our wholly-owned housing development company Colchester Amphora Homes Limited and our housing management company Colchester Borough Homes.

Helping youngsters become Box Smart and avoid a life of crime

Nine young people aged between 12 and 16 from Greenstead and St Anne's have benefited from a nine-week initiative teaching them boxing to encourage them away from falling into a life of crime.

The Box Smart scheme, run by Colchester Borough Homes, provided youngsters at risk of falling into so-called County Lines drug trafficking and knife crime, the chance to focus on something new and exciting.

They received training and support from qualified local coaches and local boxer Lewis Richardson, who is a member of the Team GB Olympic boxing programme. On completing the course they received vouchers for further free training at Alresford Boxing Club.

Given the positive feedback about the project from those taking part and their parents, the scheme is set to be repeated later this year. Anyone wanting more information on the sessions should email mark.healy@cbhomes.org.uk



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Stepping up action to protect Colchester's environment



Stopping using potentially harmful glyphosate weed killer, developing ways of encouraging people to help improve the borough's air quality,

and appointing a dedicated Climate Emergency Officer are just some of the steps Colchester Borough Council is taking to help protect the environment.

Last year, we became one of the first local authorities in the country to declare a climate emergency, following warnings from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and others regarding global warming.

This commits us to: being net carbon zero by 2030; working to develop community-based renewable energy projects; and calling on the Government to reflect on the seriousness of the issue in national policy.

Last October, Friends of the Earth ranked Colchester as the joint top climate-friendly area in the East and joint third in England and Wales. A

recent report by the Carbon Trust also identified the council had met its previous target to reduce carbon emissions by 40% a year ahead of schedule.

Now we are phasing out the use of glyphosate herbicides as soon as practically possible and are exploring alternative methods to controlling weeds and encouraging bio diversity. We are also working with other organisations in the borough to encourage them to stop using these herbicides.

The results of a public survey raising awareness of air quality issues in Colchester, and the impact it has on people's health, are being used to develop ways of encouraging people to play their part in making the borough's air cleaner. For example,

simply switching car engines off while stationary can cut pollution by up to 30%.

This is part of a two-year programme funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

We are also supporting a host of other initiatives to enhance the environment and help protect the planet. These include the Community Woodland Project (see page 1) and working to develop ways of increasing the use of the River Colne, whilst protecting and enhancing its fragile ecology.

A dedicated Climate Emergency Officer has also been appointed to help coordinate our work in this area, including developing an Environment and Sustainability Strategy and Carbon Management Plan.

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Local Council Tax Support scheme provides vital help to borough's residents

Residents on low incomes across Colchester will continue to benefit from one of the county's most generous Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) schemes.

The scheme assists those on low incomes needing help to pay their council tax. In 2019/2020 Colchester Borough Council set aside £8.5 million helping to support around 9,000 Colchester residents.

The same amount will be set aside for the scheme for 2020/2021, ensuring the support for our most vulnerable residents continues.

This generous scheme mirrors the

council's commitment to delivering a Better Colchester for everyone. It is just one of the ways our award-winning benefits team help vulnerable people, with the speed they process claims recognised nationally.

We have a specialist team based at the Library and Community Hub in the town centre offering free and impartial advice. To contact them call **01206 505855**, email **benefits.advice@colchester.gov.uk** or visit them in person.

You can check if you are eligible for support through LCTS at **colchester.gov.uk/LCTS**



Sign up for Direct Debit

Whether you are looking to reduce the amount of paper you receive or wanting to take the hassle out of paying your bills - Direct Debit payments may be the solution for you.

You can make payments through direct debit to Colchester Borough Council for a wide range of services including.

Council Tax, Business Rates, Housing Benefits overpayments, rent, and service charges.

Direct Debit is an automated payment method that is preferred by over half of all UK bill payers. It can easily be set up to ensure people enjoy a hassle-free payment is made each month on a date that is convenient for any resident or business.

Anyone wanting more information on how to switch their payments to Direct Debit should visit **colchester.gov.uk/directdebit**

We Are Colchester aims to bring economic boost

A dynamic partnership including Colchester Borough Council, Essex County Council, local businesses and other organisations are developing an innovative approach to delivering long-term economic growth to the borough.

Last year it was announced Colchester was one of 100 areas across the country that had each been given the opportunity to bid for up to £25 million from the Government's Town Fund scheme.

To secure the funding, local councils, business and communities need to work together to draw-up ambitious plans to transform their town's economic growth prospects, with a focus on improved

transport, broadband connectivity, skills and culture.

Launched in January, the We Are Colchester partnership is developing a wide-ranging and forward-thinking plan looking at how to build on the borough's already vibrant economy.

It will also look to continue to make the best use of the history, culture and other assets the borough has to offer.

It is also considering how to overcome some of the challenges Colchester faces in ensuring future economic growth including: having relatively few larger employers; a reliance on retail and service sectors; our current transport

infrastructure, and continuing deprivation in parts of the borough, which are among the 10% most deprived areas in England.

Simon Blaxill, the chair of the Our Colchester Business Improvement District and director of local company Kent Blaxill, has been appointed the board's chair.

As part of the funding bid, which needs to be submitted to the Government in the summer, a Town Investment Plan needs to be developed.

This will focus on the area stretching from Greenstead in the East, to Copford in the West, and out to the edges of the town to the North and South.

Around 120,000 residents live in this area and it also covers most of Colchester's businesses, leisure and cultural assets, as well as the mainline railway station, hospital and town centre.

To help develop the investment plan, a number of consultation events and workshops will be held for residents, businesses and leading figures in and around Colchester.

With their help, we will look for new ways to improve our town that could be included as part of the bid to the Government.

More information on the work of the We Are Colchester partnership, and the meetings and events can be found on colchester.gov.uk/wearecolchester



REGISTER FOR E-NEWS



Monthly updates, offers and bulletins from Colchester Borough Council

Register online at:
colchester.gov.uk/media-centre/news

Residents and businesses get connected

Colchester is set to benefit from a £13.5m investment of Government and private sector funding to deliver gigabit speed broadband to both businesses and households across the urban part of the borough.

Currently, only 8% of properties in the UK have access to gigabit-capable broadband. However, over the next five years, 25,000 gigabit connections will be created under the project being managed by

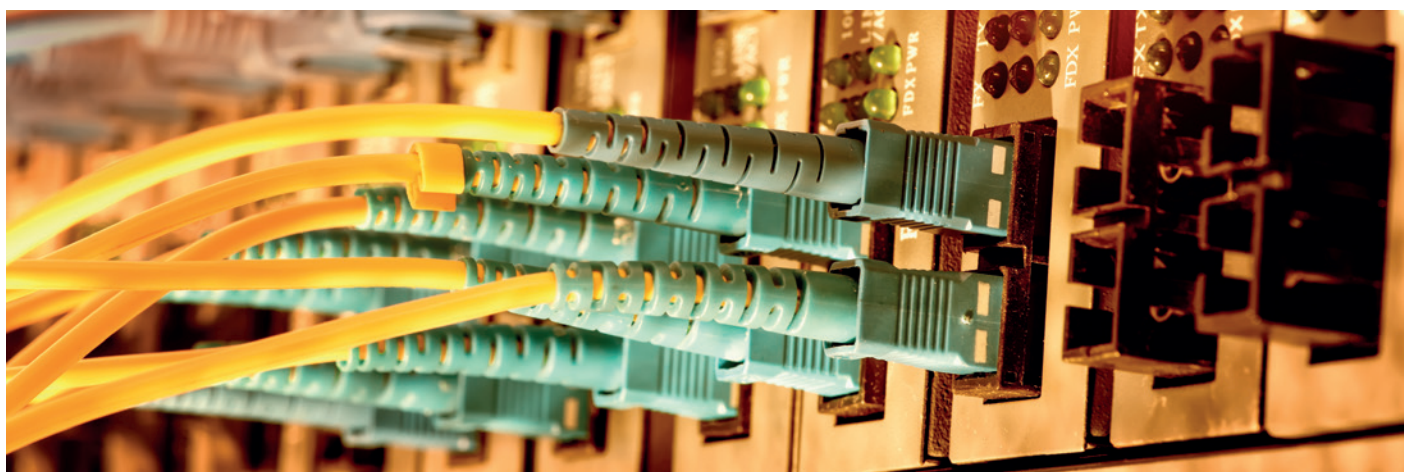
Colchester Amphora Trading (CATL) – one of the commercial companies set up by Colchester Borough Council in 2018. This makes it one of the largest schemes of its type in the country.

CATL operates the Gigabit Voucher Connection Scheme as a registered telecommunications supplier. These vouchers give up to £2,500 in capital funding for small and medium-sized enterprises to connect to gigabit-enabling networks. This scheme

has helped CATL expand this new technology across most of the town centre.

Gigabit fibre rollout in the rural parts of the borough is led by Openreach, County Broadband and Gigaclear, as part of Government contracts. There are a rapidly growing number of schemes underway using the Openreach Community Fibre Partnership scheme.

For more information visit colchester-fibre.co.uk



Park, pay and extend your stay the easy way

Residents and visitors can take the hassle out of paying for parking by signing up to the MiPermit app.

Users of the app can pay for parking in council-owned car parks in Colchester and across North Essex. Once registered on the app, available on both Apple and Android, people can use it to: select their vehicle registration; car park location; tariff; and length of stay required, before paying.

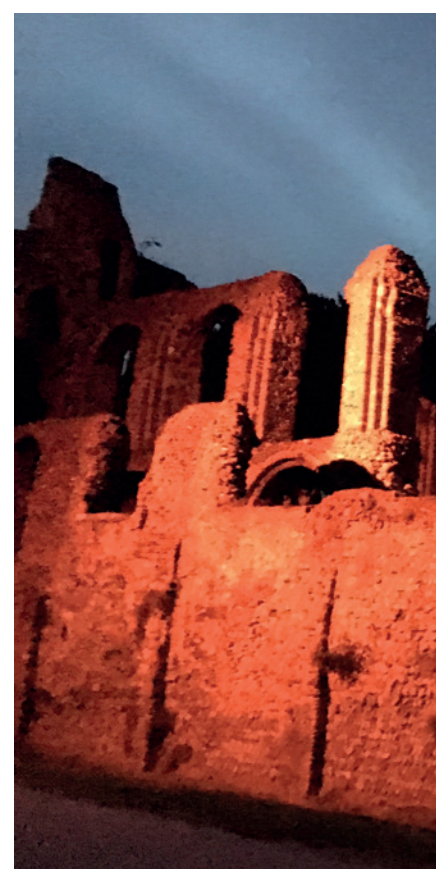
You can also increase your stay without returning to the car park by pressing the 'Extend' button which will select the best value tariff for your whole stay.

Other benefits include access to exclusive parking offers such as £2 after 2pm in Priory Street or St Mary's car parks Monday to Friday, and setting reminders for when parking stays are about to expire (10p per alert).

Find out more and set up an account at parkingpartnership.org

Delivering a Better Colchester

Better Colchester set out to make the borough an even more attractive place to live, work and visit. It brings together all of the projects, improvements and strategic priorities taking place to make Colchester the best it can be. From making our streets even cleaner and safer, to celebrating our heritage - working together with our residents, visitors and businesses we have made a difference.





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10

1 150 brightly coloured umbrellas installed in Culver Square, in partnership with Culver Square and the Our Colchester Business Improvement District (BID)

2 Neat Street campaign launched in partnership with Our Colchester BID to encourage town centre businesses to show their pride in the town.

3 Delivery of a Town Centre Action Plan working with Essex Police to tackle issues including street drinking, anti-social behaviour, drug use and aggressive begging in the town.

4 Two amazing murals completed in St Mary's car park, celebrating the history of Colchester, with a further one planned for St John's car park

5 An extensive programme of street cleaning, street furniture replacement and general maintenance/improvements across the borough

6 Three new drinking water fountains introduced in Colchester town centre

7 Colchester Woodland Project launched, with plans to plant 200,000 trees across the borough over the next five years, helping to offset 32,000 tonnes of carbon in the lifetime of the trees

8 Installing 34 bright pink Gumdrop bins in and around the town centre in locations identified as gum litter 'hotspots' (gum litter in some areas of town has reduced by as much as 81%!)

9 Some of our rich heritage sites lit up, including the castle, Balmerne Gate and soon, St Botolph's Priory

10 Festive cheer added to the town with two beautiful real Christmas trees


Who provides your council services in Colchester?

Colchester residents benefit from and can access a wide range of council services across the borough. These services will either be delivered by Colchester Borough Council or Essex County Council. This is because in Colchester, like most other parts of Essex, the local borough or district council run services purely focused in their local area, while the county council provides services spanning the whole county. This is what is known as two-tier local government. Below is a guide to who provides what key services across the borough.





Recycling and Rubbish Collections



Housing



Planning and Building Control



Environmental and Animal Services
Including Neighbourhood Team, Food Hygiene, Licensing




Museums and Heritage



Housing Benefit and Local Council Tax



Parking




Leisure Services






Education and Schools




Highways
(Improvements, Maintenance and Gritting)



Social Care



Children and Young People Service



Libraries



Waste Disposal and Recycling Sites



Trading Standards



Births, Ceremonies and Deaths

Meet your councillors



Cllr Christopher Arnold
Rural North
Conservatives



Cllr Lewis Barber
Lexden & Braiswick
Conservatives



Cllr Nick Barlow
Castle
Liberal Democrats



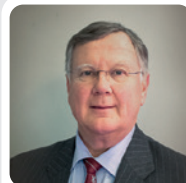
Cllr Lyn Barton
Shrub End
Liberal Democrats



Cllr Kevin Bentley
Marks Tey & Layer
Conservatives



Cllr Tina Bourne
Greenstead
Labour



Cllr Roger Buston
Prettygate
Conservatives



Cllr Nigel Chapman
Rural North
Conservatives



Cllr Peter Chillingworth
Rural North
Conservatives



Cllr Helen Chuah
St Anne's & St John's
Liberal Democrats



Cllr Phil Coleman
Mile End
Liberal Democrats



Cllr Nick Cope
New Town & Christ Church
Liberal Democrats



Cllr Mark Cory
Wivenhoe
Liberal Democrats
Leader of the Council
PFH - Strategy



Cllr Simon Crow
Castle
Conservatives



Cllr Robert Davidson
Mersea & Pyefleet
Conservatives



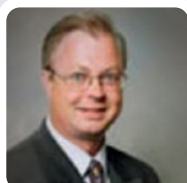
Cllr Beverly Davies
Prettygate
Conservatives



Cllr Paul Dundas
Stanway
Conservatives



Cllr John Elliott
Tiptree
Conservatives



Cllr Andrew Ellis
Marks Tey & Layer
Conservatives



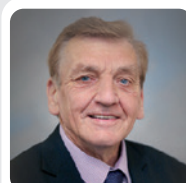
Cllr Adam Fox
Old Heath & The Hythe
Labour & Co-operative
PFH - Housing



Cllr Mark Goacher
Castle
Green Party



Cllr Martin Goss
Mile End
Liberal Democrats
PFH - Waste, Environment & Transportation



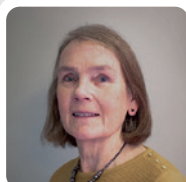
Cllr Dave Harris
Berechurch
Labour



Cllr Chris Hayter
St Anne's & St John's
Conservatives



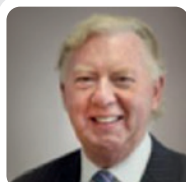
Cllr Pauline Hazell
Shrub End
Conservatives



Cllr Theresa Higgins
New Town & Christ Church
Liberal Democrats
PFH - Commercial Services



Cllr Mike Hogg
St Anne's & St John's
Liberal Democrats



Cllr Brian Jarvis
Lexden & Braiswick
Conservatives



Cllr John Jowers
Mersea & Pyefleet
Conservatives



Cllr David King
Mile End
Liberal Democrats
PFH - Business & Resources



Cllr Cyril Liddy
Wivenhoe
Labour & Co-operative



Cllr Michael Lilley
Old Heath & The Hythe
Labour & Co-operative
PFH - Communities, Wellbeing & Public Safety



Cllr Sue Lissimore
Prettygate
Conservatives



Cllr Derek Loveland
Tiptree
Conservatives



Cllr Andrea Luxford
Luxford Vaughan
Wivenhoe
Liberal Democrats
PFH - Customers



Cllr Fiona Maclean
Stanway
Conservatives



Cllr Jackie Maclean
Marks Tey & Layer
Conservatives



Councillor Sam McCarthy
Shrub End
Liberal Democrat



Cllr Patricia Moore
Mersea & Pyefleet
Conservatives



Cllr Beverley Oxford
Highwoods
Independent



Cllr Gerard Oxford
Highwoods
Independent



Cllr Philip Oxford
Highwoods
Independent



Cllr Chris Pearson
Berechurch
Labour & Co-operative



Cllr Lee Scordis
Old Heath & The Hythe
Labour



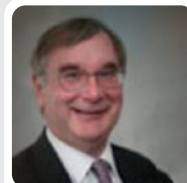
Cllr Lesley Scott-Boutell
Stanway
Liberal Democrats



Cllr Martyn Warnes
Berechurch
Labour & Co-operative



Cllr Lorcan Whitehead
New Town & Christ Church
Labour



Cllr Dennis Willets
Lexden & Braiswick
Conservatives



Cllr Barbara Wood
Tiptree
Conservatives



Cllr Julie Young
Greenstead
Labour
Dep. Leader of the Council
PFH - Culture & Performance



Cllr Tim Young
Greenstead
Labour

PFH - means Portfolio Holder. The Cabinet has eight Portfolio Holders, each of whom is responsible for a specific area, known as a Portfolio.

If you wish to contact your local councillor, please contact them using the following format:

(first name).(surname)@colchester.gov.uk

For more information regarding your local councillor, please visit **colchester.gov.uk/councillors**

Get involved in the Great British Spring Clean

Colchester Borough Council is once again supporting the annual Great British Spring Clean, taking place between 20 March and 13 April.

The initiative is the UK's biggest mass-participation environmental campaign and we are encouraging all Colchester-based community groups, schools and residents to take part in helping to make the borough a cleaner and tidier place to live, work in and visit.

This year's campaign will not only help remove litter it will also aim to recycle thousands of plastic bottles and aluminium cans. Those taking

part in the clean-ups will be asked to separate the litter they pick into three bags: one for plastic bottles; one for aluminium cans and a third for the rest of the rubbish.

Any individual or group wanting to get involved in the initiative should email our Communities Team at communities@colchester.gov.uk so they can ensure enough bags are available for litter picks, and organise our Neighbourhood Services Team to collect these bags and recycle the items.

Anyone wanting to find out more and register should visit www.keepbritaintidy.org



Discover the beautiful borough by taking the Colchester Orbital



Anyone wanting to enjoy the sights of our beautiful borough can do so while discovering the picturesque Colchester Orbital – a nearly 15-mile circular walk and cycle route around the edge of the town.

The Orbital connects some of the network of footpaths, cycle paths and green spaces to make an idyllic way for people to enjoy the countryside.

Colchester Borough Council has worked with a range of partners to support the community project which has sought to promote, preserve and protect the circular route around the borough since 2015.

The project has been led by members of Walk Colchester, Essex Local Access Forum, Colchester Ramblers, Colchester Natural History Society, Myland Community Council and Essex Bridleways Association, with support from Cycle Colchester.

By mapping and promoting this key pathway it is hoped more and more people will be encouraged to use the Colchester Orbital rather than taking to their cars – not only benefiting the environment, but also helping to



enhance people's health.

The route links the borough's most beautiful and important open spaces, helping to create a green corridor around the town. It strengthens the walking links between Colchester town, its suburbs and surrounding villages.

New and improved maps of the Colchester Orbital are being created and will be available to download in the near future.

To ensure the walk is suitable for people of all ages and abilities, the partners involved in the project are currently checking the potential barriers on the route that may prevent it being accessible for all.

We are also looking at potentially

adding more greenery to the orbital route as part of the Colchester Woodland Project (see page 1). It is hoped we will be able to find areas for new tree planting and the creation of new wildlife habitats.

The Colchester Orbital route was officially launched in 2018 under the Walk Colchester initiative as part of the Jane's Walk programme; an international initiative of local walks led by local people on local themes honouring the legacy of the urbanist, writer and activist Jane Jacobs.

Anyone wanting more information about the Colchester Orbital can visit walkcolchester.org.uk/the-colchester-orbital

Colchester parks to host range of events

An exciting programme of events is being developed by Colchester Borough Council, to enable everyone to enjoy the 16 countryside sites and more than 300 open spaces across the borough this year.

Our parks and countryside sites offer something for everyone, from exploring nature and the great outdoors, an afternoon spent fishing, our free regular Friday Health Walks or Sunday Strolls at High Woods Country Park.

From organised children's events, to being able to enjoy a leisurely picnic in front of the free Bandstand Concerts in Castle Park, there really is a range of activities and events for people of all ages and interests.

Anyone wanting to find out more about this year's parks and countryside events can visit colchester.gov.uk/parkevents



Whatever your plans, Colchester has something great on offer...

Leisure World

MOTHERS DAY SPA OFFER	16 - 29 MARCH	AQUA SPRINGS SPA
Pamper your mum this Mother's Day at Aqua Springs Spa. aqua-springs.co.uk		
APRIL HOLIDAY CAMPS	6 APRIL - 17 APRIL	LEISURE WORLD COLCHESTER
Keep your kids and teenagers busy this half term at our Kids and Base Holiday Camps. Including access to the Leisure Pool, Ultimate Ninja, bouncy castles and more. colchesterleisureworld.co.uk/colchester/kids/holidayfunkids		
10% OFF PRODUCTS	APRIL	AQUA SPRINGS SPA
Customers can enjoy 10% off Products after Treatments throughout the month. aqua-springs.co.uk		
25% OFF MANICURE & PEDICURES	MAY	AQUA SPRINGS SPA
25% off Spa/Luxury Manicure, Pedicures & Gelcolor. (Promotion excludes shape and polish option.) aqua-springs.co.uk		

Colchester Museums

KNIGHTZZZ AT THE MUSEUM	4 APRIL	COLCHESTER CASTLE
Sleepover at Colchester Castle and enjoy a most unusual camping experience!		
THE SCIENCE OF ARCHAEOLOGY	6 - 17 APRIL	COLCHESTER CASTLE
Discover surprising facts about the past by exploring archaeological finds over the Easter holidays.		
FANTASTIC FOSSILS	17 APRIL	NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
Come and meet the wonderful fossil experts from GeoSuffolk.		
KNIGHTS AND DRAGONS	25 - 26 MAY	COLCHESTER CASTLE
Colchester Castle welcomes a rather magnificent visitor!		
MYTHICAL BEATS TRAIL AND CRAFTS	25 - 29 MAY	COLCHESTER CASTLE
Follow our mythical beasts trail around the castle and create your own one!		

For full listings of all events go to www.colchester.cimuseums.org.uk/events



Do you know what's inside Europe's Largest Norman Keep?



Colchester Castle is full of important, locally found objects, with extraordinary stories to tell spanning over 2000 years of history.

If you would like to know more, and haven't visited before, you are invited to a **free 30 minute taster tour of the galleries** so the team at the Castle can introduce you to some of these stories.

Dates and places are limited, and booking is essential. Please see our website for dates available colchester.cimuseums.org.uk/events

Mother's Day Spa Packages

Monday 16 March to Sunday 29 March

Visit Aqua Springs reception or call us on 01206 282100 | aqua-springs.co.uk



Mother's Day Spa & Body Treatment (for one)
Body Wrap (Caffeine Kick or Tea Tox), Spa Entry, **£54**

Mother's Day Spa Package (for two) Afternoon Tea for two, Spa Entry for two, **£48**



A LOOK AT SOME OF COLCHESTER'S UPCOMING EVENTS



CASTLE PARK | COLCHESTER CASTLE | CHARTER HALL | TOWN HALL

MARCH – DECEMBER 2020

For full event listings and tickets, visit: colchester-events.co.uk



Castle Park - Castle Park, High Street, Colchester CO1 1UG
Colchester Castle - Castle Park, High Street Colchester CO1 1TJ
Charter Hall - Colchester Leisure World, Cowdray Avenue, Colchester CO1 1YH
Town Hall - High Street, Colchester, CO1 1PJ

[f](https://www.facebook.com/colchestereventscompany) [@colchestereventscompany](https://www.instagram.com/colchestereventscompany)

Northern Gateway sports complex nearing completion



The 76-acre Colchester Northern Gateway (CNG) Sports Park is scheduled to open later this year – creating a multi-million pound sports facility for the borough.

The park will include a state-of-the-art cycling centre and 1.6km closed circuit track, as well as cricket, rugby and football as part of the premier multi-use indoor and outdoor facilities and green spaces adjacent to junction 28 of the A12.

The new cycling facility is unique in Essex. The track will provide leisurely cyclists, clubs and schools a safe space to ride their bikes, whilst providing serious cyclists with a facility to challenge themselves and improve.

Last year the development received £590,000 from Places to Ride, the capital

grants fund delivered by British Cycling and Sport England. The funding has contributed towards the delivery of the mile-long floodlit cycle track's six different looped routes, strengthening Colchester's cycling infrastructure.

As part of its all-inclusive offerings, CNG Sports Park will also be offering cycling sessions for people with disabilities through the Wheels for All initiative, a nationally-recognised programme helping people with disabilities engage in fun activities using a range of adapted bikes. Wheels for All held its first cycling events in Colchester last year, which was attended by hundreds of people of various abilities, with many cycling for the very first time.

The Park was also awarded £100,000

cricket funding from England and Wales Cricket Board. The money is supporting the new indoor cricket facility and helping forge a strong partnership between Colchester Borough Council and Essex County Cricket Club.

The new indoor cricket space will provide a high-quality four-lane net facility that will be used by Essex County Cricket player pathway, match programmes, community groups and affiliated clubs in north Essex. It will also be available for clubs, schools, community groups, businesses and individuals to hire.

As well as cycling and cricket facilities, the park boasts a multi-use sports centre, fitness suite, exercise and spin studios, a café and meeting rooms. The wider development also includes new state-of-the-art rugby facilities, two all-weather pitches, additional grass pitches and archery.

The construction of the site is being undertaken by contractors R.G. Carter, with Colchester Amphora Trading managing the build of the development.

If you're interested in using the park or would like to find out more, please visit: colchesterleisureworld.co.uk/northerngatewaysportspark

Look out for the new Recycling Calendar

The 2020-2021 Recycling Calendar is being sent out with the annual Council Tax bills this month.

It sets out the schedule of all collections between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021, including over Christmas and New Year.

It provides tips and advice on what items can be recycled and on what week, alongside which container or bag to use.

Anyone who has signed up for paperless bills will receive their calendar digitally.

Households with a kerbside collection will receive a paper copy, printed on recycled paper and using vegetable oil based inks.

We will also be delivering a roll of clear bags for recycling paper, plastic and textiles, to all households (except flats with communal recycling and rubbish bins) in April and May.

People can also look up their collection dates at colchester.gov.uk/recycling

Residents can use their postcode to see whether they are on a Blue or Green Week and what can and cannot be recycled.

HALF TERM EASTER FUN FOR KIDS AND TEENAGERS

Mon 6 Apr to Fri 17 Apr, 8am - 5.30pm



KIDS CAMP

AGE 5 - 12

- LEISURE POOL
- ARTS & CRAFTS
- TREASURE HUNTS
- SOFT PLAY
- BOUNCY CASTLE

FROM £20



BASE CAMP

AGE 11 - 15

- LEISURE POOL
- TEN PIN BOWLING
- ULTIMATE NINJA UK
- PUTT IN THE PARK
- ROLLER WORLD

£30

Plans progressing for Colchester Northern Gateway homes, businesses and leisure facilities



Plans to create a new destination of homes, business and leisure facilities on the southern part of the Northern Gateway site are taking shape.

A masterplan for the scheme, which will be managed by Colchester Amphora Trading, has been drawn up which would see the development of 350 new homes, with 30% being council homes, 45,100m² of commercial floorspace and a health campus.

It will benefit from an innovative low-carbon ground source heat

network, managed by Amphora Energy, as well as ultrafast gigabyte broadband connectivity and accessible attractive public spaces.

The plans, to be discussed later this year by the council's planning committee, follow an infrastructure first approach. If approved, development of "The Walk" pedestrian boulevard spanning the entire site will commence this summer. This will link the new infrastructure of roads, footpaths and cycle routes, to connect existing, wider, local communities to the new development.

The development has received central Government grants including: £5.5 million for the new pedestrian boulevard, two access roads and links to the main road network; £3.5 million for the renewable heating network; and £3.45 million to deliver internet networks across the site.



colchesterleisureworld.co.uk/holidayfun