



CENTURION

YOUR NEWSPAPER FROM COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Colchester Woodland Project



#bettercolchester

Planting trees in Colchester for now and the future



Creating a community forest

With environmental issues high on the national and international agenda, Colchester Borough Council is playing its part in making the borough even greener. As part of our Better Colchester campaign – underpinning our work to make Colchester an even more attractive place to live, work and visit – we are seeking to create a community woodland.

The Colchester Woodland project will see thousands of trees planted across more than 15 sites, replacing dead and

felled trees with new trees and copses.

A new community woodland site is being identified and we are working towards a Community Orchard at Colchester Cemetery, which has Green Flag status. The planting is due to start this autumn to coincide with National Tree Week.

The project supports the wide range of environmentally sustainable work we are developing, including having a committed carbon management plan and building greener homes.

Colchester tops performance on climate change in East



Colchester Borough Council has committed to working with partners and environmental organisations after becoming one of the first councils to declare a climate emergency. It follows stark warnings from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that we have 12 years to prevent the planet warming by 1.5 degrees Celsius or face devastating and irreversible consequences.

Last month, Colchester was ranked joint top most climate-friendly area in the East and joint third in England and Wales by Friends of the Earth.

Our declaration commits us to be carbon neutral by 2030 and work to develop community-based renewable energy projects. It also calls on the Government to reflect the seriousness of the issue in national policy.

A cross-party task and finish group has been set up which is working to develop ways of ensuring Colchester plays its part in protecting the planet. This includes reducing the borough's carbon footprint, encouraging the use of renewable energy and boosting Colchester's ecology.

It will also build on a wide range of

initiatives already being developed to ensure a greener future. This includes a two-year project, backed by £249,100 funding from the Department For Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), to tackle air quality issues in the borough. Working with residents, schools and community groups, this aims to raise awareness of air quality issues and encourage people to take action.

A survey was launched in October to give us a better understanding of what people currently know about air quality and the impact it has on our health.

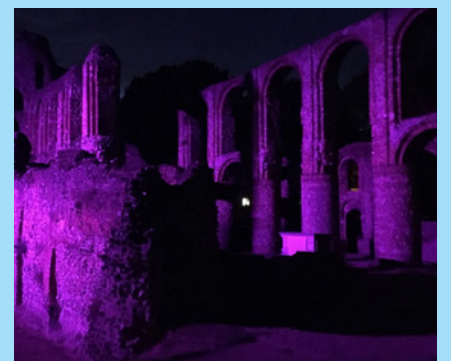
The survey also looks at how we can encourage people to make changes in their habits – like switching car engines off whilst stationary, which can cut pollution by up to 30%. You can add your views to the survey by visiting colchester.gov.uk/cleanair.

A special short video can be seen on our Twitter and Facebook channels. Anyone with suggestions for green initiatives the task and finish group could investigate should email climate.change@colchester.gov.uk.

Shining a light on our heritage

Work to shine a light on one of Colchester's unique historical sites is well underway. Power cables have been laid to help with lighting up a stretch of the Roman Wall in Balcerne Hill, with the light fittings scheduled for installation shortly.

It is one of several schemes to help highlight Colchester's unique heritage sites including improving the external lights at Colchester Castle. New lighting at St Botolph's Priory is also being investigated.



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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.

Colchester Borough Homes delivering for its tenants



Homes owned by Colchester Borough Council across the borough are managed by our arms-length management (ALMO) organisation Colchester Borough Homes (CBH). Set up in 2003, CBH provides the management and maintenance service to around 7,000 residential, commercial and public buildings including our council homes and buildings like Colchester Castle and Leisure World.

As an ALMO, CBH can provide high quality management, effective investment and a high level of tenant involvement, without transferring

the ownership of housing stock from the council. Employing around 200 people, CBH supports tenants in their own homes and older people in sheltered accommodation with a skilled team helping to manage the allocation of homes from the Housing Register. It also has an outreach team who help to support the borough's rough sleepers into accommodation, working closely with the police, the council's neighbourhood teams and other partners.

CBH's focus on delivering value for money services which make a

difference in the local community – and involving tenants and residents – is a key part of achieving this. It has a full schedule of community events and activities including a programme of 'Make a Difference' days which, in partnership with other organisations, target and resolve issues identified by local residents in those areas.

Its Community Fund has helped a number of local community groups to deliver projects providing significant benefits across the borough, including advice services and a café offering hot meals during school holidays to families on low incomes.

Partnership working is a fundamental part of the way CBH works. As well as the council, it works with organisations including Citizens' Advice, Colchester Night Shelter, Beacon House, Open Road and Colchester Credit Union to help improve the quality of life of their tenants and those rough sleeping. Its design and construction management team takes on a number of large-scale improvement projects and is currently managing the Mercury Rising scheme to redevelop the Mercury Theatre. For more information on CBH visit cbhomes.org.uk.

Landlords given incentives to let their properties

Colchester Borough Homes (CBH) is looking at innovative ways to address housing need in Colchester

One of the ways of generating more accommodation in the private sector is the Homestep scheme.

This offers landlords the chance to take the hassle out of renting their property – offering free support and advice throughout the process.

CBH will pay one month's rent in advance, five weeks' damage deposit and a goodwill payment worth up to £750 in exchange for a 12-month shorthold tenancy.

CBH has a large number of families looking for private rented accommodation in the Colchester area.

By signing up to Homestep, private landlords can not only help provide someone with a home but also reduce the potential of their properties being empty.

For more information on the scheme see cbhomes.org.uk/homestep.

Lifesaving defibrillators installed in Colchester

Twelve lifesaving defibrillators have been installed across the borough, thanks to Colchester Borough Council and Colchester Borough Homes (CBH).

A defibrillator is a machine that will monitor and if necessary provide an electric shock to the heart to re-establish a normal heart rhythm, and is used to save people's lives when they are in cardiac arrest.

They have been funded and installed as part of a partnership between the council and CBH working together with Colchester Community First Responders (CCFRs). Placed in locations including Wivenhoe, Highwoods Square, Layer

Road and Harwich Road, they will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They are housed in distinctive yellow boxes with instructions on how to use them.

Statistically, two to four people between the ages of 15-35 years old die of sudden cardiac arrest each day. In March 2018, CCFRs had four defibrillator sites in Colchester – they now have over 50. CBH staff and tenants have also been undertaking a programme of training to learn how to use the machines in the event of an emergency.

For more information about CCFRs see colchesterccfr.co.uk.



Go paperless. Register for online documents.
colchester.gov.uk/paperless



Delivering affordable homes for Colchester residents

Colchester Borough Council has ambitious plans to deliver up to 350 new affordable homes for the borough's residents over the next five years.

Delivering new homes through our wholly-owned housing development company, Colchester Amphora Homes Limited (CAHL), and purchasing former council homes that have been sold, are part of achieving this goal.

Among the steps we are taking are:

- CAHL delivering more than 100 new affordable homes as part of mixed-tenure developments across sites at Creffield Road, Mill Road and St Runwald Street.
- building around 30 new affordable homes on former garage sites.
- looking at alternative ways of delivering social housing – including potentially creating purpose-built flats that would provide an additional floor on suitable existing blocks of flats.

• borrowing up to £75 million over five years to support the delivery of these much-needed homes. This has been made possible by the Government scrapping its one per cent rent reduction which has been in place since 2015, as well as removing a previously imposed “debt cap” so that councils can once again borrow funds to build affordable homes.

The foundations for these plans have been set by the successful delivery of a £4 million project agreed last year to reduce homelessness across the borough.

This has seen more than 50 homeless households being found temporary or permanent homes through purchasing 23 former council homes. A further 28 additional homes have been secured in the borough's private rented sector through Colchester Borough Homes' Homestep campaign (see P2).

We also worked with a specialist housing supplier to deliver affordable family homes for ex-service personnel and their families, by using some of the money the Government allows us to keep from Right to Buy sales to buy homes on the open market. In return, we can put forward families for the properties through our choice-based lettings scheme ‘Gateway to Homechoice’.

Our ambitions have been recognised in a major report by the Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) and District Council Network.

Issued earlier this year, the report highlighted the council for the “full commitment of its Cabinet to increase the level of affordable housebuilding” and as a good example for managing and being realistic about risk.

Property management company fined for numerous breaches

Colchester Borough Council has shown its commitment to protecting residents from rogue landlords with a successful prosecution of a London-based property management company.

Ankor Limited was fined £1,800 for breaching 36 regulations governing homes in multiple occupation. Our environmental health officers acted after tenants complained about unsafe living conditions at two properties in St Mary's Fields.

Investigations revealed numerous breaches of fire and electrical safety regulations and housing conditions not up to legal standards, including a lack of hot water and heating.

The company had repeatedly ignored tenants' complaints and failed to provide electrical and gas safety certificates for the properties.

While offences under the Housing Act carry unlimited fines, they received a nominal fine after the judge acknowledged the company is in liquidation. He also awarded the council £6,178.78 in costs and a £30 victim surcharge.

Reaching out to support the borough's rough sleepers



Colchester Borough Council is committed to supporting the borough's rough sleepers. Deacon Richardson, Colchester Borough Homes' Rough Sleeper Outreach Worker, outlines his role in helping achieve this.

“My background is in working with dementia patients and helping children from socially deprived backgrounds. My role means I can make a positive difference within the community and support vulnerable individuals:

“We start early or work late depending on who we need to find and support.

“We are on the streets talking to

people and trying to resolve their issues. We follow up reports to Streetlink about rough sleepers we are not already aware of and carry out joint patrols with the council's neighbourhood teams, police and probation officers.

“This connected approach is vital as many rough sleepers have a range of complex issues.

“It's not just tackling people's accommodation situation, it's wrapping all the support around them. We attend appointments with them and help get them ID to access the support they need.

“Rough sleepers are people too. They deserve a second, third or fourth chance.”

Anyone concerned about a rough sleeper should report them via StreetLink on streetlink.org.uk.

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MATTERS,
DON'T LOSE IT**

It's quick and easy to register.

You just need your name, address, date of birth and National Insurance number.

You can easily update the Register, if your details change.

Register to vote today

colchester.gov.uk/register tovot

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

DON'T LOSE IT



How does the Council spend its money?

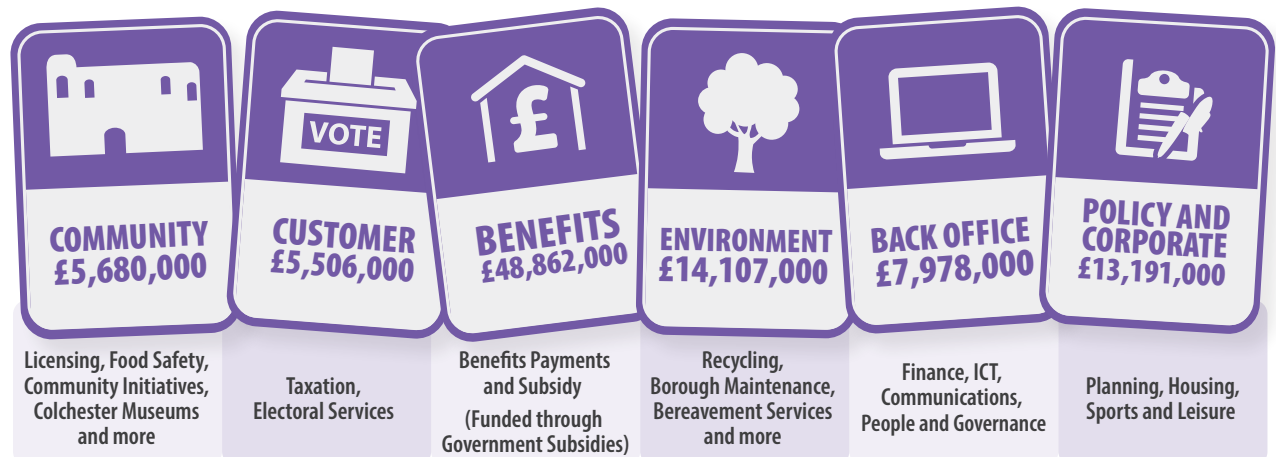
Despite cuts in our funding from Government, Colchester Borough Council continues to provide and improve a wide range of services that residents need and rely on. This year we will spend around £95m delivering services.

£75m comes from incomes and grants. The extra £20m net needed to run council services is funded by the council's share of Business Rates, New Homes Bonuses and Council Tax (£12m).

EACH POUND OF YOUR COUNCIL TAX BILL IS SPLIT BETWEEN:



HOW DOES THE COUNCIL SPEND ITS MONEY:



Help with your Council Tax costs Grant fund for events and festivals



If you are on a low income and need some additional help paying your Council Tax bill, you might be eligible to claim Local Council Tax Support (LCTS).

Eligibility depends on your individual circumstances. Among the things we will take into account are your income, savings and who lives with you in your home. It doesn't matter if you own or rent your property, you may still be eligible to claim LCTS.

You can check if you are eligible online at colchester.gov.uk/LCTS. You can also make a claim through the site. If you have any questions or concerns about your Council Tax account we are here to help. If you are having problems with making any payments, don't delay in contacting our specialist officers who are here to help. For more information, go to colchester.gov.uk/counciltax.

We also work very closely with

other teams and organisations who could offer wider support. We have a specialist team based at the Library and Community Hub in the town centre. They offer Benefits Advice and Employment Support and are ready to help with free and impartial advice. You can get in touch with the team by calling 01206 505855 or emailing benefits.advice@colchester.gov.uk or by visiting them at the Library and Community Hub.

Grant fund for events and festivals

A new £20,000 fund is being set up by Colchester Borough Council to support and enable creative events being held across the borough between May 2020 and March 2021.

Organisers will be able to bid for grants of between £200 and £1,500 to support one-off events and festivals which aim to deliver great cultural experiences to local audiences, showcase Colchester's diverse range of homegrown creative talents and encourage visitors to the area.

Information on the criteria and how people can apply for a grant through The Colchester Creative Events Fund will be available from Monday 18 November.

Please check colchester.gov.uk for more information. Applications for funding will need to be made by Sunday 19 January 2020.

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

*Terms and conditions apply



Delivering a Better Colchester

A whole host of projects is underway across the borough as part of Colchester Borough Council's commitment to deliver a Better Colchester.

Our campaign to make Colchester an even better place to live, work in and visit, is now in its second year and residents are already seeing positive improvements.

We have delivered a wide range of schemes – with some major headline-grabbing initiatives like the launch of the Town Centre Action Plan, a partnership between us and the police to tackle antisocial behaviour in the town centre, and investing in the Local Highways Panel.

However, there are many others being or in the process of being delivered under our dynamic two-year plan, underpinned by the Better Colchester

campaign. We set aside £2 million to make the town centre cleaner, boost the promotion of our heritage and make our borough an even safer place.

Our neighbourhood teams undertake a range of improvements on a daily basis across the borough including refurbishing street furniture such as bins and benches, removing graffiti and repainting street name signs.

St Mary's, St John's and Vineyard Street car parks have also been enhanced. At St Mary's, a second historical-themed mural has been created in the southern stairwell - depicting even more of our borough's rich history, including the sack of Colchester.

We have also enhanced security and carried out general repairs and deep cleans at the car parks and we are installing new LED lighting in both St

Mary's and St John's car parks.

We have been working closely with the Our Colchester Business Improvement District (BID) to continue encouraging town centre businesses to show pride in the area and take responsibility for their shop fronts.

Our partnership with the BID also enabled the Umbrella installation to be put up in Culver Square.

New drinking water fountains were installed this summer helping people stay hydrated.

It also supports our push to encourage people to refill reusable bottles rather than buy water in single use plastic bottles.

For more information on all the work being undertaken under Better Colchester see colchester.gov.uk/bettercolchester.



More partners working for a safer and crime-free town centre

SIX MONTHS IN THE LIFE OF THE TOWN CENTRE ACTION PLAN TEAM AND THE POSITIVE IMPACT IT HAS MADE TO THE TOWN CENTRE

CONTACTS

195 via the free Street Link app streetlink.org.uk



HOURS



200

average amount of time the Police and Council's Neighbourhood team patrol the town centre each week

PARTNERS



15

number of organisations working together to offer support

PEOPLE



linked to support and help

115

HOMED

47

number of people we have helped in to accommodation



ENFORCEMENTS



number of Community Protection Notices / Warnings issued for anti-social behaviour

17



A year ago, Colchester Borough Council invested over £300,000 in a plan tackling antisocial behaviour and making the centre of Colchester an even safer place. The Town Centre Action Plan (TCAP) is a partnership with Essex Police – who have also match funded the scheme.

A team of police and officers from Colchester Borough Homes was set up to work alongside our neighbourhood

team to combat issues like street drinking and aggressive begging. Now 15 organisations work together to tackle antisocial behaviour and support rough sleepers.

Between February and July, 47 people were supported into accommodation and 195 contacts made through the Street Link app. Criminal Behaviour Orders were issued to three prolific beggars and one person for graffitiing.

We have launched a Rural Crime Toolkit, developed to work alongside the Essex Police Rural Crime Strategy, to help support rural communities.

It provides guidance on identifying problems, practical solutions and preventative measures, and sets out how people can apply for £30,000 funding which we have allocated to help tackle these issues and other sources of funding.

Ask Mark

If you have a question you would like to pose to the leader of the council, Councillor Mark Cory, you have the opportunity through a new initiative called 'Ask Mark'.

Residents and businesses across the borough are being invited to email their questions, with a selection being answered by the leader in a special video that will be posted once a month on Better Colchester's Instagram.

The scheme is part of Colchester Borough Council's Better Colchester campaign, and follows the council's pledge to be more open and listen to what people have to say.

Questions can be about topics including the council's vision, projects in Colchester, how our cabinet works or how local government operates.

Anyone with a question they would like to pose should email it to ask.mark@colchester.gov.uk with their first name and the ward they live in.

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



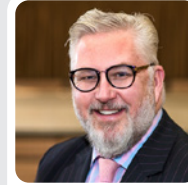
Cllr Lewis Barber
Lexden & Braiswick
Conservatives



Cllr Nick Barlow
Castle
Liberal Democrats



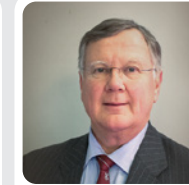
Cllr Lyn Barton
Shrub End
Liberal Democrats



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



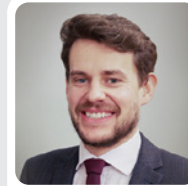
Cllr Helen Chuah
St Anne's & St John's
Liberal Democrats



Cllr Phil Coleman
Mile End
Liberal Democrats



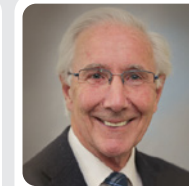
Cllr Nick Cope
New Town & Christ Church
Liberal Democrats



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



Cllr Simon Crow
Castle
Conservatives



Cllr Robert Davidson
Mersea & Pyefleet
Conservatives



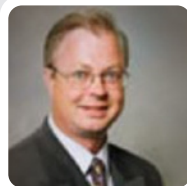
Cllr Beverly Davies
Prettygate
Conservatives



Cllr Paul Dundas
Stanway
Conservatives



Cllr John Elliott
Tiptree
Conservatives



Cllr Andrew Ellis
Marks Tey & Layer
Conservatives



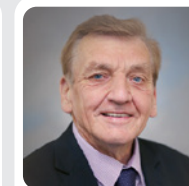
Cllr Adam Fox
Old Heath & The Hythe
Labour & Co-operative
PFH - Housing



Cllr Mark Goacher
Castle
Green Party



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



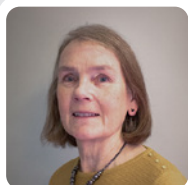
Cllr Dave Harris
Berechurch
Labour



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



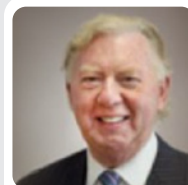
Cllr Pauline Hazell
Shrub End
Conservative



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
PFH - Communities, Wellbeing & Public Safety



Cllr Sue Lissimore
Prettygate
Conservative



Cllr Derek Loveland
Tiptree
Conservative



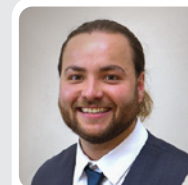
Cllr Andrea Luxford
Luxford Vaughan
Wivenhoe
Liberal Democrats



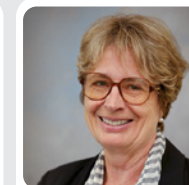
Cllr Fiona Maclean
Stanway
Conservatives



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
PFH - Customers



Cllr Philip Oxford
Highwoods
Independent



Cllr Chris Pearson
Berechurch
Labour & Co-operative



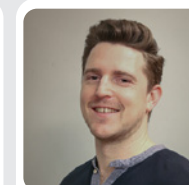
Cllr Lee Scordis
Old Heath & The Hythe
Labour



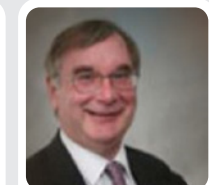
Cllr Lesley Scott-Boutell
Stanway
Liberal Democrats



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**.



Megan McKenna performing at Colchester Christmas lights switch on 2018

Get involved in One Colchester Hub

Volunteers are being sought for a range of roles supporting local vulnerable people through the One Colchester Hub.

Launched in 2018 the Hub, next to Primark in the centre of Colchester, is managed by independent charity Community360 in partnership with Colchester Borough Council.

There are a number of befriending roles available for people to match up and support people living in Colchester who would like to have more regular social contact, reducing the risk of social isolation.

All these roles can be found online at volunteerssex.org or you can learn more about them from the staff in the shop.

There are also free weekly weigh-ins, offered by Community360 in partnership with Anglian Community Enterprise, and various other groups and clubs throughout each week. More information is available at community360.org.uk or by calling 01206 505250.



Get in the festive spirit in Colchester

Christmas in Colchester is set to be the best so far with a range of initiatives making the festive season go with a swing. Last year, thousands of people saw Megan McKenna perform and switch the High Street's illuminations on with the borough's Mayor. This year's event is set to be even bigger and better.

On Sunday 1 December the High Street lights will be turned on as part of an afternoon of fun, running between 2.30pm and 5.15pm, with the lights being turned on around 5pm. The High Street will be closed to traffic throughout the afternoon.

Colchester Borough Council, Our Colchester Business Improvement District (BID), and Fenwick are all supporting the staging of the event, which will see special guests, including Santa, keeping people of all ages entertained.

This year, the performance stage will be near the Town Hall to allow more people to enjoy the entertainment. The event forms part of a drive to encourage people to enjoy and explore everything the borough has to offer this Christmas, including its shopping and entertainment venues and historic attractions.

Visitors to the town centre will also be able to enjoy a range of family-friendly entertainment on the three Saturdays running up to Christmas. Special competitions and initiatives with schools will also be held.

Visitors will also be able to enjoy the Colchester Christmas Market between 10am and 5pm on Sunday 8 December. Last year there were almost 100 traders offering fashion, toys, festive gifts, jewellery and art and crafts. The market will again span the length of High Street, which will be closed to

traffic throughout the event. We will be putting up two Christmas trees in the town centre and there will be a Santa's grotto at Colchester Castle on various dates in December as part of our Christmas at the Castle events – which includes a special festive open evening on 11 December.

We will also be offering free parking across our town centre car parks after 3pm on the three Wednesdays running up to Christmas.

To find out the locations of car parks and our year-round deals visit colchester.gov.uk/parking.

Listings of events across the borough this Christmas can be found on the Visit Colchester website visitcolchester.uk/Christmas. Events being held in the centre of Colchester are on the BID's In Colchester website incolchester.co.uk.

Christmas recycling collections and council opening times

Recycling and rubbish collections will change over Christmas and New Year with no collections on Wednesday 25 or Thursday 26 December.

Wednesday's collection will be a day earlier on Tuesday 24 December, while collections on Thursday 26 and Friday 27 December will be one day

later than usual.

The normal collection scheduled for Tuesday 24 December will take place on Saturday 21 December.

Throughout the week starting 31 December all collections will be one day later than usual.

Normal service returns from Tuesday 7 January. Most of the waste we generate over Christmas can be recycled:

- wrapping paper can be placed in the clear paper recycling bag unless

its covered in glitter or metallic foil.

- turkey bones and other food scraps can go into the food waste caddy.
- Christmas trees can be recycled through St Helena Hospice's Treecycle scheme or sawn up and placed in the garden waste.

Enter your postcode at colchester.gov.uk/recycling for your recycling and rubbish collection calendar.

The council's main offices will be closed between 24-27 December and on 1 January.



No excuses for littering

Residents and visitors to the borough are being reminded there is no excuse for acts of antisocial behaviour like littering.

It costs Colchester Borough Council £40,000 a year to pick up litter in the town centre alone.

Our #noexcuses campaign seeks to challenge people's attitudes and behaviours towards throwing rubbish on our streets and open spaces. It features some of the genuine excuses people have used to seek to justify

their actions. These excuses include: "I couldn't see a bin", "I was drunk"; and "It's the council's job".

The aim of the #noexcuses campaign, which is part of our Better Colchester campaign, is to highlight the fact that there is never an excuse to throw rubbish on our streets.

Anyone caught littering will receive a fixed penalty notice of £150.

For more information on our campaign search #noexcuses and #bettercolchester on social media.

Recycling rates continue to rise



The borough's recycling rates are continuing to rise, with the latest figures showing an increase of 4% on the previous year.

The levels of household rubbish being disposed of also fell by 1,544 tonnes compared to the previous year – equating to a 5% reduction.

The biggest rise in the items we collect for recycling was in plastic with an additional 14% of plastics

being collected – 2,570 tonnes in total. It follows the extension of the plastic collection service last summer to residents living in flats. Latest figures show 70% of people living in flats are now benefiting from these facilities and able to recycle their plastics at home.

Earlier this year we asked residents to put any plastic bags, film and wraps in their black bins or bags rather than

their recycling. Market conditions dictate what can be recycled and there is no longer any demand for these types of plastics once they are recycled.

Most councils do not collect these items, which are unlikely to be recyclable for the foreseeable future. For more information about the changes to plastic recycling, including a list of the plastic items affected, visit colchester.gov.uk/plastics.

In June, we also changed the way that households with kerbside collections can collect new and replacement recycling containers. The containers remain free of charge, but people now need a voucher before collecting a new or replacement container from their local stockist. Vouchers were previously only required for garden waste sacks and the scheme has now been extended to also include clear bags, food caddies, and glass/can boxes.

The scheme was extended to help determine the levels of demand for these items and help local stockists monitor and maintain the number of containers they have available.

To get your voucher, visit colchester.gov.uk/recycling and complete the online form. You will then receive an email voucher with a collection code and confirmation of the containers. The voucher can be shown to a local stockist either on a mobile device or as a printout.

Residents registered with the assisted collection scheme can order recycling containers, bags and white garden waste sacks to be delivered to their home.

If you love Colchester, don't Fly Tip

Colchester Borough Council is taking tougher action to trace and prosecute anyone blighting the borough through fly-tipping.

Fly-tipping can range from dumping large-scale building or household waste on the roadside to leaving black bags next to a public bin. It is a criminal offence punishable by a fine of up to £50,000 or 12 months' imprisonment if convicted in a Magistrates' Court, or an unlimited fine and up to five years' imprisonment if convicted in a Crown Court.

Anyone hiring a firm to get rid of their waste which then fly-tips it can be prosecuted and face a fine of up to £400. An increasing number of fines are being issued across Colchester and we are taking further steps to crack down on anyone illegally dumping rubbish across the borough.

We have launched a new campaign highlighting the impact of fly-tipping and potential fines, introduced more CCTV cameras in known hotspots, and installed additional signage warning about the implications of fly-tipping.

Incidents of fly-tipping will be rigorously investigated and we will use the wide range of enforcement powers open to us. To report an incident of fly-tipping, go to colchester.gov.uk/report-fly-tipping.

DON'T FLY TIP
DON'T DUMP BIN BAGS
DON'T RISK A FINE



#bettercolchester



Uncovering more of Colchester's history

Colchester is known for its wide and unique heritage, and more has been uncovered through a project managed by Colchester Amphora Trading Ltd on behalf of Colchester Borough Council.

Excavation works supporting the renovation of the former Jacks store, on the corner of St Nicholas Street and Culver Street East, uncovered several important archaeological discoveries including the remains of a significant Roman bath house.

The 15th Century building has been undergoing a facelift to enable it to house an expanded Three Wise Monkeys' bar and Other Monkey Brewing.

The significant discovery was made by the Colchester Archaeological Trust and includes several artefacts and hollow ceramic flues which lined the walls and floors of the various rooms to allow heat to circulate.

It follows the uncovering, earlier this year, of the mosaic-like floors of a number of Roman homes during excavation work supporting the redevelopment of the Mercury Theatre.

An iron object about 38cm (15in) in length, a coin dating to about AD360 and a tiny dice are also among the items found at the site.



Be part of the exhibition adorning Colchester Castle

People have decorated themselves for thousands of years – through the clothes or jewellery they wear and even through tattoos.

This desire to stand out and express ourselves has played an important part in our lives. However, the stories behind why people chose to adorn themselves have often been lost through time.

Now residents can explore some of these stories through a special part of the Adorn: Jewellery, the Human Story, exhibition at Colchester Castle until February 2020.

Part of the exhibition is dedicated to telling the personal stories of local residents and the items they adorn themselves with.

Doris, Matt, Linda, Claire, Mary and Simon and Shan were the first stories displayed as part of the Your Stories section of Adorn. From custom-made

earrings to full body tattoos, the stories behind each person are full of emotion and unique to each individual.

Now the curatorial team behind the exhibition is looking for more residents to be featured in the exhibition from January 2020. Anyone with an item of jewellery, a piercing or a tattoo that has a special meaning to them and who wants to have their story told in a life-sized display should contact the team. If you are interested, submit your Adorn story at cimuseums.org.uk/adorncallout or contact collections@colchester.gov.uk for more information.

Those selected will form part of an exhibition of 3,000 years of history, including Roman jewellery from Pompeii and some of the oldest gold objects from Britain.

Adorn: Jewellery, the Human Story

is the first major exhibition to be held at the Castle since it reopened in 2014 following its refurbishment, and has been two-and-a-half years in the planning. The exhibition is housed in the Castle's chapel, which has been transformed into a space filled with golden light, where objects fill irregular alcoves with impressive graphics and images.

It is truly a family-friendly display, and throughout the duration of the exhibition there will be plenty of Adorn-themed events for everyone to enjoy. This includes making your own piece of jewellery or listening to one of the informative talks.

Entry to the exhibition is free after paying the normal admission to visit Colchester Castle.

More information can be found at colchester.cimuseums.org.uk/adorn.

Take home part of the Beautiful Borough

A campaign highlighting our Beautiful Borough has proved so successful people can now take a piece of it home.

In the spring, Colchester Borough Council's tourism service, Visit Colchester, launched an initiative to highlight the borough from its coast to countryside.

Now some of the iconic artwork supporting the Beautiful Borough campaign is on sale at the Visitor Information Centre based in Hollytrees Museum in Castle Park.

People can choose from limited-edition mugs, bags, keyrings, postcards, posters or magnets depicting their favourite location highlighted in the initiative.

A collaboration with Greater Anglia has seen the seven iconic Beautiful Borough posters featuring Colchester, Colne Valley, Dedham Vale, Wivenhoe, Mersea, Tiptree and Roman River displayed at railway stations across the borough. For more information see visitcolchester.com/plan-your-visit.



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

Leisure World

BLACK FRIDAY SALE 25-29 NOVEMBER **AQUA SPRINGS SPA**

Visit aqua-springs.co.uk Black Friday Week for special offers.

SWIM SCHOOL ENROLMENT 30 NOVEMBER **LEISURE WORLD COLCHESTER**

Learn to swim with Leisure World's Swim England Accredited Swim School. Visit colchesterleisureworld.co.uk/swim-school.

CYBER MONDAY SALE 30 NOVEMBER-2 DECEMBER **AQUA SPRINGS SPA**

Visit aqua-springs.co.uk for even more special offers.

Colchester Museums

GEORGIAN GEMS AND GIN 16 NOVEMBER **COLCHESTER CASTLE**

Join historical jewellery expert/maker Nicky Wade and local gin crafters for an evening exploring the sometimes raucous, often rowdy life of Georgian Britain and the rise of Mother's Ruin. Gin tasting included. £20 per person, adults only.

COLCHESTER CASTLE OPEN EVENING 11 DECEMBER **COLCHESTER CASTLE**

Colchester Castle's festive open evening returns. Soak up the Christmas atmosphere with carols, mince pies, entertainment and possibly even meet Santa before his big night! PRICE: Castle Free Entry + Grotto £5 per person.

CHRISTMAS AT THE CASTLE - SANTA'S GROTTTO (VARIOUS DATES THROUGHOUT DECEMBER) **COLCHESTER CASTLE**

The most magical grotto in Colchester returns this year. Step into an enchanted winter forest where Santa and his sleigh have arrived (until Christmas Eve at least). Meet Father Christmas and receive a gift, then whisper your festive wish into a local oyster shell and place it on our tree. PRICE: £7.95 per person, advance booking required.

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

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28 November	The Drifters	CHARTER HALL
4 December	Dear Santa	CHARTER HALL
6 December	Forbidden Nights	CHARTER HALL
9 December	Kate Rusby	CHARTER HALL

13 December	Magic of Motown	CHARTER HALL
25 January	Luther Vandross Tribute	CHARTER HALL
15 February	Circus of Horrors	CHARTER HALL
29 February	Ibiza Dance Anthems with Dave Pearce	CHARTER HALL



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)

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

Top name acts bring benefits to Colchester



Simple Minds performing at Castle Park

© Chris Reeve Photography

Colchester has hosted some top name acts over the last few years – bringing thousands of people into the centre of Colchester. With names such as Craig David, Tears for Fears and Sir Tom Jones performing in Lower Castle Park – a record 28,000 people have attended concerts staged by Colchester Events Company this year. Tom Jones alone attracted 12,000 fans.

The success of this year's events builds on the foundations set with performances by high profile acts Steps and Simple Minds last year. It is not just the reputation of the borough to attract these top name performers that benefits from these successful events – it's also

the borough's local economy.

Colchester's restaurants and bars have all benefited from the additional visitors to the centre of Colchester generated by the concerts over the summer. They will have also helped highlight the many other cultural and historic attractions available in Britain's First City.

In addition to these concerts, Castle Park has boasted a packed schedule of events over the summer months, with something for people of all ages. These have included food and drink festivals, live music most weekends on the Victorian bandstand, literature and theatre events, charity fundraising events such as Race For Life, and

summer seasonal activities and fun days for children.

Other events supported by Colchester Events Company across the borough also help raise the profile of Colchester as one of the key venues for events in the region and benefit local companies.

For example, the 5,000 ticket sold-out Nearly Festival over the August Bank Holiday weekend – held for the first time at the Old Heath Recreation Ground – played a key role in supporting small independent businesses. Research from the Association of Independent Festivals show that a 5,000 capacity event can generate approximately £800,000 in net gain to the local area.

As well as economic benefits from these events, there are also social and cultural benefits through helping to bring communities together and develop a sense of pride in the borough.

Colchester Events Company, which is part of Colchester Amphora Trading, is working to bring even more top names to the borough. For example, Charter Hall will be hosting Ed Byrne, Henning Wehn and The Drifters over the autumn/winter season. More details on these will be on colchester-events.co.uk/whats-on.

Council's support for armed forces

Being a garrison town, Colchester has a historic and established relationship with the armed forces.

Colchester Borough Council is a signatory to the Armed Forces Covenant and has been awarded the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award for our commitment to aiding and employing members of the military community.

We host various events with the Garrison and local veterans, including marking Armed Forces Day, Reserves Day and Armistice Day.

We signpost people to support services, including the Veteran's Support Directory, benefits and financial advice, health and wellbeing, jobs, and support in finding a new home. More information on all of these can be found at colchester.gov.uk/armedforces.

We were one of the first local authorities to sign up to the Defence Discount Service offering military discounts and concessions at Leisure World and Colchester Castle, as well as on Colchester Events Company weddings.

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Trailblazing cycling scheme set for Northern Gateway



A state-of-the-art cycling centre – unique to Essex – is on track to be one of the key draws to the sports facility being developed at Colchester's Northern Gateway.

The sports hub, which will be managed by Leisure World Colchester, will include a cycle track, sports hall, gym, studio space, archery range, outdoor pitches, and an on-site café.

The cycle park has been awarded £590,000 by the British Cycling trailblazer project to support the development of a new one-mile track consisting of six loops which will be unique in Essex.

It will provide leisurely cyclists a safe space to ride their bikes, whilst providing serious cyclists with a facility to challenge themselves and to improve.

The England and Wales Cricket Board has also awarded the scheme £100,000 to help develop an indoor cricket facility. This will provide a high-quality four lane net facility that will be used by Essex County Cricket's player pathway scheme. It will also be available for clubs, schools, community groups, businesses and individuals to hire.



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