

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL, 17 JULY 2019

- ✚ Some of the members of the Youth Council working group are arranging to visit parishes where there are already established groups to observe how they are planned and managed.
- ✚ As we have not had a response to our request for the Uttlesford HWB to support our need for the Essex HWB to revisit the 2018 PNA, this has now been re-sent to Cllr Mike Tayler as Vice Chairman of the Uttlesford HWB.
- ✚ Essex County Council's statement last week that all Essex libraries are safe for a further 5 year period – as a result of the public consultation – was welcomed until the publication of the proposed new strategy which is promoting community-run libraries with a small and reducing grant over 3 years. Stansted has been sold down the river by ECC who continue to disassociate themselves from the unique position – they placed us in through their agreement we should proceed with the new build which they would rent and pay costs totalling £20k.

Cllr Gooding's report that he will talk to us after the Cabinet Meeting does not fill me with confidence. I would have expected more open and public support on this issue from him.

We understand that 2 EOI have been put forward to run Stansted library as a community library. As the parish owns the building, any third party wishing to operate from our premises will need our permission.

- ✚ The Parish Reception, held to thank all our organisations for their support to the community, was a success – with the highlight being able to show people around the new building. We will be able to take up full time occupation when the H&S and operating manuals are received as these are a requirement prior to Practical Completion, and when the broadband is operational following installation of the telephone line last Friday.
- ✚ The Elms Farm working group to plan for, and manage, the public open space is now formed and has community membership as well as Councillors. We need some further representation from the community to participate in the Walpole Meadows group. Please let Trevor Lloyd know if you are interested.
- ✚ The Parish Council has received a number of Freedom of Information requests over the last few weeks – these relate primarily to the manner in which the Council values its Fixed Assets and in particular has valued The Mountfitchet Exchange. Together with the Vice Chairman, and Chair and Vice Chair of F&GP, these were considered and advice sought from the EALC. In addition, we have received confirmation from our year-end accountants that our account comply fully with the CIPFA guidance and Accounting Regulations set by the Government. The EALC have now recommended an independent assessor to review the enquiries and to report back to the Parish Council and the enquirer with his findings. The requestor has also, we understand, referred his requests and our responses to the ICO.