



TOLLESHUNT D'ARCY PARISH COUNCIL



Notice is hereby given that the meeting of Tolleshunt D'Arcy Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 25th March 2025 in the Village Hall, Tollesbury Road, Tolleshunt D'Arcy commencing at 7.30 pm, to which members of the Council are summoned for the transaction of the under-mentioned business.

M. Curtis

Michelle Curtis – Clerk to the Council

18th March 2025

Councillors: J Smith (Chairman), J Denney, R Evans, I Ewing, M Henderson,
W Middleton, G Munson

A G E N D A

1. **Apologies for Absence**
To receive apologies for absence.
2. **Declarations of Interest**
To disclose the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, Other Registrable Interests and Non-Registrable Interests relating to items of business on the agenda having regard to paragraph 9 and Appendix B of the Code of Conduct for Members. (Members are reminded that they are also required to disclose any such interests as soon as they become aware should the need arise throughout the meeting.)
3. **County and District Councillors**
To receive information from County and District Councillors
4. **Public Forum**
Public participation - Residents wishing to raise a matter in the public forum should inform the Parish Clerk of the topic by noon the previous working day. A maximum time of 15 minutes will be allowed.
5. **Parish Working Group**
To receive a verbal update from the Parish Working Group.
6. **Minutes**
To receive and approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25th February 2025

7. Planning Applications

Applications are circulated to all Councillors with the agenda, for study before the meeting. Planning documents are also available for everyone to view on the Maldon District Council website (www.maldon.gov.uk).

- 7.1** Application No: 25/00172/WTPO PP-13801641
Proposal: (TPO 07/12) T1- Holly - Height reduction by 1.5m, T7 - Oak - Crown reduction by 1.5m, T17, T18, T19, T20 - Yew Trees - Crown reduction by 1.5m
Location: The Old Rectory Church Street Tolleshunt D'Arcy

- 7.2** To consider any other planning applications received from Maldon District Council

8. Planning Decisions

To receive notification from Maldon District Council of Planning Decision
25/00004/TCA – 25 Chapel Road – Approved

9. Finance

- 9.1** To receive and approve the Monthly Financial Report as at 28th February 2025
9.2 To receive and approve payments

10. Training

To consider any requests for training.

11. Speed Device Indicator (SDI) / Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS)

To consider the proposal for the SDI/VAS

12. Horticultural Show

To consider the request to use the Recreation Ground on 5th July 2025 to hold the annual Horticultural Show

13. Pavilion

- 13.1** To consider the quotation from Alpha Fire Alarms for Routine Fire Alarm and Emergency Light System Maintenance at the Pavilion
13.2 To receive the email from Blackwater Gymnastics regarding the path and lighting

14. Tree Work

To consider a quotation for work on a tree as requested by Essex County Council

15. Police

To receive the Police Reports (confidential)

16. Community Engagement Officers

To receive the CET Report for February 2025

17. Administration

To receive information from the Clerk – update on current and ongoing matters

18. Representative Reports

To receive a verbal update from Parish Council Representatives

18.1 Burial Ground – Cllr Henderson

18.2 Recreation Ground/Pavilion – Cllr Middleton

18.3 Public Rights of Way – Cllr Henderson

18.4 Road Safety/Highways – Cllr Denney

18.5 Village Hall Working Group – Cllr Evans

19. Community Matters

To receive information only or note future agenda items

20. Dates of the Next Meeting

Tuesday 29th April 2025 – Full Council Meeting – 7.30 pm

Chairman: John Smith - 07505 008891

Clerk: Michelle Curtis

Address: PO Box 13205, Maldon, Essex CM9 9FU

Tel: 07483 325853 **Email:** clerk@tolleshuntarcyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.tolleshuntarcyparishcouncil.gov.uk

County Council Report. 2025

[REDACTED]

Work has to continue at district and county level as we are about to embark on the most significant change to local government since 1974. As you are no doubt aware, the new government has pledged to abolish all existing two-tier council areas by the end of this parliament to be replaced with mayors and unitary councils. There will be additional powers and funding devolved for central government in many key areas that will inevitably have significant impact on residents. As a two-tier county, Essex is one of the counties that will have to reorganise its local government. This is not something that we can avoid or ignore, therefore it was resolved that Essex be put forward as one of the priority areas for devolution and local government reform. We have now been that Essex is on the priority list which will put us at the forefront of what will be a radical and complicated reorganisation.

There is a strict timeline that we have to observe and as a result the government have decided that the county election this May will be cancelled. The reason for this is that it would be impossible to carry out the work to deliver LGR at the same time as running an election. The pre-election period would mean that no work could be done for a six week period at the same time as proposals are needed to be prepared for submission to government. The law only allows elections to be postponed for one year, but the expectation is that they will make a similar order for another year. The timeline we are working to will mean that there will be an election for an Essex Mayor on May 7th 2026 and the formation of a combined authority consisting of ECC, Thurrock and Southend councils. Therefore from May 2026 there will be a mayor and combined authority consisting of the leaders from the three upper tier councils. Subject to the process being on schedule, there could be elections to shadow unitary councils in 2027. The leaders of these unitaries will sit on the combined authority but will not have votes until vesting day in April 2028 when the current county and district councils are abolished.

Work is underway to formulate the constituent areas for the new unitary councils. There are likely to be proposals for anything from five to one unitary authority and they will be determined on an evidence basis taking account of economic and demographic data. The new unitary councils may not follow existing district boundaries as the key infrastructure points may be used, such as trunk roads etc. It is important to understand that the government will decide on the unitary structure and existing districts will not be free to decide on their own groupings. Clearly there may be a number of different submissions to government, but their final decision will be purely evidence based. The UK Treasury will be the final arbiter of the proposals and the government has made it very clear that one of the key drivers for LGR is to reduce the costs of local government. The emerging evidence is very clear that any more than three unitary councils will not produce positive costs savings in a reasonable timescale. Clearly there will be a balance between costs of service delivery and maintaining a degree of local identity but it is becoming apparent that either two or three unitary councils would be favoured by the treasury. Some districts in the county are canvassing for five unitary councils, but this is simply unrealistic as

the size of such bodies would not be sustainable in the long term. The tax base, debt levels and costs of key services would make it almost impossible for small unitaries to be financially sustainable.

In addition, the government has firmed up its intention that the minimum population per unitary council should be at least 500,000. Although they may consider special circumstances, none of these are likely to apply to Essex.

There is little understanding of the scale and complexities of the services that will need to be delivered, from highways to social care and education as well as collecting refuse. To illustrate this, adult social care alone costs the county council £2.4 million every day, education £1.5 m and children's services £670,000 every single day of the year. All of these services will have to be administered by the unitary councils. This would be almost impossible for small unitaries to fund their share of this commitment. Areas such as Maldon District that have a high percentage of older residents and a low tax base will inevitably face a harder job being able to pay for adult social care commitments.

As I have already stated, if the process goes to plan, there will be elections to shadow unitary councils in 2027 and after vesting date in 2028 these will take over from the county and district councils. For the ten months of the shadow councils, they have no legal powers but will be planning for the new responsibilities after vesting. After this date, the leaders of the unitary councils will be the members of the combined authority under the mayor. In the meantime the combined authority will be subject to a Structural Change Order which will restrict the investment decisions, spending of reserves, sale of assets and procurements at districts ahead of their abolition. This means that the UK Treasury will be able to prevent spending on 'vanity' projects that deplete reserves or increase the debt. Currently all councils have a duty of best value which also means that the government can penalise councils if they are seen to be spending on projects that are above and beyond 'business as usual'. We are already aware that at least one council is under investigation.

The process of devolution and local government reform is designed to bring real benefits to residents. Clearly there will be savings from sharing services and a reduction in operating costs of the 14 districts, 2 unitaries and county council. Inevitably such savings may take time to reach their optimum level, but work will start very soon. One of the other advantages is that there will be less confusion for residents as they will now have a single point of contact for everything from planning to highways, social care and social housing etc. It will mean a reduction in the number of councillors by about two thirds, but residents will still be represented by someone with knowledge and understanding their areas.. Another significant improvement will be with planning. At the moment districts are given targets for new developments by central government and to a certain extent these are arbitrary and do not take account of infrastructure such as schools, medical facilities and transport routes. Maldon district has been tasked to increase its building numbers by 97% despite the rural nature of the district and lack of essential services. Planning is likely to be decided countywide by the mayor and a spatial plan will be able to allocate sites where they are needed and taking into account where there is adequate infrastructure or plans to improve what is there. You may be aware that under the new NPPF, the government is proposing to enable developments in local plans to be approved automatically without application to LPA's. In Maldon we now fall short of our five year land supply and as a result we are seeing a lot of new applications for significant developments in places like Latchingdon and Woodham Mortimer. No doubt many more will follow and these will be extremely difficult to refuse or to win appeals against refusal.

Areas that have already been through devolution set up area committees to determine planning applications but this will be a decision to be made by the mayor and combined authority

In the coming financial year I am expecting there to be significant changes to the Local Highway Panels. It has become clear that the current system is not working as it was envisaged. Projects are taking too long to deliver and with the reduced funding we have been unable to deliver most applications that have been submitted. At this stage I do not know what is planned, but in the meantime we will not be accepting any new applications until the picture is clearer, it is possible that they could disappear in their current form. As it stands, the member led highway initiatives will continue next year but I am yet to find out the value or how this will work. The locality fund will also continue next year and it would be helpful if parish councils could start to think about organisations that may want to submit applications.

There is little doubt that the year ahead will be challenging for everyone. Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation is now certain and the timescales are very tight. The first submission to government is on March 21st and then by the autumn we will have to provide much more detailed proposals for how Essex will be governed in the future. This reorganisation is even more dramatic than the one in 1974 and it should form the structure of government for at least the next 50 years.

Parish Councils are not mentioned in the white paper and it is expected that each unitary council will make its own decisions on the role of parishes. It is important to understand that several parts of Essex are unparished which will obviously need to be taken into account after the general reorganisation.

I do not think that anyone would have predicted that this new government would act so swiftly with its reforms and I share the reservations of many who are concerned that the new structure will reduce the local identity of the current district councils. I am very proud of the Maldon District and have represented my ward for 14 years. In some respects I am sad that I will be the last district councillor for Wickham Bishops and The Woodhams and also the ECC Division member for Heybridge and Tollesbury. However with the cancelling of local elections, this will be the case. I sincerely hope that whatever and whoever follows will feel the same way. The role of unitary councillors will be very different and the government is expecting them to be more 'professional' and of a full time nature. We will have to wait and see how things develop in the next few months.

I intend to attend as many meetings in the coming weeks and will endeavour to answer as many questions as I can. The full picture will not be known until the autumn but this is a fast moving topic and we will try to keep everyone as updated as possible.

MFL Durham

March 10th 2025



Town and Country Planning Act 1990
Weekly List Of Decisions
Week Ending 21st February 2025

25/00004/TCA **Tolleshunt D'Arcy**
T1 Sycamore & G1 Leyland Cypress - Fell and grind stump
25 Chapel Road Tolleshunt D'Arcy Maldon Essex
(UPRN - 100091455057)
Mr James Choat - Tree Planning Solutions

ALLOWED TO PROCEED

Officer: Charlie Mumford
Dated : 17/02/2025

**Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 28/02/2025
for Cashbook 1 - Current Bank A/c**

<u>Bank Statement Account Name (s)</u>	<u>Statement Date</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Balances</u>
Unity Trust Bank	28/02/2025		12,971.61
Unity Trust Instant Access Acc	28/02/2025		23,768.58
			36,740.19
 <u>Unpresented Payments (Minus)</u>		<u>Amount</u>	
		0.00	
			0.00
			36,740.19
 <u>Unpresented Receipts (Plus)</u>			
		0.00	
			0.00
			36,740.19
		Balance per Cash Book is :-	36,740.19
		Difference is :-	0.00

Signatory 1:

Name Signed Date

Signatory 2:

Name Signed Date

<u>Account</u>	<u>Opening Balance</u>	<u>Net Transfers</u>	<u>Closing Balance</u>
320 EMR Elections	71.75		71.75
321 EMR Parish Improvements	905.78	2,000.00	2,905.78
322 EMR Recreation Ground	1,800.65	2,307.27	4,107.92
323 Unallocated	169.57		169.57
324 EMR Burial Ground	1,303.83		1,303.83
325 EMR Maypole	515.00		515.00
326 EMR Speed Reduction	4,500.00		4,500.00
	<u>9,266.58</u>	<u>4,307.27</u>	<u>13,573.85</u>

Detailed Receipts & Payments by Budget Heading 31/03/2025

Cost Centre Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
<u>100 Income</u>							
1076 Precept	24,766	24,763	(3)			100.0%	
1090 Interest Received	480	249	(231)			192.9%	
1100 Grants & Donation Received	300	0	(300)			0.0%	
1990 Other Income	2,984	0	(2,984)			0.0%	
Income :- Receipts	<u>28,531</u>	<u>25,012</u>	<u>(3,519)</u>			114.1%	<u>0</u>
Net Receipts	<u>28,531</u>	<u>25,012</u>	<u>(3,519)</u>				
<u>110 Administration</u>							
██████████	████	████	████		████	████	
██████████	██	██	██		██	██	
██████████	████	████	████		████	████	
4070 Payroll Processing	82	80	(2)		(2)	102.5%	
4080 Training	120	300	180		180	40.0%	
4090 Bank Charges	98	108	10		10	91.1%	
4100 Audit Fees	385	400	15		15	96.3%	
4120 Subscriptions & Memberships	952	1,100	148		148	86.6%	
4130 Insurance	1,942	1,900	(42)		(42)	102.2%	
4140 Stationery	39	0	(39)		(39)	0.0%	
4160 Telephone & Broadband	168	173	5		5	96.9%	
4170 Website	1,538	350	(1,188)		(1,188)	439.3%	
4180 Office Equipment	0	50	50		50	0.0%	
4190 Office Allowance	286	312	26		26	91.7%	
4200 Grants & Donations Paid	58	500	442		442	11.6%	
4230 CPOs	764	1,100	336		336	69.5%	
4500 Hall Hire	1,050	500	(550)		(550)	210.0%	
4990 Sundries	115	200	85		85	57.4%	
Administration :- Indirect Payments	<u>15,544</u>	<u>15,897</u>	<u>353</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>353</u>	<u>97.8%</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Payments	<u>(15,544)</u>	<u>(15,897)</u>	<u>(353)</u>				
<u>130 Amenities</u>							
4300 Defibrillator	235	400	165		165	58.8%	
4310 Grass/Hedge/Tree cutting	3,884	3,400	(484)		(484)	114.2%	
4370 Maintenance	102	0	(102)		(102)	0.0%	
Amenities :- Indirect Payments	<u>4,222</u>	<u>3,800</u>	<u>(422)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(422)</u>	<u>111.1%</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Payments	<u>(4,222)</u>	<u>(3,800)</u>	<u>422</u>				

Detailed Receipts & Payments by Budget Heading 31/03/2025

Cost Centre Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
<u>135 Burial Ground</u>							
1350 Burial Ground Income	144	2,000	1,856			7.2%	
Burial Ground :- Receipts	<u>144</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>1,856</u>			<u>7.2%</u>	<u>0</u>
4360 Water	102	90	(12)		(12)	113.1%	
4370 Maintenance	0	50	50		50	0.0%	
Burial Ground :- Indirect Payments	<u>102</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>72.7%</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Receipts over Payments	<u>42</u>	<u>1,860</u>	<u>1,818</u>				
<u>140 Pavilion</u>							
1550 Pavilion Rental Income	6,700	7,200	500			93.1%	
1560 Utilities Contribution	2,318	0	(2,318)			0.0%	
Pavilion :- Receipts	<u>9,018</u>	<u>7,200</u>	<u>(1,818)</u>			<u>125.3%</u>	<u>0</u>
4360 Water	45	240	195		195	18.8%	
4370 Maintenance	2,011	1,000	(1,011)		(1,011)	201.1%	
4400 Electricity	1,918	600	(1,318)		(1,318)	319.6%	
Pavilion :- Indirect Payments	<u>3,973</u>	<u>1,840</u>	<u>(2,133)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(2,133)</u>	<u>215.9%</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Receipts over Payments	<u>5,045</u>	<u>5,360</u>	<u>315</u>				
<u>145 Rec Ground</u>							
1450 Pitch Fees	175	250	75			70.0%	
Rec Ground :- Receipts	<u>175</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>75</u>			<u>70.0%</u>	<u>0</u>
4370 Maintenance	65	500	435		435	13.0%	
4550 Play Equipment	0	1,200	1,200		1,200	0.0%	
Rec Ground :- Indirect Payments	<u>65</u>	<u>1,700</u>	<u>1,635</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,635</u>	<u>3.8%</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Receipts over Payments	<u>110</u>	<u>(1,450)</u>	<u>(1,560)</u>				
<u>155 Streetlighting</u>							
4370 Maintenance	299	100	(199)		(199)	299.1%	
Streetlighting :- Indirect Payments	<u>299</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>(199)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(199)</u>	<u>299.1%</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Payments	<u>(299)</u>	<u>(100)</u>	<u>199</u>				
<u>160 Projects</u>							
4610 Parish Improvements	0	2,000	2,000		2,000	0.0%	
4620 Rec Ground	6,679	8,985	2,306		2,306	74.3%	6,679
Projects :- Indirect Payments	<u>6,679</u>	<u>10,985</u>	<u>4,306</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4,306</u>	<u>60.8%</u>	<u>6,679</u>
Net Payments	<u>(6,679)</u>	<u>(10,985)</u>	<u>(4,306)</u>				
6000 plus Transfer from EMR	6,679						
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>0</u>						

Detailed Receipts & Payments by Budget Heading 31/03/2025

Cost Centre Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
<u>999 VAT Data</u>							
115 VAT on Receipts	2,003	0	(2,003)			0.0%	
VAT Data :- Receipts	<u>2,003</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(2,003)</u>				<u>0</u>
515 VAT on Payments	2,550	0	(2,550)		(2,550)	0.0%	
VAT Data :- Indirect Payments	<u>2,550</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(2,550)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(2,550)</u>		<u>0</u>
Net Receipts over Payments	<u>(548)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>548</u>				
Grand Totals:- Receipts	39,871	34,462	(5,409)			115.7%	
Payments	33,434	34,462	1,028	0	1,028	97.0%	
Net Receipts over Payments	<u>6,437</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(6,437)</u>				
plus Transfer from EMR	6,679						
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>13,116</u>						

From: [D'Arcy Horticultural](#)
To: clerk@tolleshuntdarcyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Subject: Tolleshunt D'Arcy Horticultural Society
Date: 28 February 2025 19:30:19

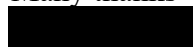
Agenda Item 12

Dear Michelle,

I am contacting you on behalf of the Tolleshunt D'Arcy Horticultural Society regarding the use of the playing fields on the first Saturday in July. We used to have strong links to the Parish Council but now none of our members are part of the PC so we thought we should email and ask permission to use it for our annual show on the 5th July.

Please let me know if you can confirm that the PC are happy for us to occupy the field for the weekend or whether you foresee any problems with this .

Many thanks



Tolleshunt D'Arcy Horticultural Society secretary

Community Engagement Tolleshunt Darcy

[View in Power BI](#) ↗





Speed Enforcement

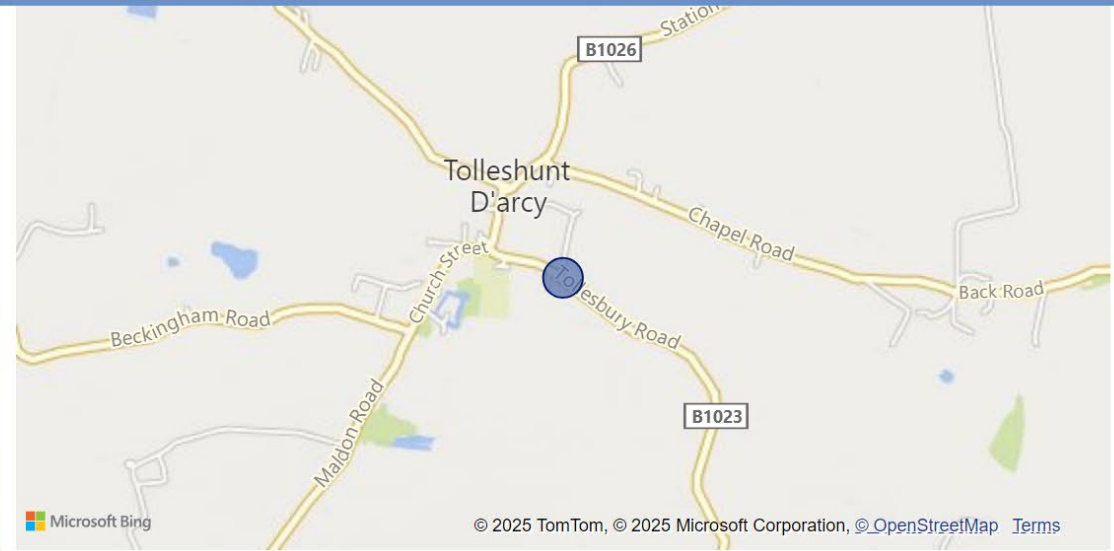
Tolleshunt D'arcy Parish Council

Filter Date

01/02/2025

28/02/2025

Patrol Location



Number of Patrols

2

Captures

7

Highest Speed Recorded

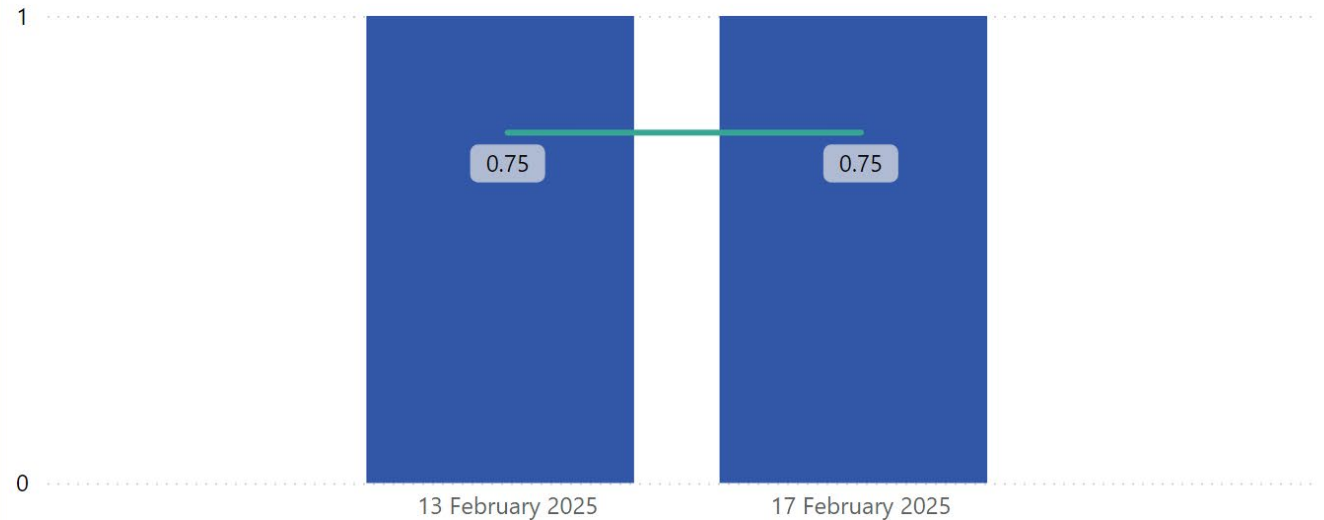
40

Speeds recorded in area

Site Name	Number of Patrols	Number of Captures	Highest Speed Recorded	Speed Limit
TOLLESBURY ROAD, NEAR TO J/W D'ARCY WAY	2	7	40	30
Total	2	7	40	

Dates of Visits and How Long

● AM ● Duration in Hours





Speed Enforcement

Tolleshunt D'arcy Parish Council

Speeds Patrol Detail

Date filters effect this visual

Site Code	Site Name	Start Time	Date	Duration (hh:mm)
M060/LCT512	TOLLESBURY ROAD, NEAR TO J/W D'ARCY WAY	10:50 AM	13 February 2025	0:45
M060/LCT512	TOLLESBURY ROAD, NEAR TO J/W D'ARCY WAY	11:35 AM	17 February 2025	0:45