

Parish Report. October 2025

Unbelievably the summer is now behind us and we are well into the autumn season. I sincerely hope that everybody enjoyed the nice weather that we all experienced.

At the County Council recent months have been dominated by the preparation of the business cases for local government reorganisation and the devolution agenda. In respect of devolution we now know that the government will publish its statutory instrument in the coming weeks which will bring into law a mayor for Greater Essex and voting for the mayoralty will take place in May 2026. At that time the mayor will oversee an interim combined authority which will consist of the three upper tier authorities, namely Essex County Council, Southend and Thurrock unitary authorities. This will operate until 2028 when the new unitary councils will take over and all of the current district, city and borough councils as well as the County Council will be abolished. In 2027 there will be elections for the new Unitaries which will operate as shadow authorities until vesting day in 2028.

I am certain that you will have seen various proposals for both the number of unitary councils and their composition in recent weeks. The government required the upper tier authorities to submit their proposal for local government reorganisation by September 26th. This proposal has been submitted which includes four separate business cases. There is a proposal supported by the County Council and a number of districts for three Unitaries, one proposal from a group of districts for five Unitaries and two cases promoting a four unitary model. Each of these business cases includes detailed financial information and all of the other the factors that the government will consider before deciding on the best option for Essex. We expect this decision early in 2026 but preparations are already underway to enable a smooth transition for all of the essential services to residents. The scale of this is almost unimaginable, services provided by the County Council account for 70% of all local government spending in the county with districts making up the remainder. Services such as adults and children's care are the most expensive, currently costing Essex County Council over £3.5 million every day of the year. Some of the financial modelling has shown that the potential tax base for some of the proposed unitaries may not be sufficient to fund items such as social care, however this is one of the aspects disputed by some district councils. One thing is absolutely certain and that is the government will not allow new authorities to set up that are not financially viable in the long term.

Before the end of this year government will decide which of these options will go out for public consultation and at the moment it is anybody's guess which ones they will select. If I was a betting man, which I'm not, I think that the Thurrock proposal for four unitary councils is likely to be one of those in the next round and it could well be the government's favourite.

I also think that the government will put the three unitary model out consultation but at the moment this is far from clear and I may be completely wrong. I have read each of the business cases which each run to a couple of hundred pages and without doubt each has its own merits. However, I personally have the view that the three unitary model will be the best for the residents of Essex.

Parish councils have been asking what devolution and local government reorganisation will mean for them. Neither Parrish no town councils were included in the government's devolution like paper and as such there are no proposed changes for this tier of local government. However I fully expect that in the fullness of time parish and town councils will be given more responsibility for local issues which would of course require sufficient funding.

Before moving on to another topic I will of course keep you appraised of any developments that occur between now and when the government announced its decision early in 2026.

One of the consequences of local government reorganisation is that the local highway panels are being wound down as there will be insufficient time to deliver any new schemes. Therefore we will not be accepting any new applications to the LHP. The Maldon panel was allocated a final budget of £300,000 for the financial year 2025 to 2026 and 2026 to 2027, it then had to decide which projects could be delivered within the life of the LHP and this was determined at an LHP meeting in June of this year. You will appreciate that £300,000 does not go very far when delivering capital highway projects however we were able to select those that the panel decided were the most urgent. Unfortunately this leaves over £1.1 million of applications in the 'schemes awaiting funding list' and regrettably it is highly unlikely that any of these projects will be delivered. I'm certain that this will be a significant disappointment too many parish councils who have had schemes in the pipeline for a long time, however it is simply not possible to fund every project that is presented to the panel. After 2028 it will be the unitary councils who are responsible for highway maintenance and I'm certain that each will develop their own system for devolving smaller capital bits to a local level. Essex County Council highways have received a significant increase in its maintenance budget which has been used for the repairs 2 potholes and other similar issues. In addition, literally thousands of drains and gulleys have been cleared over the summer which should reduce the amount of surface water flooding this winter. However, if there are still issues at a local level please report them to me as soon as possible and I will endeavour to get a solution before rain returns.

I am pleased to report that I still have some funding available for my locality fund which needs to be spent before the end of March 2026. I would therefore welcome any new applications for small projects in your area. In recent years I've managed to fund a wide variety of schemes totalling over £30,000 And it has been very nice to see some of these at first hand.

In these times it is impossible to ignore the current political climate and sadly we are witnessing extremes at both ends of the political spectrum. I'm saddened by the apparent increase in racial tensions and anti-Semitism, there is no place for this in our society. All of us are fortunate to live in a part of the country that really sees behaviour similar to that scene elsewhere but there is no doubt there are elements in society who wish to take advantage of any opportunity to cause trouble. Here in Essex we have seen violence on the streets of Epping where extremists have used the legitimate fears of local people to promote racially motivated protests. We are very lucky that parish councils maintain a very close relationship with residents and this is essential for maintaining law and order. Therefore I would encourage parish councils to be vigilant and report any potential risks to the police before we experience similar scenes on our streets.

Finally I would like to highlight a couple of elements from my cabinet portfolio at Essex County Council. The Essex film office continues to grow and several productions that were filmed in the county either soon to be released or have already hit the screens. Most recently the Apple TV series slow horses started series 5 with scenes shot in Harlow and the new TV drama the hack Features court scenes filmed in Chelmsford. The Essex library service for which I am responsible continues to grow and we are shortly to reopen significant refurbishments in Harwich and Colchester. It is now possible to borrow blood pressure metres in the libraries and the larger libraries have static blood pressure machines. These have proved to be extremely popular and many people have borrowed the machines and taken out books related to health improvement. The Essex library service is the second largest in the country and is the only one investing in new and refurbished libraries. I have also recently launched 2 new arts and culture funds which will run until 2027, details and applications can be found on the Essex County Council website. I remain as chairman of Visit Essex which serves to promote the tourism opportunities for the county. Tourism is essential so the economic prosperity of Essex and it contributes in excess of £3.5 billion to the economy. It also accounts for 11% of all jobs in Essex And this is significantly higher in some coastal areas such as Southend and Clacton. The increase in employers National Insurance and the national minimum wage has put an additional pressure on tourism and hospitality businesses, regrettably leading to an increasing number of business failures. Visit Essex provides valuable advice and marketing support for tourism businesses in the county, many of which are SME's or sole traders who did not have a larger corporate structure to support them.

I have been your county councillor for nearly nine years and it is certainly one of the most rewarding things I have been able to do in recent years. When the County Council finally closes its doors in 2028 I hope to be able to look back at the things that we have achieved together and I sincerely hope that whatever the new local government structure is in Essex that parish councils and residents continue to receive support from whoever is elected to represent them.

MFL Durham

October 2025

**Town and Country Planning Act 1990**  
**Weekly List Of Decisions**  
**Week Ending 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025**



**25/00543/HOUSE**                      **Tolleshunt D'Arcy**  
Retrospective single storey rear extension.  
2 Festival Gardens Tolleshunt D'Arcy Maldon Essex  
(UPRN - 100090559177)  
Ms Amy Peterson

**REFUSE** for the following reason:-

The development, by reason of its siting and proximity to the site's southern boundary together with its depth and height, would give rise to an overbearing and unneighbourly form of development, contrary to Policies D1 and H4 of the approved Local Development Plan, the Maldon District Design Guide and the National Planning Policy Framework.

**POSITIVE AND PROACTIVE STATEMENT**

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Positive and Proactive Statement:

The Local Planning Authority has acted positively and proactively in determining this application by identifying matters of concern with the proposal and determining the application within a timely manner, clearly setting out the reason(s) for refusal, allowing the Applicant/Agent the opportunity to consider whether there is a way forward to seek a revision to the proposal.

Officer: Charlie Mumford  
Dated : 26/09/2025

**Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 30/09/2025  
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	30/09/2025		33,278.04
Unity Trust Instant Access Acc	30/09/2025		24,194.57
			<u>57,472.61</u>
<b><u>Unpresented Payments (Minus)</u></b>			<b><u>Amount</u></b>
30/09/2025 ONLINE	Michelle Curtis		485.80
30/09/2025 ONLINE	H M Revenue & Customs		358.78
30/09/2025 ONLINE	Lenny Aldridge		50.00
30/09/2025 ONLINE	Arthur J Gallgher Insurance		2,334.15
30/09/2025 ONLINE	DW Maintenance		240.83
30/09/2025 ONLINE	Maldon District Council		78.12
30/09/2025 ONLINE	Universal Services Ltd		1,470.00
30/09/2025 ONLINE	OR Property Maintenance Servic		1,200.00
			<u>6,217.68</u>
			51,254.93
<b><u>Unpresented Receipts (Plus)</u></b>			
			0.00
			<u>0.00</u>
			51,254.93
		<b>Balance per Cash Book is :-</b>	<b>51,254.94</b>
		<b>Difference Excluding Adjustments is :-</b>	<b>-0.01</b>
<b><u>Adjustments to Reconciliation</u></b>			
22/09/2025 HMRC	Overpayment		-0.01
			<u>-0.01</u>
		<b>Unreconciled Difference is :-</b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>

**Signatory 1:**

Name ..... Signed ..... Date .....

**Signatory 2:**

Name ..... Signed ..... Date .....

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<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	2,905.78	-685.00	2,220.78
322 EMR Recreation Ground	4,107.92	3,575.00	7,682.92
323 Unallocated	169.57		169.57
324 EMR Burial Ground	1,303.83		1,303.83
325 EMR Maypole	515.00	-515.00	0.00
326 EMR Speed Reduction	4,500.00	4,845.00	9,345.00
	<u>13,573.85</u>	<u>7,220.00</u>	<u>20,793.85</u>

## Detailed Receipts &amp; Payments by Budget Heading 30/09/2025

## 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	25,730	25,730	0			100.0%	
1090 Interest Received	276	400	124			69.1%	
Income :- Receipts	26,006	26,130	124			99.5%	0
Net Receipts	26,006	26,130	124				
<u>110 Administration</u>							
██████████	████	████	████		████	████	
██████████	█	█	█		█	█	
██████████	████	████	████		████	████	
4070 Payroll Processing	0	85	85		85	0.0%	
4080 Training	0	300	300		300	0.0%	
4090 Bank Charges	54	108	54		54	50.0%	
4100 Audit Fees	175	400	225		225	43.8%	
4120 Subscriptions & Memberships	1,032	1,100	68		68	93.8%	
4130 Insurance	2,334	2,000	(334)		(334)	116.7%	
4140 Stationery	9	20	11		11	45.8%	
4160 Telephone & Broadband	93	180	87		87	51.6%	
4170 Website	0	200	200		200	0.0%	
4180 Office Equipment	21	50	29		29	42.1%	
4190 Office Allowance	156	312	156		156	50.0%	
4200 Grants & Donations Paid	1,100	1,100	0		0	100.0%	
4230 CPOs	493	1,200	707		707	41.1%	
4500 Hall Hire	0	500	500		500	0.0%	
4990 Sundries	0	200	200		200	0.0%	
Administration :- Indirect Payments	10,740	17,100	6,360	0	6,360	62.8%	0
Net Payments	(10,740)	(17,100)	(6,360)				
<u>130 Amenities</u>							
4300 Defibrillator	235	400	165		165	58.8%	
4310 Grass/Hedge/Tree cutting	2,700	3,500	800		800	77.1%	
Amenities :- Indirect Payments	2,935	3,900	965	0	965	75.3%	0
Net Payments	(2,935)	(3,900)	(965)				
<u>135 Burial Ground</u>							
1350 Burial Ground Income	480	500	20			96.0%	
Burial Ground :- Receipts	480	500	20			96.0%	0

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	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
4360 Water	47	120	73		73	39.6%	
4370 Maintenance	0	50	50		50	0.0%	
Burial Ground :- Indirect Payments	47	170	123	0	123	27.9%	0
Net Receipts over Payments	433	330	(103)				
<b>140 Pavilion</b>							
1550 Pavilion Rental Income	3,250	7,800	4,550			41.7%	
1560 Utilities Contribution	750	1,800	1,050			41.7%	
Pavilion :- Receipts	4,000	9,600	5,600			41.7%	0
4360 Water	87	240	153		153	36.3%	
4370 Maintenance	991	1,000	9		9	99.1%	
4400 Electricity	921	2,520	1,599		1,599	36.6%	
Pavilion :- Indirect Payments	2,000	3,760	1,760	0	1,760	53.2%	0
Net Receipts over Payments	2,000	5,840	3,840				
<b>145 Rec Ground</b>							
1450 Pitch Fees	55	200	145			27.5%	
Rec Ground :- Receipts	55	200	145			27.5%	0
4370 Maintenance	225	500	275		275	45.0%	
4550 Play Equipment	0	1,200	1,200		1,200	0.0%	
Rec Ground :- Indirect Payments	225	1,700	1,475	0	1,475	13.2%	0
Net Receipts over Payments	(170)	(1,500)	(1,330)				
<b>160 Projects</b>							
4600 Maypole	1,200	0	(1,200)		(1,200)	0.0%	1,200
4620 Rec Ground	1,225	4,800	3,575		3,575	25.5%	1,225
4670 Speed Reduction	155	5,000	4,845		4,845	3.1%	155
Projects :- Indirect Payments	2,580	9,800	7,220	0	7,220	26.3%	2,580
Net Payments	(2,580)	(9,800)	(7,220)				
6000 plus Transfer from EMR	2,580	0	(2,580)				
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	0	(9,800)	(9,800)				
<b>999 VAT Data</b>							
115 VAT on Receipts	2,132	0	(2,132)			0.0%	
VAT Data :- Receipts	2,132	0	(2,132)				0

## Detailed Receipts &amp; Payments by Budget Heading 30/09/2025

## Cost Centre Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
515 VAT on Payments	819	0	(819)		(819)	0.0%	
VAT Data :- Indirect Payments	819	0	(819)	0	(819)		0
Net Receipts over Payments	1,313	0	(1,313)				
Grand Totals:- Receipts	32,673	36,430	3,757			89.7%	
Payments	19,346	36,430	17,084	0	17,084	53.1%	
Net Receipts over Payments	13,327	0	(13,327)				
plus Transfer from EMR	2,580	0	(2,580)				
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	15,907	0	(15,907)				

# Community Engagement Tolleshunt Darcy

[View in Power BI](#) ↗





# Speed Enforcement

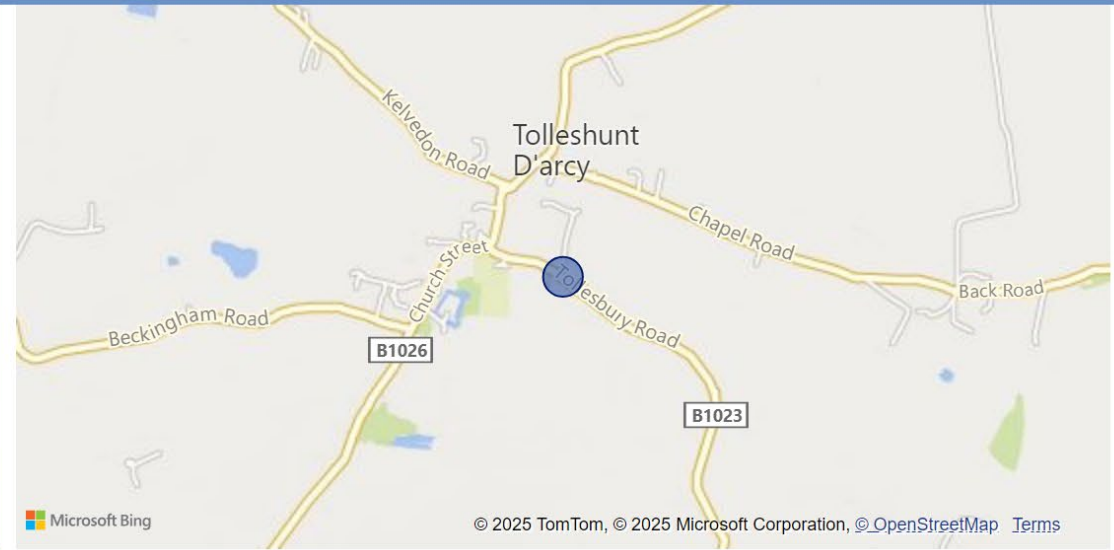
Tolleshunt D'arcy Parish Council

## Filter Date

01/09/2025

25/09/2025

## Patrol Location



Number of Patrols

3

Captures

13

Highest Speed Recorded

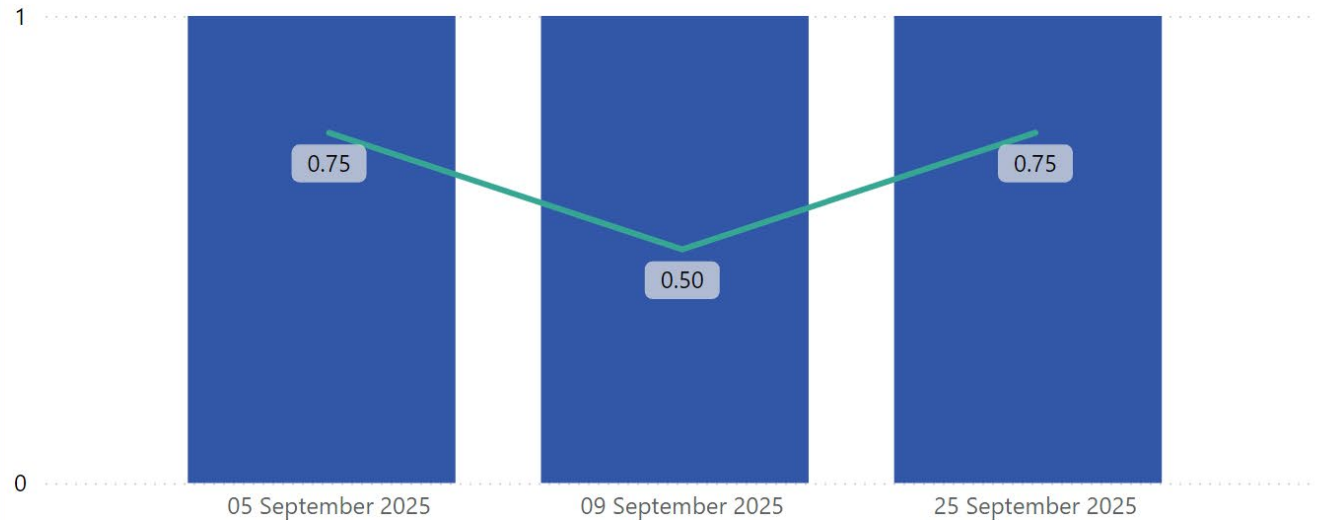
47

## 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	3	13	47	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>47</b>	

## Dates of Visits and How Long

● PM ● 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	03:10 PM	05 September 2025	0:45
M060/LCT512	TOLLESBURY ROAD, NEAR TO J/W D'ARCY WAY	12:00 PM	09 September 2025	0:30
M060/LCT512	TOLLESBURY ROAD, NEAR TO J/W D'ARCY WAY	12:00 PM	25 September 2025	0:45