

Little Oakley Parish Council
Clerks Report
February 2021

S106 money for bench

This has been received.

Trees on farmland

Mr Stock has been advised as to the actual location of the trees and garden

Reinstatement of Post Box on Rectory Road

Unable to get through by phone, another email has been sent which includes previous emails.

Correspondence

Freedom of Information Query

A FOI query was received enquiring about policies/bye-laws the Parish Council has with regards to Un Manned Aerial Vehicles flying over Parish Council owned land. This was replied to.

Active Essex Holiday Programmes

Danielle Frost from Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) sent details regarding programmes for children during school holidays. Active Essex were looking for venues and gave Great Dunmow Town Councils work as an example (see below) The email has been forwarded to Little Oakley Memorial Club and they are looking into this.

Great Dunmow Town Council have made this link. We have two primary schools and one senior school and so we know we have many families in our community who can benefit from initiatives like this. This project has two councillors as the lead (with full council support) and some limited officer time too. We contacted Active Essex and they organised for a group which they had vetted, to get in contact with us. They visited the venues we had and talked to us about the provision they were looking at delivering. In normal times, the sessions would be every week day in the holidays. The children would be booked in directly with the group leader and all admin work would be done by them.

What is our Town Council, commitment? We have to provide a sandwich based lunch everyday (there is funding from Active Essex for this we just have to do the work) sandwich, piece of fruit, crisps and piece of cake or biscuit bar). There is also a hamper for each child at the end of the week or total provision, again there is a budget for this but in actual fact our group organiser prefers to do this for themselves. We pay for the hire of the hall and print off flyers which we display around our town and we also send them to the schools to double check they have the information. We have made links with the local tennis club and other sporting groups to make them aware of these clubs, as looking to the future they may be able to offer sessions to introduce these children to their sports. We have spoken to restaurants and food outlets in the town to get them involved too.

Why did we get involved? We wanted our residents and their families to have local provision thus removing the barrier of travel. The sessions come with mentorship from the organiser which helps

with the mental health of the children. We wanted children to access resources from their community and support within their community.

Growth of the Project – we hope that this will link the children with other community groups and broaden their opportunities to try new physical activities. We could then potentially fund or seek funding to offer them access to the physical activity thus supporting local children and local initiatives. For example by using the tennis courts and tennis club, we hope that some children who never have the opportunity to access this sport, will get to try it. Should they like it and want to continue, we may then be able to offer some subsidised coaching. The tennis club have offered a limitless supply of used tennis balls and are very approachable to other needed equipment. The tennis coach may be able to offer subsidised access to coaching too.

The long term goal is to link our community, with our facilities, businesses and community groups to help support them to have happier and healthier lives.