

For further details contact:

(Insert Electoral
Officer details
here)

Essex County Council
County Hall
Market Road
Chelmsford
Essex CM1 1LX
Telephone: 08457 430430
Website: www.essexcc.gov.uk

INSERT YOUR
COUNCIL LOGO HERE

**Working together for increased
Democracy**

Essex Association of Local Councils

42B High Street
Great Dunmow
Essex CM6 1AH

Telephone: 01371 879722
Office email: info@ealc.gov.uk
Website: www.ealc.gov.uk

Enabling
Assisting
Localism in
Councils

**What is a Town, Parish,
Village or Community
Council?**



**Use your
vote!**

WHAT IS A TOWN, PARISH, VILLAGE OR COMMUNITY COUNCIL?

It exists to serve the people of the Parish by:

- Providing services appropriate to their needs and expectations where it is legally empowered.
- Representing people without discrimination and involving them in decisions where necessary.
- Working in partnership with voluntary agencies, the private sector, other local authorities and public bodies.
- Contributing to the economic prosperity of the area.
- Keeping the parish a place where people want to live, work and enjoy themselves.

POWERS & DUTIES

The Parish, Town, Village or Community Council acts within the framework of legislation conferred on it by Parliament. The functions of the council are mainly discretionary, that is they amount to powers as opposed to duties.

Parish Councils derive their powers from a number of sources but in general terms the important source is the Local Government Act of 1972 and subsequent amendments and enhancements.

Parish, Town, Village & Community Councils can delegate power to the clerk or a committee but never to individual councillors or chairmen.

Examples of Powers and Duties

Community Centres	Power to provide and equip community buildings	Local Government Act 1972, s.133
	Power to provide buildings for use of clubs having athletic, social or educational objectives	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19
Crime Prevention	Powers to spend money on various crime prevention measures	Local Government and Rating Act 1997, s.31
Public Conveniences	Power to provide	Public Health Act 1936, s.87
Allotments	Power to provide allotments Duty to consider providing allotment gardens if demand unsatisfied	Smallholdings & Allotments Act 1908, s.23
Village Greens	Power to maintain, to make bylaws for and to prosecute for interference with village greens	Open Spaces Act 1906, s 15 Inclosure Act 1857, s 12, Commons Act 1876, s 29
Lighting	Power to light roads and public places	Parish Councils Act 1957, s Highways Act 1980, s 301