



**WHITE COLNE PARISH COUNCIL**  
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## **RCCE VILLAGE OF THE YEAR 2025**

### **BACKGROUND PAPER – 18.11.2025**

Please note supporting information regarding the following Agenda items:

**Item 8iv      *MPLC Licensing - White Colne Village Hall***

White Colne Parish Council must purchase a Motion Picture Licence for the Village Hall if anything other than live news or sports events are shown on the Hall's equipment. The Licence costs £440.46 per annum.

An alternative course of action would possibly be to state in Hall hire agreements that the Audio/Visual equipment is only to be used for live news or sporting events.

William at the MPLC is prepared to ask whether a localised group of Village Halls – The Colnes, for example – could band together to purchase a Licence jointly.

**Item 9i      *Four Parishes Meeting***

Please note the items under item 7 AOB, particularly: *Form a small liaison group or WhatsApp network for Road Safety Week and CSW recruitment, and, Arrange a joint meeting (possibly end Nov) to prepare for planning consultations and A1124 evidence submission.* Wakes Colne discussed both the Colchester Local Plan Review and Braintree Local Plan Review at its recent meeting, and would like to progress the creation of a small whatsapp group (perhaps one member from each parish) to discuss and share news.

Following the Four Parishes Meeting, Cllr Taylor asked AI for information on the A1124:

I've done a quick web search for publicly-available historic traffic/collision/speed data for the A1124 (Halstead → Stanway) and summarised what's available and where it can be pulled from. If you'd like, I can extract the last five years of collisions and the latest DfT traffic counts now and present them as a table/graph for use in your devolution evidence pack — say the word and I'll do that.

**What I found (quick summary)**

- DfT / Road Traffic Statistics (AADF / manual count points). The Department for Transport publishes street-level traffic estimates (Annual Average Daily Flow and count point data). The DfT datasets include A-road link entries for the A1124 and are downloadable (bulk CSVs and the interactive [roadtraffic.dft.gov.uk](http://roadtraffic.dft.gov.uk) tool). This is the best source for comparable vehicle-flow figures.

- RoadTrafficStats (site summary for A1124 / Stanway). A useful quick lookup that identifies a DfT census point for the A1124 at Stanway and shows the road classification and location — handy to identify which count point(s) to extract from the DfT data.
- Essex County Council collision dataset (Essex Open Data / TraffWeb). Essex publishes a collisions dataset (injury collisions recorded by police) on its Open Data portal; ECC also has an internal TraffWeb collision map which displays reported injury collisions and safety camera locations for Essex. This is the primary local source for police-reported collisions on the A1124.
- Essex Police FOI / speed records and collision reporting (STATS19 / STATS20). Police STATS19 (now STATS20 spec) are the statutory injury collision records — Essex Police publish FOI responses about collision/fatality counts and have supplied highest recorded speeds by district in recent FOIs. For specific speed survey results on a particular A1124 location you can either request the local policing team or ask ECC (who often hold local speed survey results).
- Local highways / LHP & safety scheme documents. Colchester Local Highways Panel documents and ECC scheme lists show recent Local Highway Panel (LHP) activity, past VAS/speed-survey outcomes and completed schemes in neighbouring parishes. These documents can show whether speed surveys and VAS/20mph/VAS proposals have already been done at points along the A1124.

### **What data can be produced (and how I'd do it)**

If you want a concise evidence pack for the three-parish meetings, I can produce all or some of the following now:

1. Collision table (last 5 years) — number of injury collisions on the A1124 by year, with injury severity (slight/serious/fatal) and map of collision locations (using ECC collision dataset / DfT STATS where appropriate). Source: Essex Open Data / TraffWeb.
2. Traffic flow (AADF) trends — extract Annual Average Daily Flow (AADF) for the A1124 count point(s) over the last 5 years from DfT road traffic counts and show % change (pre/post-COVID etc.). Source: DfT roadtraffic data.
3. Speed survey / highest recorded speeds — summary of any published speed records (Essex Police FOIs) and a note on whether ECC holds local speed surveys at specific A1124 points (may require FOI/request to ECC if not publicly published). Source: Essex Police FOI pages and ECC FOI pages.
4. Local interventions history — quick list of recent/approved measures (VAS, signage, LHP proposals) along the A1124 from Colchester LHP documents and ECC scheme lists. Source: Colchester LHP / ECC documents.

### **Limitations & notes**

- STATS19/STATS20 coverage: Police injury collision datasets only include collisions reported to police that resulted in injury; they do not capture all minor or unreported incidents. For full context, combining ECC collision map + DfT counts + local knowledge (parish reports) is best.
- Traffic count frequency: Not every A-road link is counted every year — DfT counts are on a rotating schedule for some link segments. If a DfT count point for the exact A1124 section you want hasn't been counted each year, ECC may hold short-term automatic counts or tube surveys.

### **Recommended immediate actions for the parish group**

1. Ask ECC Highways for any traffic surveys or speed survey reports they hold for the A1124 (give specific grid references or village locations — e.g. Halstead Road / Eight Ash Green /

Stanway sections). ECC sometimes responds quickly to information requests or can supply raw CSVs.

2. Extract DfT AADF counts and ECC collision records for the last five years and present them as a 1-page “evidence sheet” (I can prepare this).
3. Check LHP minutes (Colchester LHP) to see if any VAS/20mph or other schemes have already been considered for the A1124 — that will help your argument for joined-up parish action.
4. If speeding is the main focus, request recent speed surveys or ask for Community Speedwatch / Police speed enforcement data in the A1124 policing beat.

Would you like me to go ahead now and:

- download & extract the last five years of collision records for the A1124 (ECC/open data) and
- pull the AADF (DfT) counts for the matching A1124 count point(s) and produce a short table + a simple line chart?

If yes I'll fetch the raw datasets and present them in a neat table (and a small graph) you can paste into your report.

#### **Item 9iii      Website**

Following the September meeting, Cllr Field contacted a company which could potentially offer a complete redesign of the parish council's website:

Hi Mike,

Thanks again for considering me for this project. I wanted to give you an overview of how I approach building websites and the benefits this brings to you in the long run.

I build websites using Advanced Custom Fields (ACF) flexible content fields, which means you'll have full control over your site once it's live. This setup makes it very straightforward for you to update existing pages, add new content, or even build entirely new pages without needing to rely on a developer like myself each time. It gives you flexibility, keeps things future-proof, and ensures your site can grow with your needs.

For your project, my pricing is:

- **Design:** £1,150 + VAT
- **Development:** £1,750 + VAT

In addition, I offer:

- **Hosting:** £20 per month + VAT
- **Website Maintenance** (updates, security checks, backups, ongoing support): £60 per month + VAT

I pride myself on being ultra reliable and professional, with a strong focus on keeping my clients happy. My aim is always to build lasting working relationships, so everything runs smoothly for you both now and in the future.

To give you confidence in my experience, I've worked with well-known clients including Usain Bolt, The Running Channel, and Cambridge City Council. This demonstrates my ability to deliver high-quality, dependable results across a wide range of industries.

I'd love to chat further about your project and how I can help bring your ideas to life. Please let me know a time that works for you, and we can go through the details.

**Joe Stone**

Director, JS Web Dev Ltd.

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## **Correspondence 23.10.2025 11:15**

### **Affordable Assertion 10 compliant websites**

We're HugoFox, the UK's leading Parish Council website provider, and we've been working hard to help Parish Councils get online affordably and stay compliant with the new 2025/26 regulations with our proprietary website platform specifically built for Parish Councils.

We know Parish Councils are under pressure to meet new digital compliance rules, especially with Assertion 10 on the 2025/26 AGAR now covering accessibility, GDPR, .gov.uk domains and governance, and this can feel a bit daunting, especially on a tight budget.

That's where we can help. HugoFox provides fully compliant Parish Council websites for just £9.99 + VAT/month, including a free .gov.uk domain for life. Our platform is built to meet Assertion 10 from day one, with secure hosting, automatic daily backups, up to 25 .gov.uk email addresses available, and a UK-based support team available 24/7.

Most clerks use HugoFox to build their sites in under a day, without needing any technical skills or knowledge. You can try it for free for 30 days without providing any payment details.

I'd love to walk you through how we can best help your Parish Council, feel free to give us a call on the number below or let me know some dates and times that work best for you, and we can schedule a video or phone call.

Kind regards,

Hugo Thompson

Managing Director, HugoFox

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### **Item 10viii Road Safety Week.**

Cllr Pryke found a possible grant funding opportunity whilst researching road safety:

Here is the link for the Road safety trust <https://www.roadsafetytrust.org.uk/our-grants> the charity that offers grants for road safety initiatives. The small grant is a bit larger than I said, between £10000-£50000.

There are a couple of videos on their website and downloads on the criteria for grant applications. From what I've seen the Parish Council may be eligible, but it could be worth having a look just to confirm if it's worth trying. They don't fund projects fully, so do require applicants to fund some of it. Let me know what you think.

### **Item 11iii Schedule of maintenance: Village Green, Village Hall, The Meadows**

Following correspondence from the council's contractor regarding further cuts in 2025, the Clerk asked for confirmation of the agreement between them and the parish council:

I've had a look through our records and I can't seem to find an actual contract in place for the works. We originally quoted on a per-cut basis and agreed to schedule the works in line with our other contracts. Typically, this would be:

- **1 cut in March**
- **Fortnightly cuts from April to the end of September**
- **1 cut in October**

This usually results in **16 cuts per year**.

We have similar arrangements with other parish councils where payment is made either over **12 months** or just during the **8-month cutting season**, regardless of the number of cuts actually carried out. This provides security both for you, knowing the exact annual cost, and for us as contractors, allowing us to plan and maintain our schedule and income. At our current rates this would look like the below.

**Cost Breakdown:**

- **Rate per visit:** £244.94 (inc. VAT)
- **Total for the year (16 cuts):** £3,919.04 (inc. VAT)

You could then choose to spread this as either:

- **12 monthly payments:** £326.59 per month, or
- **8 monthly payments (March to October):** £489.88 per month

This arrangement would work both ways. For example:

- If additional cuts are needed earlier or later in the year, we'll carry them out.
- If, during the summer, the grass doesn't need cutting on a scheduled visit, we won't attend.

That said, in our experience, with fortnightly visits it's rare that a visit isn't needed — usually, there's at least some tidying or strimming to be done.

Please let me know your thoughts on the above.

Kind Regards

Jack Perfect-Brown

*Director*

#### **Item 11iv      The Meadows Management Plan**

Correspondence from Mike King:

Jim and I have discussed recently the idea of preparing a management plan for the Meadows area. This is something I would be interested in getting involved in with reference to Jim and other relevant, interested people.

My hope would be to create a document that could provide a framework for the future maintainance of the Meadows so that the legacy created there will continue into the future.

I think it would be helpful to the project if I / we could get hold of any 'historical' documents such as site plans / planting plans / philosophies, etc dating back to when the Meadows were created so these could be incorporated into the plan where applicable. If these are available electronically (as emails / pdf documents, etc) that would be great.

I would be interested to hear what you think about this proposal, how involved the Parish Council would want to be in this and whether any 'historical' documents are available.

Kind Regards,

Mike