

Annual Reports from Councillors Appointed to Outside Bodies 2020/21

1 Harlow Arts Council – Jean Clark

Unfortunately due to Covid-19, the Arts Council has not meet since January 2020.

2 Essex Police & Fire Commissioner Panel – Chris Vince

As you will be aware I took over on the Police, Fire and Crime panel following the tragic loss of Councillor Frances Mason. I have attended one meeting where the board agreed with the PFCC Roger Hirst's proposal to raise police portion of council tax by 5% and a 0% rise for the fire service portion.

3 Fawbert and Barnard's Educational Foundation – Joel Charles

The Foundation has attempted to operate as best it can during this unprecedented period of time. All of the Trustees recognise the work of the Foundation is particularly important now because the pandemic has disrupted the education of the majority of young people in Harlow.

Because of the lockdowns and social distancing rules, the Foundation has not met physically since March 2020.

Trustees did hold a virtual meeting in November last year and decided in December to take further action to support the school. A £1,000 donation to improve the resilience of the school's system for distance learning was approved by Trustees.

The Foundation will continue to look for more opportunities to support the education of young people in the town who would benefit from additional educational support.

4 Age Concern – Bob Davis

At present there is regular contact by telephone with participants that were using the Age Concern service. All looking forward to meeting again when allowed.

5 North Essex Parking Partnership – Mike Danvers

The North Essex Parking Partnership has conducted its meetings by Zoom. My major achievement this year was to move a motion freezing parking charges for resident schemes which was carried by one vote. The organisation now makes a marginal profit compared to the large loss when it was set up. It seems very bureaucratic and Colchester oriented but we have no real choice in the matter of control. The members cut across party boundaries but act in a non-political manner.