

# The 4 Villages Magazine

## February/March Edition 2024

GreatYeldham, LittleYeldham,  
Tilbury Juxta-Clare, Ovington



Photo by Andrea King – Public walkway by  
Spaynes Hall



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## **'WE BELIEVE NO ONE IN OUR COMMUNITY SHOULD GO HUNGRY'**

Crisis can strike unexpectedly, whether it be struggling to keep up with mortgage rates or dealing with a family member's illness. With the increasing cost of living, it is easy to find yourself sacrificing basic needs like food to make ends meet. It's important to note that food insecurity does not discriminate, and everyone is at risk.

Between April 2022 and March 2023, Braintree Area Foodbank provided **9,473** food parcels to local residents, with **4,292** going to children. This marks an **189.79%** increase in the last five years. Shockingly, one in five visitors in December came from working households.

Our mission is to provide comprehensive support to our district beyond just food. We encourage members of the community to keep an eye on their neighbours and seek support if necessary. This is why we have appointed a Community Outreach Officer to help us reach those in need who might not know the support available.

If you, or someone you know, is struggling to afford the essentials, we are here to help.

**013786 330694**

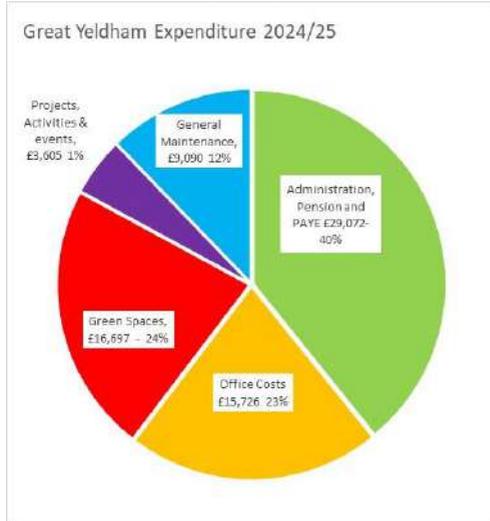
Braintree Area Foodbank registered charity number 1148782

## Great Yeldham Parish Council Precept 2024/25

The precept, our part of the Council Tax, is used to provide facilities and services in the village. We continue to maintain the green spaces, verges, footpaths; the Lawn Cemetery, Natural Burial Grounds and St Andrews Churchyard; the play park and the Sports and Recreation Ground; the provision of the Handyman Service and general maintenance costs for the upkeep of the village; and essential administration costs to ensure that the Parish Council fulfils its legal obligations and financial responsibilities.

Local government is currently facing significant financial pressures and unfortunately Great Yeldham is not immune to them. We know these challenges are felt by many of our residents too. However, given the current economic outlook and demand pressures, it is something we are unable to avoid. The Parish Council has continued to find further efficiency savings across the budget, where it can. Yet, there are some inflationary increases which are unavoidable and additional commitments including £1,200 to hire the village hall for the Outreach Post Office Service; maintenance of Bowtells Meadow when transferred to the Parish Council estimated at £4k; increased costs for grounds maintenance works including grass cutting, verges, footpaths (maintained by the parish), hedges and tree works.

At the Parish Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024, Councillors agreed from April 2024 the precept will increase to £59,799, which represents the Parish element on Council Tax Band D Annual Charge of £88.91 (a rise of £7.91 from 2023/24). The Parish Council will continue to identify savings and welcomes suggestions from residents. Further budget information can be found at <https://greatyeldhampc.co.uk/precept>



### Receipts:

Precept	£ 74,190
Other Income	£ 9,391
Use of Reserves/ Receipts/S106	£ 5,000
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>£ 59,799</b>

### Expenditure:

Administration, Pension, PAYE	£ 29,072
Office Costs	£ 15,726
Green Spaces	£ 16,697
General Maintenance And Handyman	£ 9,090
Activities & Events	£3,605
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£74,190</b>

# Local News

## CCTV

CCTV has now been installed at the Recreation Ground, which was donated and installed by Joshua Murphy, Managing Director of Central CCTV Limited. Signs have been installed at the Recreation Ground informing members of the public that CCTV is now in operation.

The Parish Council would like to thank Mr Murphy and Central CCTV Limited for their very generous donation, it is very much appreciated. Hopefully the system will help to discourage antisocial behaviour and damage to property.

## Dog Fouling in Gt Yeldham

### **An article from a concerned resident**

It grieves me to say it but dog fouling on pavements and verges around our Village is on the increase. I am one of a group of dedicated litter pickers who meet on the second Wednesday in the month and walk the roads and paths of Gt. Yeldham. Along with other individual pickers we endeavour to keep our Village looking tidy and clear of rubbish, dropped or thrown from cars. Unfortunately, we often come across a lot of fouling and would ask all dog owners please to use the dog waste bins that are around the village. It is really unpleasant to come home after picking up rubbish from grass areas around the village and finding 'dog poo' on your shoe after struggling to get cans and paper out of hedges. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

## **Some of our local church services for Feb. & March**

### **St Andrew's Church, Great Yeldham**

Sun. 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	11am Family Communion
Sun. 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	11am Family Worship
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	11am Family Communion
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	11am Family worship
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar.	11am Family Communion
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> Mar.	11am Mothering Sunday service
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup> Mar.	11am Family Communion
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> Mar.	11am Palm Sunday service
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup> Mar.	11am Easter Day Communion

### **St John the Baptist Church, Little Yeldham**

Sun. 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	9.30am Holy Communion
Sun. 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	9.30am Lay-led service
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	9.30am Holy Communion
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar.	9.30am Holy Communion
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> Mar.	9.30am Lay-led service
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup> Mar.	9.30am Holy Communion
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup> Mar.	9.30am Easter Day Communion

### **St Margaret's Church, Tilbury-juxta-Clare**

Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	9.30am Holy Communion
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> Mar.	9.30am Palm Sunday Communion

# Church News

## Life-giving habits

I've just been reading about habits and come across the idea of going to bed wearing running shoes so that as soon as you wake, you're all prepared to go for a run. I'm not convinced by that! Someone else described only listening to a favourite audiobook whilst at the gym, so as to prompt themselves to exercise. Whatever you think about that idea, many of us will be able to think of habits that we want to break and others we want to develop.

Apparently, it takes a month or two for new habits to form and to become part of our regular, natural routine. I think that ties in with my own experience. Christian tradition offers us Lent as a great opportunity to hit "refresh" on our habits, to end patterns that aren't helping and to begin those that might be life-giving. This year Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent, falls on Valentine's Day so it's easy spot!

Whatever your hopes for these coming months, I pray that by the time we get to Easter, on the last day of March, we'll be able to look back on them with joy, knowing they've been well-used, and to celebrate Jesus who releases and empowers us to live life to the full.

God bless you

Justin



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## ***GREAT YELDHAM MEN'S SHED***

A lot has been going on recently at the Great Yeldham Men's Shed. We finally got our planning permission passed late last year, so we were able to open from the 1<sup>st</sup> January. New members are always welcome to join us on Saturday mornings 1000-1200. Our official opening day will be celebrated on the Easter bank holiday weekend, Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March at the Men's Shed, please follow us on Facebook for more updates.

A massive thank you for everyone who supported our quiz night last year, businesses who donated prizes and refreshments, all the people who baked those lovely cakes and snacks, volunteers who helped, and all who attended. We raised over £750 for group funds, which will really help us get on our feet this year. We hope to do another quiz night later this year too, all are welcome to attend.

We have helped with a few small local projects, schools and charities, this year our focus will be on cladding the containers and finishing fitting them out, but the tea and coffee facilities already work well, so please feel free to visit us any Saturday morning for a cuppa and a chat. We look forward to seeing you there, thanks.

## **GREAT YELDHAM TABLE TENNIS CLUB**

We are now approaching the end of our first year as a club. What a great time we have had and achieved so much, everyone has improved no end and I am so proud of them all, from our youngest 9yr olds to our 80+ years young.

As reported in the past, we have a match team playing in the Braintree & District League. At this moment of writing, the team are in 2<sup>nd</sup> place and pressing hard for the top spot. Great effort team, well done to Lorraine, Doug, Kevin, Ray and James.

We meet every Wednesday evening, Sunday afternoon and Friday evening at the Reading Room.

**Contact – John, on 01787 238297**

## St Andrew's CE Primary School

What a start to the Spring term – baby news! Mrs Dunwell (who is the teacher of Apple Class) and her husband had their baby. Mrs Quince (teacher of Oak class) and her husband are expecting their baby in the early summer! Congratulations to them both.

The children have all had a good start to their terms and are excited about the new topics on offer.

In Mulberry Class, the children's learning is linked to the question "Are we there yet?". This topic links map work, different vehicles and modes of transport. As well as this, the children follow a carefully planned structure of phonic lessons to start their reading journey.

This is continued into Apple class with carefully planned and structured reading books so the children can enjoy and progress in reading at their own level.

In Cherry class, the topic will be "Urban Pioneers", which is an art and geography-based topic – encompassing street art and learning about different cities.

In Horse Chestnut Class, the topic is "Time Traveller" where the children explore history and in DT (Design technology) have a go at making their own time machine!

In Oak Class, the children are continuing to develop their DT skills through their topic "Fun at the Fair", designing, constructing and evaluating their own fairground rides!

Phew! If that doesn't sound like the children are busy enough, the school offers lots of different clubs for all ages and interests. For example; Mrs Flin has just started a singing club. She says watch this space for trips that are being organised around this.

FOSTA (Friends of St Andrew's School) continue to be very active. They organised a "Break the Rules Day" to raise money for the playground!

Thank you for all your work.

What a great start to the term all have had! Well done and keep it up!

Written by Mrs Louise Gurney, Governor on behalf of Mrs Emma Flin, Headteacher.



*Hair Dye and non-uniform for "Break the Rules Day" fundraiser!*

## St Andrews Café – 1 February, 10.00am



*& café dates for the rest of 2024*



Our next café, run in partnership with St Andrews Church in Great Yeldham is on Thursday 1 February at 10.00am.

Our café is run by volunteers who provide all of the refreshments and bake in advance, to ensure that there is always a good selection of cakes and biscuits available.

Everyone is very welcome to come along; we are open from 10.00am until 11.30am and you can either just come along for a quick cuppa or you're very welcome to stay with us for the whole morning.

There is no charge for admission, or for refreshments, but we are always extremely grateful for your donations, which allow us to keep the café going.

The café takes place in St Andrews Church from 10.00am to 11.30am.

Café dates for your diary for the rest of 2024 are:

7 March

2 May

6 June

4 July

5 September

3 October

7 November

5 December

Please note that there will be no cafés in April and August.

**We look forward to seeing you!**

## Bowtell's Meadow Update

At the time of writing this update, the legal process to transfer ownership of the Meadow to the Parish Council is still in progress. We hope to be able to confirm soon that the process has been completed. We will have to take account of the proposed work in Churchfields by Essex County Council Highways, which will clearly have an impact on our plans to develop the Meadow. We will update you when we know more about that, but we do still want to make progress where we can.

### Our ambitions remain as previously shared:

- To develop Bowtell's Meadow as an asset to the village, to help promote our collective health and well-being
- To keep the Meadow mowed, tidy and accessible at all times (we are currently out to tender for a new mowing contract)
- To install new benches and picnic tables (with input from the Men's Shed on this)
- To plant some new trees and flowers in the Meadow (hopefully with help from the children at the school as well as from volunteers within the village)
- To install a new perimeter path
- To install a range of new playground equipment and create a new larger play area for all age groups.

The Parish Council agreed in January to work with a company called **eibe** as our preferred partner to install the new playground equipment and perimeter path, as well as assisting us in taking forward the overall development of the site.

We will arrange a public meeting at the Reading Room in the next few months to share the playground equipment plans in detail and get your feedback and comments. We will also provide further updates in the 4 Villages Magazine, on the village notice board and on Facebook and the Parish Council web site.

*The Bowtell's Meadow Working Group*  
**Great Yeldham Parish Council**

# EARLS COLNE AND HALSTEAD EDUCATIONAL CHARITY

## **Educational Grants Available**

The Earls Colne and Halstead Educational Charity offers grants to individuals and voluntary groups and is keen to encourage applications to provide support for suitable projects that would benefit local young people.

## **Studying for a degree course?**

The Earls Colne and Halstead Educational Charity offers Resource Grants to young people studying undergraduate and postgraduate degree courses

### **Find out more:**

More information about the Charity and application forms can be found on our website – [www.echec.org.uk](http://www.echec.org.uk) . Alternatively call 07539 489477 or email [earlscolnehalstead.edcharity@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:earlscolnehalstead.edcharity@yahoo.co.uk)

## GREAT YELDHAM UNITED CHARITIES

### **GRANTS TO CHARITIES, VOLUNTARY GROUPS AND SOCIETIES** *(FOR THE PREVENTION OR RELIEF OF POVERTY AND RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES)*

Charities and voluntary groups operating/living in the parish of Great Yeldham are eligible to apply to the Trust for a grant towards planned activities. The grant is for the prevention or relief of poverty and religious activities. **The closing date for applications is Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024.**

An application can be downloaded from the Parish Council website <https://greatyeldhampc.co.uk/great-yeldham-united-charities/> or contact: Tracy Wigmore, Parish Clerk email [clerk@greatyeldhampc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@greatyeldhampc.co.uk) telephone 01787 237832.



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# Regular Events Happening in Great Yeldham Reading Room

## Sundays

- Table Tennis Club – Contact John on 01787 238297

## Mondays

- Post Office/Village Hub – Contact Philip on 01787 237049
- Adult Ballet – Contact Sophia on 07497 360110
- Line Dance – Contact Cherie on 01787 463427

## Tuesdays

- Carpet Bowls – Contact Margaret on 01787 237049
- Moveit or Loseit – Contact Georgina on 07547 927238

## Wednesdays

- Toddler Group (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday in month) - Contact Rachel on 01787 238888
- Table Tennis Club – Contact John on 01787 238297

## Thursdays

- Theatre Dance Group – Dance Troupe -Ballet & Pointe Work – Contact Sophia on 07497 360110
- Ladies Club (last Thursday in the Month) – Contact Margaret on 01787 237049

## Fridays

- Otago Class – Contact Georgina on 07547 927238
- Stretch & Strengthen – Contact Sophia on 07497 360110
- Table Tennis Club – Contact John on 01787 238297

## Saturdays

- Circuit Training – Ballet & Movement & Beginners Ballet – Contact Sophia on 07497 360110

Great Yeldham Cottage Garden Society

# Children's Spring Activity Session

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

10am-11.30am

at The Reading Room, Gt Yeldham

£7 per child

Cress head



Pebble painting



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For more information for either event or to book please email [sarahm1787@gmail.com](mailto:sarahm1787@gmail.com) or call 07947730303

# THE COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY

February already. It is true when people say that time passes quicker when you get older. I remember as a child the summer holiday lasted for ages; now 6 weeks passes in a flash. Anyway, your committee have been spending their time planning this year's diary of events so please save the following dates:

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February – children's half term activity session and Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March – wreath making workshop – see adjoining poster for details.

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April – trip to RHS Hyde Hall. As an affiliated society we do get free entry to one of the RHS gardens each year so making use of that benefit this year for our local RHS facility at Chelmsford.

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May – annual plant sale.

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June – a special open garden in Butlers Way with a guided tour by Professor Chris Gibson, who spoke to us last year about gardening with wildlife in mind. This will be a members only event but promises to be extremely informative.

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August – Annual Show. Schedules will be available in due course.

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October – talk by Bryan Thurlow entitled "The Perennial Mr Potter". A poignant fifty-minute performance piece told in a Suffolk accent. Buffet supper included.

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November – AGM.

Other events still to be finalised and if you have any great ideas for an event that you think would be of interest to our members, please do let me know. On that note, we are also asking for volunteers to help Sarah on the children's craft session in February – can you spare a couple of hours on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February to assist children planting and decorating pots and other crafty things. No experience required!

Jo Williams (joannacwilliams@btinternet.com)

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# The 4 Villages Magazine

If you would like to include any articles or local information in the magazine, or if you would like to place an advert, please contact John, the editor at:

**the4villagesmagazine@gmail.com or ring 01787 238297**

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or contact John for bookings on – 01787 238297 or email [john.gyrrclerk@gmail.com](mailto:john.gyrrclerk@gmail.com)

**Conditions of hire apply and deposit required.**

**All hirings are at the discretion of the Management Committee.**

---

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### **Rosalyn Jacobs**

Family Law Solicitor

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### **Vicar:**

Rev'd Justin Tomkins – (237211) – mail@justintomkins.org

### **Church Wardens:**

St.Andrews, Great Yeldham - Anne Metson (237243)

St. Margarets, Tilbury-Juxta-Clare – Terry Dean (237256)

St. Marys, Ovington – Fiona Slot and Stephen Norris (278123)

**Braintree District Council: – 01376 552525**

### **County Councillor:**

Peter Schwier (460473) – cllr.peter.schwier@essex.gov.uk

### **Braintree District Councillor, Yeldham Ward:**

Richard Van Dulken (07803 932737) – cllr.rvandulken@braintree.gov.uk

### **Braintree District Councillor:**

Iona Parker (237246) – cllr.iparker@braintree.gov.uk

### **Doctors:**

**Castle Surgery** – Castle Hedingham – (461465)

**Hilton House Surgery** – Sible Hedingham – (460612)

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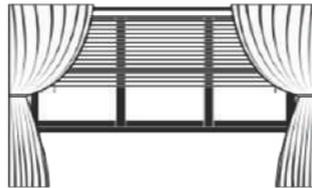
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The Parish Council meet the first Thursday of every month, except in January. All meetings start at 7.30pm in the Reading Rooms, High Street, Great Yeldham and are open to the public and press. There are 15 minutes available for public participation. Agenda and Minutes are published each month on the Parish Council's website and are placed on the notice board on the green at the North Street and Bridge Street junction.

**Website:** [www.greatyeldhampc.co.uk](http://www.greatyeldhampc.co.uk)

**Office:** The Reading Room, High Street, Gt Yeldham, CO9 4ER  
01787 237832

**Office hours:** Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10.30 - 1.30pm  
There will be periods when the office is closed due to council business and annual leave but a message can be placed in the post box, sent by email or left on the answer phone.

**Chairman:** Mr P Rawlinson, Gt Yeldham 01787 237049

**Vice Chairman:** Mr J Marks, Gt Yeldham, 01787 238297

**Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer:**

Tracy Wigmore c/o The Reading Room, Gt Yeldham 01787 237832

Email: [clerk@greatyeldhampc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@greatyeldhampc.co.uk)

**Councillors:**

Mrs G Burr, Gt Yeldham, [gburr.gypc@gmail.com](mailto:gburr.gypc@gmail.com)

Mrs A Burrows, Gt Yeldham 01787 237959

Mr P King, Gt Yeldham, 07391467541 [Phil.kinggypc@gmail.com](mailto:Phil.kinggypc@gmail.com)

Mr Bikaram Chahal, Gt Yeldham, [bsingh\\_gypc@outlook.com](mailto:bsingh_gypc@outlook.com)

Mr B Sargeant, Gt Yeldham 01787 236041

Mr G Theobald, Gt Yeldham [gtheobaldgypc@gmail.com](mailto:gtheobaldgypc@gmail.com) 07802252471

Mr M Lovell, Lt Yeldham. [markailovell@gmail.com](mailto:markailovell@gmail.com)

### Burial Ground

(The Glades, The Lawn, Garden of Remembrance)

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c/o The Reading Room, Gt Yeldham 01787 237832

# Little Yeldham, Tilbury Juxta Clare and Ovington

## Parish Council

**Chairman:** Mr Peter Gentry - [cllr.pgentry.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com](mailto:cllr.pgentry.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com)

**Vice-Chairman:** Mr Daren Patient – [cllr.dpatient.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com](mailto:cllr.dpatient.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com)

**Clerk:** Mr Adrian Corder-Birch, Rustlings, Howe Drive, Halstead CO9 2QL  
[clerk.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com)

### **Councillors:**

Mrs Katie Chapman – [cllr.kchapman.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com](mailto:cllr.kchapman.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com)

Mrs Amanda Gardiner – [cllr.agardiner.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com](mailto:cllr.agardiner.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com)

Mrs Claudia Gray – [cllr.cgray.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com](mailto:cllr.cgray.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com)

Mrs Sue Harris – [cllr.sharris.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com](mailto:cllr.sharris.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com)

Mrs Louise Lawrence – [cllr.llawrence.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com](mailto:cllr.llawrence.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com)

Mrs Debbie Nott – [cllr.dnott.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com](mailto:cllr.dnott.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com)

Mr Anthony Osmond-Evans – [cllr.aosmondevans.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com](mailto:cllr.aosmondevans.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com)

Mrs Mary Pearce – [cllr.mpearce.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com](mailto:cllr.mpearce.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com)

Ms Nicola Wookey – [cllr.nwookey.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com](mailto:cllr.nwookey.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com)

**Website:** <https://e-voice.org.uk/little-yeldham-tilbury-juxta-clare-and-ovington-parish-council/>

### **Planning Applications:**

The Parish Council refers planning applications relating to Little Yeldham to the Little Yeldham Planning Advisory Group who advise the Parish Council how to respond to the consultation request from Braintree District Council. For more information about the Little Yeldham Planning Advisory Group, who they are and how they operate, please visit the Planning page on the Parish Council website alternatively, contact Peter Gentry at: [ly.tjc.ovington.parishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:ly.tjc.ovington.parishcouncil@gmail.com).

Planning applications relating to Tilbury Juxta Clare and Ovington will be dealt with by their respective councillors.



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