

**Fighting Rural Crime Event – 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017, Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome**

This is a public event, with a number of Police and Partner stands exhibiting (currently over 20 stands confirmed) including demonstrations of the Essex Police Drones and an opportunity to meet the new Gypsy, Traveller and Rural Engagement Team. More details can be found [here](#).

**Essex Lottery**

The Essex Lottery has been launched to raise money for good causes in Essex. The first draw takes place on 25<sup>th</sup> November, after which time the draws will be weekly. Tickets cost just £1 and 60% goes to charity (as opposed to 28% of National Lottery income). RCCE has registered and as a good cause which means we can receive 50p for each ticket bought if we are the chosen cause of the buyer. You can [buy tickets here](#) to support us.

**Illegal Encampments**

The government is to review the effectiveness of laws designed to tackle illegal encampments set up by travellers and Gypsies. It will also look at whether planning legislation is properly enforced against unauthorised developments built by members of travelling communities. Communities Minister Alok Sharma said everyone aspired to "peaceful and integrated communities" but people must be treated equally under the law. He announced that there would be a government consultation on the effectiveness of enforcement against unauthorised developments and encampments. We will publish details of the consultation as soon as it's launched.

In Essex, a **Partnership Approach to Unauthorised Encampments** protocol was published earlier this year. The protocol flowchart makes it easy for those affected to understand where responsibility lies and to know who to contact. A copy of the protocol can be found [here](#).

**Local Services Fund**

Funded by Essex County Council and administered by the Essex Association of Local Councils. This is a new fund that will allow communities, through Local Parish and Town Councils and other formally constituted groups, the opportunity to directly prioritise, enhance, develop and grow local capability thereby making a real difference in the villages, towns and communities across Essex. This is a revenue fund and unique as it is able to pay salaries related to delivering a new service. For more details, please see the [EALC website](#).

**The Essex Crowd – crowdfunding for projects**

This is a new crowdfunding platform, instigated and managed by Essex County Council, where you can share your community idea and offer neighbours, local businesses and other interested parties the opportunity to pledge their support to make your idea a reality. For more information: <https://www.spacehive.com/movement/theessexcrowd>

**Mobile Library Consultation Ends 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

Essex County Council is asking for views on how library services to locations outside of town centres should be delivered. Over the past seven years, use of mobile libraries has declined by nearly 50%. There are no plans to scrap mobile libraries entirely. Instead, ECC are looking at a range of ways to reach people in more isolated places, including mobile libraries and encouraging more people to get involved through volunteering. A [consultation](#) paper and [survey](#) run until 6<sup>th</sup> November.