

Annual Community Assembly

Report from the Chair

It's hard to believe that the Community Council is now in its second year. It started life as a Shadow Council back in July 2022, became legally constituted in April 2023 and following elections in May 2023, the Council has established itself as a driving force for community cohesion and representation across the Chelmsford Garden Community area.

I am proud to have been there from the start by leading the Shadow Council and ensuring that come 1st April 2023, a robust budget for the coming year had been set, a website had been set up and a Clerk appointed. I even designed the Council logo!

Throughout the first year of its existence, the Council has forged ahead with establishing a presence in the area and I believe it has done an excellent job in engaging with the community and key stakeholders who recognise us as an important partner to both consult with and work alongside.

Some of the key achievements over the last year include:

- ✓ Setting of an over-arching 4-year strategy in which the Council will be central to a thriving Community where people wish to live as part of a connected and sustainable area.
- ✓ Formulating key strategies including community-wide working groups around health & wellbeing, youth engagement and future stewardship.
- ✓ Raising awareness of the new Council by holding drop-in sessions for residents so that they can raise their issues with Councillors directly.
- ✓ Hosting several events for residents in collaboration with key stakeholders of which more are planned for the coming year.
- ✓ Building robust relationships with local partners including the City Council, the Police, developers, Chelmsford Garden Community Trust and other organisations that support local activities.

Although the Council is bound by the same legal framework as any other Parish tier, we see ourselves as modern and innovative and want to always be accessible to the local community. We have received extremely positive feedback about how we operate and represent the community which is itself a huge achievement and would like to thank all of the Councillors that have contributed to such a successful first year.



As we celebrate our first anniversary, we are immensely proud of what we have achieved together. The formation of Chelmsford Garden Community Council marks a significant milestone in our journey towards supporting a sustainable and inclusive community.

We are grateful for the support and engagement of our residents and look forward to continuing our work together over the coming year and into the future as Chelmsford Garden Community grows.

As a final note, and after almost two years at the helm from the beginnings of the Shadow Council to reaching this point and everything we have achieved, I have decided that even if nominated at the Annual Council Meeting in May, I will not be continuing as Chair.

Whilst I will remain fully committed to the Council, there is another local organisation which I am involved with and am passionate about that I need to dedicate additional time to.

Once again, thanks to all involved in making the first year of this Council such a success and a big thanks to the wider community that have engaged with us because at the end of the day, we exist to represent you.



Andrew Wright

Chair, Chelmsford Garden Community Council

18th April 2024