

## We Kept Our Word – At Last We're Free!

Dear Constituents,

As many of you will know, I have long campaigned for Britain to leave the European Union. During the General Election, Boris Johnson's Conservatives were re-elected with a very clear majority and a central plank of their manifesto was to "Get Brexit Done." We subsequently passed the necessary legislation within a matter of weeks and we finally left the European Union at 11:00pm on the 31st January 2020.



Given the complex history of this whole issue and, in particular, that despite our people voting to leave the EU in the 2016 Referendum, some MPs in the House of Commons spent three years using every Parliamentary device they could invent, in order to frustrate that decision, it was even more important in upholding the democratic process, that, this time, Members of Parliament kept their word to the British People. I was very pleased to vote for the necessary legislation, so that now we can be a free country once again.

There are now important trade negotiations to conduct, so that we can sign a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement. This should allow us to trade with our European partners with low, or in some cases, even no tariffs, looking into the foreseeable future. This will most likely be based on some variant of the EU-Canadian Free Trade Agreement, which was signed in 2016. I believe that it is very possible to agree this deal by the end of 2020 (based in part on the fact that the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson MP, managed to successfully re-negotiate Theresa May's old deal in under three months).

All that said, I hope we can now leave behind the old labels of "Leaver" and "Remainer," going back to simply being "Brits." Working together as one country, I believe we can go out bravely into the world, as the fifth largest economy on earth and that we can succeed economically - not least because we will be able to make trade deals of our own choosing, including hopefully with the United States, India and others as well.

Finally, this has been a long and at times difficult journey, but I am pleased that, at last, our Members of Parliament have been able to keep the promise that we gave to the British people back in 2016, to honour the result of the Referendum. This has finally been done and, as your Member of Parliament, I am proud to have been a part of it – and to have kept my word.

Yours faithfully,

Rt Hon Mark Francois  
Member of Parliament for Rayleigh and Wickford

# In Touch

## Lodge Ward

Spring 2020



### Rochford District Council

We are pleased to announce that Cllr Bob Milne will be seeking re-election on 7th May 2020

For this election you have one vote, please use it wisely.  
More about Bob in our next leaflet.



**Bob Milne**  
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### Rayleigh Town Council



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**Julie Sawford**  
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We are pleased to announce that three of the above Town Councillors will be seeking re-election on 7th May 2020. We also have pleasure in welcoming John to our team.

For this election you can vote for all 4 candidates, again please vote wisely. More about them in our next leaflet.

## Rayleigh Town Council

### Anglia in Bloom

Lots of hard work by the Lodge ward Cllrs helped to win the Town the Gold award that it deserved again last year. We are already working again to hopefully keep hold of the Gold status this year. Our thanks also go to the residents and businesses that sponsor



the wonderful baskets and flower beds in our town. Also, the community that come together to make our town so lovely.

We are always looking for more volunteers so please contact any of us if you are able to spare any time.

### Christmas lights

Another very successful event in November last year. Plans for this year's event are already in progress. The event will be held on 26th November 2020.



### Trinity Fair

Rayleigh Town Council in partnership with Haddon Events will hold the Trinity Fair on Sunday 7th June 2020. The main stage will be in the lagoon where a variety of bands and dancers will entertain the crowds. There will be many stalls and events taking place within the High Street and Bellingham Lane.

### The Dairy Crest Site Rayleigh High Street

Whilst this site is not in our ward it is in our Town. The site looks extremely dire. However, access was an issue and the recent planning application was unanimously turned down with overdevelopment, access and parking being a few reasons. It certainly can't be left as it is but the right proposal must come forward.

### KGV Playing Field

King George V Playing Field which is owned by Rayleigh Town Council have engaged Essex Youth Services to carry out weekly detached sessions to local young people.

### Big Issue

Please note that there have been several rogue sellers in the High Street. Whilst we are happy for them to attend our town, they must be legal. Currently there are no legal sellers assigned to our town.

### Rayleigh's Heritage

We all cherish our heritage and are very fortunate to have residents such as Mike Davies Chairman of the Museum Management Group and the wonderful team of volunteers who help in the Museum situated above Pizza Express in the High Street. The Museum celebrate the 4th Anniversary in April and currently has had 29750 visitors.



## Rochford District Council

### Electric Vehicle Charging Points

RDC have installed Electric Vehicle Charging points in 5 Car Parks. The points in Rayleigh are in Websters Way, The Approach and The Market Car Park.



### Old House Rochford and Rayleigh Windmill

Nominated as finalists in the Essex Wedding Awards 2020 category for 'Historic Wedding Venue of the Year'.

### Discover 2020 Rochford District Festival

Come and join us on May 30th or 31st at the Freight House Bradley Way Rochford to celebrate the ship HMS Beagle on which Charles Darwin embarked on his voyage of discovery. The event is FREE and must be booked in advance via [HMSBEAGLE.EVENTBRITE.CO.UK](https://HMSBEAGLE.EVENTBRITE.CO.UK). A great family day out.

### P Car Parking

We continue to maintain Free Parking on Saturday afternoons, all day Sunday, Bank Holidays and all day on Saturdays in December.

### Community Speedwatch

Sessions continue to take place. However, we must point out that speeding is a police issue. Please report speeding to the police so that they will then do speed checks. Of course, we will assist where we can and report your concerns too.



### Highways

We continue to robustly report pot holes, lamp columns not working, signs that need replacing, but sadly we have no control over Highways which fall under Essex County Council.

### Debt Free Council

We are proud to be a debt free Council and despite challenges we have continued to deliver excellent services to our residents. This year the Council Tax increase will be 10p per week for a Band D property.

Of course, some feel the need to criticise us but we can tell you that NOT ONE member of any opposition party turned up again to the Budget Awayday held in October.

