

Proposed action against 24-hour licences

New powers could be given to Councils to promote public safety and deal with crime, disorder and nuisance arising from late licences.

The changes being proposed would be brought in through the Crime and Security Bill, and would mean that where disorder or public nuisance cannot be attributed to particular individual premises, local authorities would be able to limit late opening across an entire area.

Enforcement would restrict premises selling alcohol from operating between 3am and 6am, on any day of the week and would apply to pubs, bars, clubs, supermarkets and convenience stores. Councils would need to show that the restriction was necessary to prevent crime and disorder or public nuisance, or to promote public safety.

To make use of these new powers a Council must first invite views from interested parties, including local residents, the police and licence holders and where necessary, it must hold a public hearing before making a final decision.



News

Changes to bus passes

The Government is changing the date on which both men and women will become eligible to apply to the Council for a bus pass for free travel in England. The age of eligibility for the concessionary bus pass for both men and women will gradually increase from 60 to 65 between 2010 and 2020.

If you have already reached age 60, or will have reached it by 5 April 2010, there are no changes to eligibility and if you have already claimed your pass, you are not affected by these changes.

Anyone born on or after 6 April 1955 will need to wait until they are 65 to claim their free bus pass.

Grab, bag, bin

Dog owners are legally obliged to pick up after their pets. Most owners are extremely responsible.

The Council provides facilities to make it as easy as possible for dog owners to clean up after their pets, including dog waste bins and low-cost 'poop scoop' bags.

Failure to clean up after your dog can lead to a fixed penalty notice of £50 and failure to pay this may lead to prosecution and a fine of up to £1000.

Multi Faith Group a first

The Colchester & Tendring Multi-Faith Group (TCMFG) is making a valuable contribution to enhancing inter-faith and cultural working across North East Essex.

The group is the first of its kind in the region and members work together to promote community cohesion, tolerance, engagement and understanding between different faith groups and cultures.

Members represent a wide and diverse group of faiths and support all communities to guard against any form of extremism or hate crime in an environment where people feel they have a stake and opportunities to realise their social, personal and economic ambitions.

The group is currently developing a website and will be holding several events over the next 10 months to celebrate faith and culture in Colchester. We will keep you up to date about all opportunities to show your support. Should you require any additional information in the mean time, please contact Peter Carrington on 717816.

Don't waste this opportunity to save

Waste presents a huge opportunity for businesses to make savings and recycling is something we can all do. Colchester Borough Council has a recycling service available to businesses, making it easy to recycle more and divert as much waste as possible from landfill.

As well as offering a waste collection service, businesses can recycle paper and card through the Council and we will continue to extend this to additional materials such as glass.

For more information, you can direct business owners in your area to visit www.colchester.gov.uk/recycling

Boosting business

Colchester Market will be increasing its trading days to three days per week this year.

The market improvement plan is underway and meetings are currently taking place between the Council, traders, business community and interested parties to make further changes.

If you have any feedback on this newsletter or any subjects you would like to see covered in future editions, please contact Yvonne Towndrow on 282717 or by email at yvonne.towndrow@colchester.gov.uk.