

BRIEFING

Residents urged to take pride in where they live



A MASSIVE blitz on the fastening litter that blights the streets of Essex will begin with Love Where You Live! week next month.

Full story: Page 12-13

It's showtime for students

STUDENTS from Writtle College are building a real treat for fruit-loving visitors to the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

Full story: Page 23

REGULARS

Your views 16-17
 Remember When..... 24-25
 Education 26-27
 Community News..... 29-31
 Announcements..... 32-33
 Sport..... 61-68

ON THE WEB

Top stories:

- CHELMSFORD: Brother labels investigation...
- MALDON: Wife pleads guilty to GBH charge
- ONGAR: Pilot saved after plane crashes into car
- ESSEX: Scrap metal dealers sentenced
- ESSEX: Five wartime heroes given recognition

NEXT WEEK

Here come the girls... in go! We look forward to Sex And The City 2



CONTACTS

Editor Alan Geere
 alan.geere@essexchronicle.co.uk

Deputy Editor Alex Leys
 alex.leys@essexchronicle.co.uk

News Editor Paul Dent-Jones
 paul.dent-jones@essexchronicle.co.uk

Post Essex Chronicle Media Group Ltd,
 Essex Chronicle, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 3BE

Phone News: 01245 603360
 Sport: 01245 603339
 Photos: 01245 600700

e-mail newsdesk@essexchronicle.co.uk

Fax 01245 603353

Advertising
 Recruitment 0844 40 60 379
 Private 0844 40 60 360
 Trade 0844 40 60 381

Newspaper Sales & Distribution
 Newspaper Sales Manager 01245 605302
 Customer Service Freephone 0800 0731848
 Leaflet Distribution 0800 0731848

East Coast
 Homes & Gardens
 Quality Custom Built
 Single
 Summer Homes
 Pet Homes
 Storage Solutions
 Plus Homes

Contact for a free quote
01621 743074/07760714059

£63,772
 was spent on members' food and drink in 2008/09

£41,115
 on lunches



£15,711
 on coffee



£6,946
 on biscuits



Expenses take

THE CHRONICLE SAYS

TALK about taking the biscuit. Everyone in the county is braced for £300 million of cuts that Essex County Council has to find over the next three years.

And so Essex County Council's 75 elected politicians have shown an astonishing and blatant disregard for the public – and the 30,000 county council staff faced with pay freezes and job cuts – by voting in favour of huge expenses increases.

In the wake of last year's MPs' expenses scandal, and with the General Election hangover only just starting to bite, the unanimous decision to increase their expenses by an overall 8.3 per cent – from a total of £1.56 million a year to £1.69 million – is a real kick in the teeth.

OK, some may argue that for a council which spends £2 billion a year it is a drop in the ocean. But tell that to the 30,000 council staff currently on a one-year pay freeze, with it likely to be extended for another two years, and the 285 middle managers, who have already lost their jobs in the latest round of cuts. But while approving their increase, they also voted to keep the plush members' dining area where councillors have nunched through £7,000 worth of expensive biscuits in a year.

spent £15,000 on coffee and feasted upon £41,000 worth of lunches from their own haute cuisine menu in the County Hall restaurant.

But the independent review into allowances had recommended scrapping the Essex food perks to save money, just like Kent County Council, across the water, has. All this contrasts with new Tory Chancellor George Osborne's determination to cut public costs by £31 billion this year, backed by David Cameron's swifflly-kept promise to slash cabinet pay by five per cent.

Overpaid

Meanwhile, BBC's Panorama on Monday politely suggested to county council chief executive Joanna Kilham – the UK's highest paid chief executive with an annual salary of £250,000 – that she is overpaid.

But she defended her salary, saying: "I bring a huge amount of expertise to the job. There are not many people who could have delivered £190 million worth of savings." She also defended as "value for money" the fact that the authority spent £25 million on outside consultants last year. And while county council bosses reckon they can make the £300 million of savings WITHOUT cutting frontline

CENTRAL PERK: County Hall in Chelmsford and a pack of the biscuits which councillors get for free, but which would cost the taxpayer 35p



services, they have never been clear on how they intend to achieve the impossible, instead they are feeding us endless financial jargon that's as equally impossible to decipher. Essex could have looked yards away at their fellow Tory-run council in Chelmsford which rejected their independent allowances review and halted any increases.

report to the agenda handed the Essex Chronicle reporter. County leader Peter Martin ally loses out because his allowance Tory Group leader has been axed based on an MP's salary, down the £70,000-plus his predecessor Hammingfield enjoyed. But his has still gone up from £37,935. His eight cabinet colleagues in addition to their basic allowance no £35,000, up £8,000 each, a thumpier per cent.

COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCES AT A GLANCE

The basic allowance paid to all 75 Essex County Council members will rise 6.1 per cent, from £10,840 to £11,500 which equates to a total of **£362,000** a year. But when special responsibility allowances are added for leaders, deputies and cabinet members the total increase is 8.3 per cent – up **£130,000** to **£1.69m** a year.

TOP CATS



Leader Peter Martin gets **£53,000** – up from **£37,935**. He is also a director of a number of companies and former head of the Martin's newsagent group



Norman Hume, Chelmsford Highways
 Job title: Retired banker



Dr Ann Naylor, Ingatestone Health
 Job title: Retired GP



Stephen Castle, Castle Point
 Education and 2012 Games
 Job title: Runs opticians chain



John Jowers, Colchester
 Communities and Planning
 Job title: Company owner



Derrick Louis, Witham
 Major projects and commercial services
 Job title: Company director



Sarah Candy, Tendring
 Children's Services
 Job title: Accountant, runs mail order company



Tracey Chapman, Rayleigh
 Environment & Waste
 Job title: Chief whip



Jeremy Lucas, Colchester
 Heritage and the Arts
 Job title: Publisher and educationist

16 CABINET DEPUTIES WILL RECEIVE £13,375

Cabinet deputies, including Maldon's Penny Channer, Braintree's Roger Walters and Joe Pike, Stansted's Ray Gooding and Wickford's Iris Pummell will get **£13,375**. The council has altered the roles of deputies and executive members, so that those on the old allowance of **£16,225** will eventually

receive the equivalent expenses of their colleagues. Total **£214,000**. Scrutiny Board Chairman John Aldridge, a retired banker, of Writtle, gets a **£21,400** new allowance, while 13 Scrutiny and other committee chairmen get **£13,375** up from **£10,840** – total **£173,875**. Opposition leader, Cllr Tom Smith Hughes of



Deputy Leader, David Finch of Braintree, gets **£40,125** – up from **£28,450**. Retired financial advisor