COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP TASK AND FINISH GROUP

Tendring Road Rally – Written Comments Received

Respondent	Comment
Adam Pipe, Essex Police	From a Roads Policing point of view I was very happy with the event and I could not identify any issues of concern.
	I believe that the event organiser listened and reacted to all comments / observations prior to the operational day.
	Any event next year would have to have that additional policing operation focusing on the roads which seemed to work well and provide a greater level of community reassurance.
Tendring Parish Council	Management process and event planning
	Overall very good. Clear engagement with Tendring Parish Council through one of our meetings well in advance of the event and the Rally Organiser was always willing to answer any questions or concerns of our residents that I raised with him.
	Health and safety aspects;
	No issues or concerns from Tendring Parish Council here. Marshalling on the day was good and from what I saw the roads were adequately protected at possible danger points by straw bales, etc. with marshals at key points.
	Communication and public engagement;
	 Good overall, though a number of aspects were a bit last minute, for example where the viewing areas would be, parking arrangements for locals in the road leading to the start line. Nothing major - and I know the people in the roads directly affected got more details (a residents pack) but others in the village were less clear on the impact of the closures. Having spoken with the Rally Organiser before the event he then sent me a copy of the pack which I shared key points of through our village Facebook site and at our next parish meeting. Next time I am advised this pack will be made available to parish councils as well as residents.
	Impact and benefit on residents and TDC;
	I have been told by some local residents who live near where the start of stages 1/6/11 was that it was very noisy and disruptive at times and another resident who lived on a closed section has said that they effectively needed to be out of their house all day as it was not practical to get to and from during the gaps between stages. But overall the response from residents has been overwhelmingly positive, whether the watched the stages themselves or just saw the cars.

driving through the village between stages. People have told me it was good for the area.

Advertising and marketing

This is probably the one area where more could be done next time, both by the rally organisers and TDC. There was not a lot of publicity for the event, as far as I could tell, apart from the coverage of a few residents in the TDC area who did not want the rally to go ahead. Maybe as a first event it was better not to over-advertise it and it may have made the impact on residents greater. The probable inclusion of more spectator areas next year should make it easier to publicise more widely as greater numbers could be accommodated. Certainly the bulk of the activity at Clacton sea front seemed very well attended.

Great Bromley Parish Council

Having moved to the village in July last year and missed the initial discussions regarding holding a rally in 2018, the first we knew of the event was contact from the in around October 2017. Unfortunately, during telephone conversations with him, he did nothing to allay our concerns and was very rude and abrupt to the point of being bully-like so I refused to actually meet him in person. I have since discovered he was much the same with many other residents and this would probably explain why Chelmsford Motor Club introduced

visited me at home to address our concerns and was very pleasant by comparison to but sadly his visit only raised further concerns rather than allaying the existing ones. During our conversation re-iterated this would be the first of it's kind in England but that there had been other such events held around the UK. He specifically mentioned 2 in Scotland: The Tour of Mull and also the Jim Clark Rally. A quick internet search of these two events shows that neither were held this year and indeed the regulator, The Motor Sports Authority actually refused the Jim Clark Rally a permit for 2017. Both of these were established events, neither of which now run due to concerns over their safety. This does not bode well for future events in our area even though Chelmsford Motor Club insist all Health and Safety measures were carried out and complied with.

We live directly on the route between two points where the road was closed and were assured by that any inconvenience would be limited to the times when roads and access were not permitted during the rally itself on the Sunday. We have a young baby who was 2 months old at the time of the rally so knowing the disruption we were expecting on the Sunday, we planned to take him, together with our dog, for a nice walk on the Saturday. Unfortunately we got less than half a mile down the road when we had no choice but to give up and return home due to being forced up onto the grass verges every 30 seconds to a minute by rally drivers doing their reconnaissance prior to the rally itself. All in all, the inconvenience and disruption was spread over the whole weekend, not just during the times when the roads were closed as we were led to believe.

Having attended the Tendring District Council meeting where the rally was

discussed at length, it is clear that as a District, Tendring are in full support of the event and actually invited Chelmsford Motor Club to the area as they argue it generates revenue for the area. I do not dispute this in principal but I would question how much of this revenue actually filtered down from Clacton and the immediate surrounding areas as the 'hub' for the rally to Great Bromley or any of the other villages that were highly inconvenienced by it taking place as I fail to see where any actual benefit was achieved.

I also wonder if Chelmsford Motor Club has asked for feedback from it's members regarding the event. I don't just mean soft fluffy feedback such as 'it was good fun' or 'it was good to be part of the first of it's kind in England'. I mean real constructive feedback. I am by no means a rally enthusiast but having spent many hours on my PlayStation as a teenager all those ago playing the Colin McRae rally game, I can honestly say that I can't recall an of the tracks / routes consisting of quiet tarmacked lanes where the main obstacles were the potholes (which incidentally were far worse post rally!) and some strategically placed hay bales! I appreciate there are different types of rallying but based on the hyped up, noisy cars that were being used on the day, these would be much more suited to muddy, forest like conditions that most people would associate with the word rallying, rather than the country lanes around Great Bromley and surrounding villages.

I understand that 'Health and safety aspects', 'Communication and public engagement' and also 'Impact and benefit on residents' are just a few of the areas being covered by the TDC Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee in their review of the rally. Clearly the impact on some residents, including ourselves, was greater than others who may have enjoyed the event but I would absolutely concur with view also in this month's Messenger of saying "not again in my parish please".

Health and safety aspects;

In response to your request for feedback regarding the car rally I would like to express my opposition to the rally on roads in Great Bromley and in the rally becoming an annual event.

My concerns are over the safety issues and principles of encouraging racing/speeding on public roads, not only on the day of the rally, but in the lead up to and after the event.

Living on the route of the rally we noticed this year, in April, after the rally routes were published an increase in speeding cars in the lane.

The dangers of these unqualified, unsupervised drivers trialling the route, cannot be mitigated against and if this event is allowed to continue I can only see these added dangers in our rural lanes increasing.

I am emailing regarding the rally that was held in Tendring earlier this year. It has been bought to my attention that there is a proposal of said rally becoming an annual event.

I keep my horses in great Bromley and myself and my children ride through the country lanes regularly. The event earlier this year definitely caused a notable rise in speeding drivers along the lanes in both the Run Up to and post rally weeks.

Communication and public engagement;

At the meeting last Wednesday it was noted that you have had three responses to your "Feedback Needed" and that they were all in favour of the Rally. Just to keep it balanced I would like it noted that both my Wife and I are totally against the idea of encouraging people to race along public roads in our parish. I also unhappy about the way that any consultation undertaken, prior to the event, by DCMS, Essex County Council, Tendring DC and the Chelmsford Motor Club was carried out. It should also be noted in your report to Tendring that a great many residents attended PC meetings and registered their opposition to the event and none in support and that residents were disappointed that neither of our District Councillors felt that they could not support the wish of their parishioners when TDC finally had a vote about the Rally.

We have had no direct experience of car rallies other than that seen on TV but fully realised that it would be high speed powerful vehicles driven at great seed (as fast as possible) and the thought of this occurring a few metres from our front door and within a meter of my garden that contain our daughters play area was extremely concerning to us. Visiting the CMC's website there was a large number of photos of cars nose down in ditches so in my opinion we were rightly concerned.

Timeline of events:

July 17 – PC minutes. Chelsmford Motor Club (CMC) were at this meeting to answer questions from residents who had leaflets put through their doors, but we were not invited and had no knowledge of rally at this time.

Late July/early August 17: knocked on our door and advised my wife that a rally was planned and asked for our comments. My wife stressed her disapproval and was told that we were the only people on the route who were against the rally and that it was likely to go ahead regardless of her disapproval. I later found that these comments proved to be very misleading and far from reality.

We were given a letter from stating that CMC would be attending the September PC meeting, inviting us to attend to answer any questions.

August 17 – PC meeting/minutes. from TDC attended the meeting stating that it was far from a done deal regarding the rally going ahead and that there would need to be a public consultation carried out by

September 17 – PC meeting/ minutes. Despite the invitation given to us visit, nobody from CMC showed up. March 2018:- We had a 2nd visit from , this time to tell us that the rally was going ahead and "there was nothing we could do about it". He issued us with our passes to allow us to come and go from our house on the rally day. This came as something of a shock as we had heard nothing more about the rally and had wrongly assumed that it was no longer going ahead having had zero consultation about it other than the inaccurate info received from at the August PC mtg. March 2018: - Visited to get confirmation that the rally really was going ahead, he confirmed this. He stated that he had done a survey of the residents on the route and the majority were against it going ahead. 2nd April 2018: - We decided to contact the CMC and requested advice on what safety measures were going to be put in place to protect our property and boundary fences/hedges. 4th April 2018: Visit from went through in detail the newly updated planned protection of our property and listened to our concerns and agreed to increase the number of straw bales that would be used to protect us. He gave us a copy of the safety plan. It was a courteous exchange and he respected and understood our concerns. 21st April 2018: - The official day for the competitors to drive the course. This day was a nightmare in the afternoon when too many cars were on our single track road. Sections became gridlocked as traffic was coming in both directions. I witnessed a road rage incident with drivers shouting at each other. The organisers started setting up on this day as well. We were expecting an invasion of more bullish people who were only interested in their rally obsession. However we couldn't have been more wrong, everyone we encountered was polite, considerate, apologetic and respectful. 22nd April 2018: - I had to leave my house at 9am just before the start of the first session and I was able to do this with no issues apart from a few miles detour due to only being able to exit at the end of the stage. On my return I was running late and realised that I was not going to make it back before the beginning of the next session. I contacted the stage organiser and was accommodated with no issues and again a polite and helpful discussion.

The rally passed without incident and was set up and managed in a

At the end of the rally the organisers cleaned up and returned everything back to how it was (with the exception of some road signs which are still

We were not prepared to leave our property for the day for fear of potential damage. Also I should say that it was our Wedding anniversary and we

competent manner, although I am not an expert on such things.

there).

the Highways authority. This led us into a false sense of security and

turned out to be very misleading.

had to postpone our celebration.

Looking back now I find myself as frustrated with TDC as I am with the rally organisers. As a resident and Council tax payer in this situation I think TDC had a duty of care to the on route residents and should have had a representative for residents to contact as part of the process. I do not accept that it was 'out of their control'. CMC have since on at least one occasion made the statement that they were invited to hold the rally by TDC.

Suggestions

- The day before the rally participants should be given clear time slots to view the course to spread the amount of traffic on the road more evenly.
- 2. A TDC representative should have been given the responsibility to support residents and assist with the liaison.

Generally

The residents that are actually on the route and in particularly those who live in close proximity to the road should have been treated with more respect and consideration in the early consultation stage not only by CMC but also TDC.

Questions: - CMC

- 1. Literature stated they would be donating £5000+ to local charities and good causes. I would be interested to know the lucky recipients.
- 2. Maybe the rally should put something directly into the parish to compensate for the disruption to some of its residents; maybe they could sponsor the speed watch and fund some equipment?

Finally, we did e-mail , our MP who initially was very keen to follow up on our complaint regarding the lack of consultation. Then we received a letter which was of a completely different tone and was very generic. His reply told me that everyone on the route had been consulted by Essex County Council. This was the first mention of ECC in the process and for me summed up the whole situation. I did not reply further.

I am undecided if I would object to a repeat rally but I am objecting to the way the pre-rally representations where made by CMC, TDC and now it seems ECC.

I also believe that residents have no real say anyhow. The consultation, what there was (so I am told) was a box ticking exercise.

Please bear in mind that this event really only impacts residents on the route so it is these comments that count.

Impact and benefit on residents and TDC;

Having spoken to a great many people in Great and Little Bromley it is exceedingly difficult to find anyone who supports having motorsports in the lanes around our villages.

The villages have active speed-watch campaigns, supported by local councillors, to encourage responsible speeds on our lanes, it is difficult to understand how any of our councillor's cannot oppose motorsports within our villages.

There have been comments that these activities bring economic benefit to the district. Can we please be told what these benefits are? There can be very few businesses in our villages which have benefitted from the activity and no employment would seem to have arisen for village people.

The people who have been inconvenienced by not being able to freely use the highways around our villages, seem not to have a voice to oppose the continuance of these activities. One hopes that our councillors are speaking and voting on their behalf.

We will all have an opportunity in May to have our democratic say in this matter, when the next round of elections occur. I for one will want to know how our elected representatives have spoken and voted on these issues.

One does wonder why events like this are not run on the streets of Chelmsford and surrounding villages, if they are organised by motorsport enthusiasts from those districts.

I feel we should consider the negative impact on people's lives, their animals and also the message that racing on the roads gives to the wider public about what sort of county Essex is.

I think there are probably very few people in Great Bromley who are not having their lives impacted negatively by lorries and cars going through the parish at high speeds and causing excessive noise. We as a society spend large amounts of money trying to get drivers to slow down and drive with respect for pedestrians, dog walkers and people riding horses, we even have a team of volunteers running a Neighbourhood Speed Watch group to encourage safe driving in the parish. It seems ridiculous to do all this and then allow or encourage cars to race against the clock on our rural roads. There have been a lot of impassioned views expressed at the recent Great Bromley Parish Council meetings as it now appears the organisers want to run the event next year and indeed extend some sections in Great Bromley and also make it an annual event. Many people who actually live on this year's route felt prisoners in their own homes in the run up to and especially on the day of the race. They have also noticed an increase in the number of cars racing the route following the event, presumably enthusiastic car drivers seeing how their times compare to that of the professionals on the day. There have also been some near misses described between horse riders and cars being put

through their paces.

- Bad for road safety
- Bad for the reputation of Essex
- Bad for wildlife
- Bad for horse owners and riders
- Bad for the inconvenience caused to those on the route

I also attended a Parish Council meeting at Great Oakley and it was very heated and hugely against the return of the race.

If Tendring Council even come close to considering allowing this event to be repeated it would be irresponsible for it to give approval until we have ALL seen some real numbers measuring the net benefit or indeed COST to the community.

Increased income minus (increased policing, minus increased council employee wages, minus production and placing of signage)

I obviously would like to say "not again in my parish please"

I am against any future car rallies in this area and all car racing on public roads.

Further to your request in the August edition of the Bromley Messenger, we hereby wish to register our Objection to any further motor rallies taking place on the roads of Great Bromley.

How can it be right to effectively imprison local people in their homes for 16 hours, remove access to local roads, bridleways and farm rides (which users pay a large sum for)? This is a rural area and it is wrong to deprive local villagers of their amenities, not to mention the noise pollution and general aggravation this event caused for a weekend and since.

There is now talk of extending the race track in the village which would spell more misery for residents, this must not be permitted. Residents' properties will suffer a substantial drop in value, house insurance will rise for the whole area, not just for those along the race track route.

Furthermore there has been a noticeable increase in the number of drivers speeding and showing a lack of consideration to local road users, i.e. cyclists and horse riders. It surely can't be a coincidence that we have come across road accidents in recent months since the rally? E.g.

previously.

, having not seen any

The Council seem unduly influenced by the support of a couple of farmers, no doubt influenced by their financial gain. It is time consideration was given to the majority of local tax payers who **do not** support this event and are appalled by the hypocrisy of the Council attitude towards it when so much time and effort has been put into reducing speeding in the area.

Finally, why were the local speed watches not out on the day of the last

rally? It was clear the majority of cars taking part in the event were exceeding the speed limit when blasting up Parson's Hill and no doubt did so in numerous other locations.

Hello. I'm writing to the council because I have heard that the car rally that took place in our local area is going to happen again.me and my partner live on we were not happy or In favour of the last rally that took place.i feel it was a danger to local wildlife and people who live around the area.also my partner is a community care support worker. which would need to leave the house at any time of the day to care for people in need.we would be very upset if this rally took place again.

Hi I live at on a corner of the rally

We thoroughly enjoyed it. It was well organised. We had several members of family visit for it and lots of Bromley residents view from outside our house.

Please note this feed back I do very much hope it continues every year.

The feedback I've heard is all positive

Following the request in the Messenger for comments regarding the car rally, I'd just like to register my support for it. I think it's good for the district and the disruption is minimal in the grand scheme of things with plenty of notice given, enabling people to make alternative plans if they don't want to be there.

Although I missed this year's event, I've heard nothing but praise for the event locally to here (I appreciate that I'm not actually on the route) and I know people are already making plans for BBQs etc. at key vantage points for next year.

I am sure there are elements that could perhaps be arranged better – bound to be a few issues after the first event of its kind - and I hope that the organisers take on board comments that have been made to go some way to placate those not so keen.

I would actually like to express my support for the rally which came through the village.

I was within walking distance of a viewing point and spoke to some of the safety Marshall's who were present. They actually confirmed the income into Tendring was vast and every hotel and room was booked that weekend.

I think as a community we actually missed an opportunity with regards to the rally.

There were many people who were not local who were following the rally in

the different stages. There were also a lot of locals watching the rally, those whose house was close by had friends and were having a bbq throughout the whole day.

The village has several pubs and a cafe who could have maximized income on the day offering refreshments, and it could have actually been made as a community day. An opportunity missed to have an event on Church meadow to raise much needed funds. There is a community pub which could have maximized funds.

The stages were such that anyone living on the route is not confined to their house, they have more than enough opportunity to leave outside the times of the stages. The route is closely monitored throughout and all very well marshaled and safety is paramount.

With regards to people racing the stages in between, it's no more than is endured on a regular basis if you use the lanes, whether it be a car driver, dog walker or horse rider. Too many people have the ethics of I'm not going to stop!

Yes I am someone who enjoys car events, but I also look realistically - many of those complaining did not actually live on the route. Those who tried to sabotage the race, with a variety of methods is just putting peoples lives at risk, and is despicable. This was confirmed by the race organizers on the day.

Tendring and Great Bromley should embrace the income and visitors who came to view the race. It was very safe and well organized and I for one see it was a missed opportunity from a village. It's one day a year!

The NIMBY approach is very much apparent and does not make for a welcoming village to outsiders - we have many businesses within the village who rely on people coming into the village and not just residents.

I therefore think it should be embraced in the future.

Ardleigh Parish Council

We in Ardleigh met with the organising representative before the event which was helpful and we also sought feedback from residents - most of which was very positive.

There were some points that affect the village that could be improved on. These are:

- 1. The advance publication of the route stages in the local media resulted in a number individuals (not necessarily competitors) trying the route stages at speed. We had a near collision avoided by a local land owner taking evasive action and putting a wheel in a ditch. This started the week of the press coverage and stage publication. Maybe the actual routes could be kept quieter prior to the rally.
- 2. Local businesses in Ardleigh did not directly benefit by the rally and they could have done. We are aware that local camp site details were

NOT made available to potential contestants and we know of one contestant travelling from a campsite in Norfolk. It would be very helpful to have a local business list for competitors and visitors - campsites, B&Bs, pubs, restaurants, sandwich bars etc.

- 3. We had the problem of advance straw bales being set alight before the rally - we have been assured that the bales will not be placed so early next time.
- 4. We also had the problem that some officials placed themselves in a field without the landowners consent. This caused concern about liability that should be resolved before the next rally but also the officials should be educated that they cannot access land that is not involved (and has the necessary consent/permissions) in the rally.
- 5. We would like to see more effort made so that local stage hosts can benefit from the spend created by the rally and would be very happy to work with a co-ordinating group to achieve this.

Residents generally enjoyed the excitement of the rally, despite the disruption to rural farms and homes, and a pre-organised viewing location for <u>each</u> stage would be a good way of focussing locations and therefore benefiting from food outlets, drinks etc. as well as parking charges.

Great Bentley Parish Council

Great Bentley Parish Council wish to submit the following comments to the Task & Finish Review regarding the Closed Road Car Rally on 22nd April 2018

Management process and event planning:

The management of the public was not managed very well leading to members of the public trespassing on privately owned land without permission

The event stewards were unaware of alternative routes for members of the public to use to access Aingers Green from Great Bentley.

Communication and public engagement:

Several homeowners along the route were not consulted by the organiser as reported.

Impact and benefit on residents and TDC:

Excerpt of Email from a Landowner to the Parish Council 30th July 2018

"I write to strongly object to the proposal to once again use the lanes in the village for the purpose of car rallying.

Roads were not designed for this purpose, it represents a health and safety hazard and the disruption caused far outweighs the disruption to the residents that are affected.

I deeply resent being used as a Guinea pig and now as a precedent for this event, and resist the initiative.

I shall certainly not permit visitors to enter my land each side of the verges

along - where I own land both

sides of the road, and I have fear of the cars crashing into ditches & fenced fields, and damage from trespassers getting out of the way from the speeding vehicles.

I graze livestock in many of these fields and they too would be disrupted.

Last year I was forced to remove bunting and roped off areas erected in my fields without permission, and I intend to maintain a robust objection to attempts to such attempts to in surge.

Future Events:

The Parish Council discussed the suggestion from the organiser of rally cars transiting through Great Bentley from one timed stage to another so that the rally cars could be viewed by the public. In an informal show of hands the Parish Council was 5-4 in favour.

The Village Green is Common Land owned by the Parish Council. Under the Commons Law parking and driving on the Green is not permitted, hence there would be very little parking space availability for visitors to see the rally cars transiting the village.

Bradfield Parish Council

Bradfield Councillors have made no comments on this matter.

Great Oakley Parish Council

Management process and event planning;

It became apparent that planning for this event had been on-going for some years before any information leaked out to the areas impacted and nothing those effected said was going to stop it.

The initial route proposed passing through the centre of Stones Green was absolutely unacceptable and, to be fair to the CMC, they did amend the route at the last minute.

Representatives from CMC did attend Parish Council Meetings to explain their plans both before and after the event, which could not have been easy as the reception was overwhelmingly opposed to the event.

Health and safety aspects;

At the time we had significant concerns over the risks to residents, pets, livestock and wildlife. We do not believe these concerns were taken seriously or adequately addressed.

The roads in this area are entirely unsuitable for this type of event. They are too narrow and too close to resident's property to be genuinely safe and the absence of any serious incident must be due as much to luck as judgement.

Communication and public engagement;

Publicity for the event was generally poor. The overall route was only published at the last minute and opportunities to view the event were very

limited.

The opposition of many people across the District were ignored.

Representatives of the CMC were described as being aggressive by several Parishioners when they visited homes along the route.

The supposed "survey" results did not appear to reflect the views expressed at public meetings.

Impact and benefit on residents and TDC;

Local residents were assured that inconvenience would be limited and that access would be available on the day during the periods between stages. This was a blatant lie. Preparation the day before caused inconvenience and on the day the roads were closed from early morning to late afternoon.

No adequate signage around the closed roads diverting local traffic were provided.

Noise was intrusive for most of the day.

Many residents felt they had no alternative but to abandon their homes for the day due to the inconvenience.

There has been a noticeable up-serge in "boy racers" since the event, driving recklessly and too fast on these unsuitable country lanes.

We received several complaints about the standard of marshalling on the day. Some were aggressive, others clearly did not know what was going on.

It was made absolutely clear by those who attended the post event meeting that we do not want this event in our Parish again. If the CMC feel the event is so wonderful, why do they not have it in the country lanes around the villages in which they live and leave us alone.

Advertising and marketing;

The advertising seemed inadequate.

The event was meant to bring huge financial benefits to the District and local Charities. No evidence of this has been seen in those areas actually impacted. Presumably TDC / CMC will be publishing accounts proving the extent of the financial gain and who has actually benefitted.

Perhaps all candidates for next year's Local Government Elections should be compelled to indicate where they stand on any future events in our District before the elections so the residents can show how they feel with their votes?