

# Colchester Adult Learning Continuing Access Group

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Registered Charity No 1095713

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## **CALCAG MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

### **CORRESPONDENCE WITH ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL**

As you will have noticed, the decision on selling Grey Friars and moving the whole operation to Wilson Marriage has still not been finalised. The latest ECC letter, dated 19<sup>th</sup> December (but postmarked 29<sup>th</sup>), still states "No formal decision has been taken on either the closure of Grey Friars or the move to the Wilson Marriage site."

Regarding our correspondence following Mrs Pummell's answers to our AGM questions, Trustees did not find that her answers addressed all the questions. The letter repeated much of what had been said before, so we replied in detail asking for clarification on many of the issues and sent copies to other interested parties. All letters were sent 8<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> November. Here is a summary of responses.

#### **Essex County Council:**

We received a number of acknowledgements and one main reply - from Lord Hanningfield. You will see from our Vice Chairman's response (overleaf) that his letter was not very illuminating. Therefore, as a last-ditch attempt to force an open debate on the issue, she has asked for a meeting between ECC and CALCAG. Other politicians and the press have been informed. We hope ECC will agree, as we believe it would be the first proper consultation between them and representatives of local people.

#### **Local Politicians:**

We received replies from all three political parties. Cllr Lissimore (Con) says she will continue to question ECC about local matters. Cllr Spyvee (LD) says he will do all he can to keep Grey Friars in its present role. Cllr Bourne (Lab) has also been in touch regarding his Colchester Borough Council motion to ECC, confirms that it was formally delivered, but he does not yet have a response to report. We have also received communications from students and tutors following our Open Meeting and the CBC meeting at the Town Hall.

#### **National Organisations** (National Institute for Adult Continuing Education and the Educational Centres Association):

NIACE replied that they sympathise with our situation, feel that we are doing all we can, and are pleased to know what's happening so they can quote examples when meeting Government officials. We have not yet had a response from ECA to date.

### **FUTURE TRUSTEES' MEETINGS**

The Trustees' Committee meets again next week Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January. A major task will be to prepare for our presentation and question booked in the "Public Questions" section of ECC's Area Forum meeting on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January. We will report back to the Membership on both meetings as soon as possible.

In the meantime, please stay in touch if you wish - c/o the post and email addresses above.