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## Popular meals on wheels service to be reintroduced to Mersea

A MEALS on wheels service in Mersea which proved popular during the lockdown last summer is to be reintroduced from next month.

Established in partnership with West Mersea Town Council and Essex Outdoors - which is run by Essex County Council – in April 2020, the meals on wheels service is to be reintroduced from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021.

To ensure that meals were available during the recent holiday period, the service was supported by a local café, *The Blackwater Pearl*, and the community group, *The Mersea Island Lions Club*, which saw 19 volunteers deliver festive dinners to almost 80 people on Christmas Day.

However, as from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February, all the meals provided will be cooked and prepared at Essex Outdoors, as the activity centre's site has the facilities to cater for up to 500 people.

Featuring classic dishes and family favourites, the meals cost £5 - which includes a hot lunch, dessert, and an evening sandwich - and they are then collected and distributed by volunteer delivery drivers.

The meals are available to all of those in need and anyone who is interested in signing-up to the service should contact West Mersea Town Council.

Councillor Simon Walsh, Essex County Councillor Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change Action, said: "We are delighted that Essex Outdoors is to reintroduce the meals on wheels to Mersea. It is not only a vital service, but one which benefits many residents during what is a very difficult time.

"Initiatives like this bring the community together, which is why we are so grateful to the *Mersea Island Lions Club* and *The Blackwater Pearl* café who ensured that the service was available to everyone during the Christmas and New Year period."

Paul Button, Essex Outdoors Operational manager, said: "The reason why this service is so popular is due to the dedication of our volunteers and the support we have received from local community groups and businesses. A lot of comments we receive is that everyone really enjoys the meals and they are all extremely grateful to the chefs and delivery drivers."

**-Ends-**

### Editors notes:

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