

## **Billericay Town Council Community Engagement Strategy**

Billericay Town Council is committed to communicating and engaging with the community in Billericay. The Town Council will achieve this by communicating clearly and encouraging and seeking residents views and using them effectively in our work and the decisions we make.

### **Engagement and Communication**

Listed below are key individuals, groups, and organisations that Town Council wishes to actively engage with:-

- Residents of the parish of Billericay
- Local Groups, Clubs and Societies
- Local Schools
- Voluntary and Support Organisations
- Members and staff of Basildon Borough Council
- Members and staff of Essex County Council
- Neighbouring Town/Parish Councils
- Retail and other Businesses in the Town

The Town Council communicates and engages with the community in the following ways:-

- Notices of meetings and key council communications are posted on our noticeboards and made available on our website.
- The notices remind members of the community of their entitlement to attend meetings and address the Council
- Contact details for the Council and individual Councillors are made available in the quarterly Town Crier newsletter and on the Council's website.
- The Council office is open from 9.30am to 12.30pm Monday to Friday.
- The Council publishes an Annual Report which is distributed to every household in the town
- The Council manages its website which provides details of council services and activities and gives access to a range of documents as well as links to partner sites and information about our Town
- The Town Council also uses Facebook and Twitter as well as the website to draw our communities' attention to important public meetings that affect them, whether or not they are Town Council sponsored, and encourage their participation
- The Council has representatives on external bodies and some Councillors are members of local voluntary organisations in their own right
- The Council has an answerphone service and website available 24/7
- The Council provides grants to groups and organisations where there is perceived direct benefit to our communities

## **Aims and Objectives**

- To communicate information to our community clearly, timely, factually and appropriately
- To improve our communications with key individuals, groups and organisations
- To raise the image and reputation of the Council
- To work closely with residents, businesses and community groups; engage with as many people as possible who want to participate in decision-making
- To ensure that through a range of approaches to public involvement and community engagement, we actively encourage the involvement of residents in Town Council activities
- To enable every Councillor to maximise their role as elected representatives and community leaders by encouraging Councillors to take part in Town Council and Community events
- To ensure Town Council staff understand the council's priorities through having regular staff appraisals and have access to the right resources and are effectively trained to meet the needs of the Town Council and ultimately those of our communities