



New Skateboard Park Designed by the Skateboarders

Most of our well-used skateboard park in Lake Meadows is, after over ten years, beginning to look tired and needing increasing maintenance. We agreed to finance the replacement of our skateboard park (with the exception of the 'half-pipe' which was more recently installed) during the 2010/11 municipal year. Town Council members are not known for their skateboarding skills and our young skateboarders have strong views about what constitutes a challenging course. Therefore, it was decided that our young people should take a prominent role in the skateboard park design and the tendering process. Our Youth Town Councillors assumed responsibility for the project working with the Lake Meadows' skateboarders and supported by Town Councillors and Essex County Council Youth Workers.

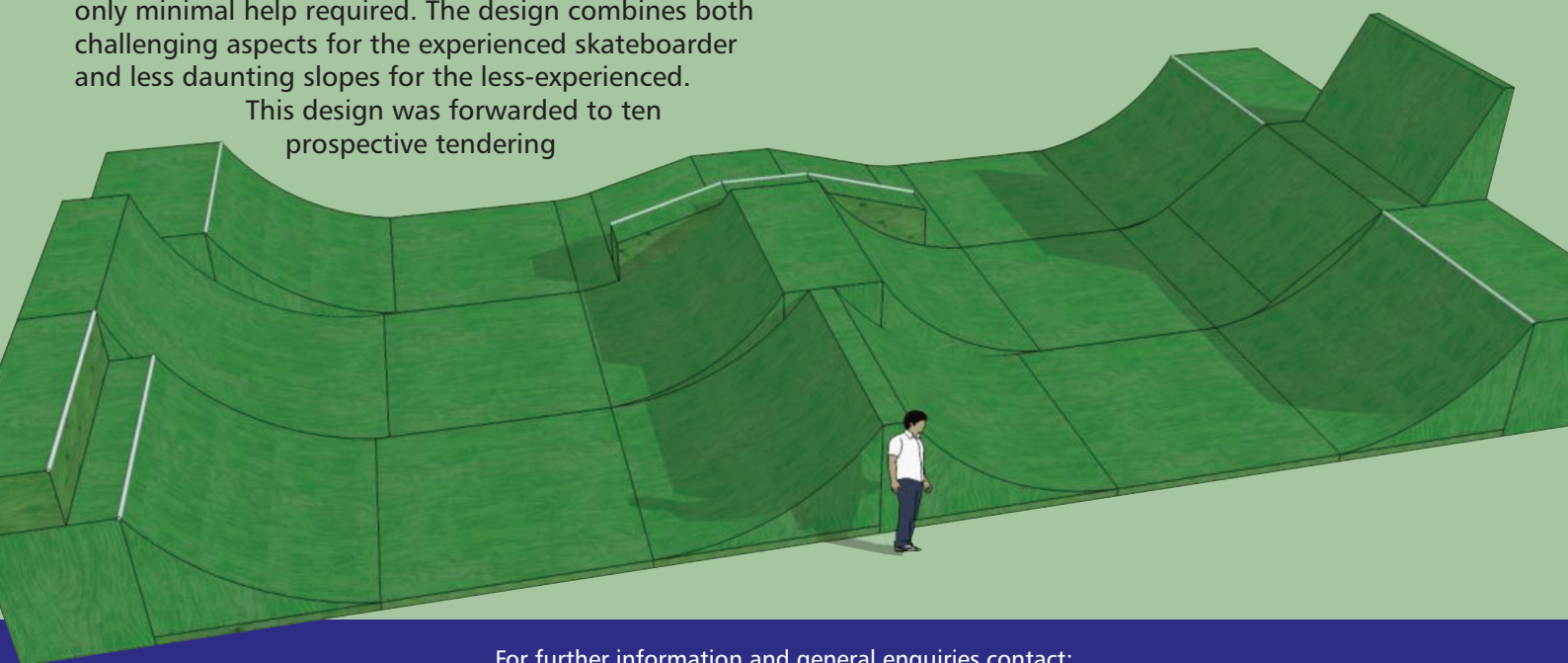
The project has met all time scales with admirable commitment shown by all participants. The skateboarders provided significant design input as to the layout of the new skateboard park consistent with space and financial constraints. Youth Town Councillors have effectively project managed the process with only minimal help required. The design combines both challenging aspects for the experienced skateboarder and less daunting slopes for the less-experienced.

This design was forwarded to ten prospective tendering

companies, of which five returned completed tender documents. These were formally opened on the 28th February and were discussed in detail at a meeting of all concerned on the 8th March. The recommendation was that 3B Ramps of Crawley, West Sussex, should be awarded the contract. This recommendation was ratified by Billericay Town Council and the order placed. Basildon Borough Council welcomes the update of the skateboard park.

Work will commence during the Spring and it is hoped that our new skateboard park will be available for use in the early Summer and again complement the other teen facilities in Lake Meadows. An official opening of the new skateboard park is planned and details of this will be announced later in the year. As Chairman of the Environment Committee, I would like to commend and thank our young people for the admirable and responsible way the project has been conducted. It just shows that involving the young can provide huge success.

David Knight – Chairman, Environment Committee.



For further information and general enquiries contact:

Town Clerk • Billericay Town Council • The Loft • Crown Yard • High Street • Billericay CM12 9BX

T: 01277 625732 • **F:** 01277 634784 • **E:** townclerk@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk • **W:** www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk
Official Office Opening times 9.30am - 2.30pm Mon-Fri. Outside these hours please ring as there may well be office staff present.
Details of Town Councillors can be obtained from the Town Council website or Offices.

BILLERICAY IN BLOOM

Competition

ENTRY DETAILS

Name: _____

Address: _____

PostCode: _____ Telephone: _____

Email: _____

This information will be treated as confidential and used only for the administration of this competition.

Please Note – only entries within the Billericay Town Council boundaries can be accepted.

CATEGORIES A-D BEST KEPT GARDENS – Judges will consider all aspects of the garden including the standard and range of plants, general maintenance and design.

CATEGORY E – Please indicate the location of your hanging basket, e.g. front or back of house, porch etc

If located in the back garden, do you give permission for the judges to enter your premises via side gate etc if you are not there: _____

You will be supplied with a label which must be visibly displayed to clearly identify your entered hanging basket.

CATEGORIES A to F INCLUSIVE AND CATEGORIES J and K

No professional help is allowed for these categories.

CATEGORY J – GARDEN IN A CONTAINER – Primary School Children only. Container (seed tray) maximum size 37cm (15") x 24cm (10"). Work to be that of the individual child. Containers to be labelled with child's name and class. All entries must be taken on Monday 4 July either into School or the Town Council Offices where they will be judged.

Name of School attended: _____

BILLERICAY IN BLOOM

As part of this year's Billericay in Bloom competition there is to be a talk by Andrea Hatfield, who has previously exhibited at Chelsea and Hampton Court, on the **Planting of Hanging Baskets** on Wednesday 18th May at the Reading Rooms, High Street, Billericay commencing at 7.30 pm. Entrance is free and refreshments will be available. Planted Baskets will be available for purchase at a cost of £16 but pre-ordering via the Town Council offices is requested.

I WISH TO ENTER THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES

A – Best Kept Small Front Garden (1000sq.ft or less)

B – Best Kept Large Front Garden (more than 1000sq.ft)

C – Best Kept Small Back Garden (1500sq.ft or less)

D – Best Kept Large Back Garden (more than 1500sq.ft)
(all garden sizes include paths and drives)

E – Best Hanging Basket

F – Best Sheltered Accommodation Garden

G – Best School Garden

Nurseries / Playschools / Infants / Primary Schools

H – Best Commercial Premises

I – Best Public House

J – Best Garden in a Container – Royal Wedding theme
(Primary Schools only)

K – Best Vegetable Plot (minimum 10ft x 6ft)
(must be within confines of property)

L – Best Topiary Design

M – Best Water Garden

CATEGORY K – BEST VEGETABLE PLOT – Judges will be looking for the best use of the area and variety of vegetables grown. Pots and grow bags are acceptable.

CATEGORY M – BEST WATER GARDEN – Judges will consider only the water feature area and will consider all aspects of the area including the standard and range of plants, general maintenance and design. Water gardens will require pond and water feature or fountain.

Please note that all gardens, front and back, vegetable gardens and hanging baskets will, where possible, be judged on SUNDAY 3 JULY. Access must be available to rear gardens otherwise they will not be judged.

Closing Date: Monday 27th June 2011.

Judging: Sunday 3 July and Monday 4 July.

Prizegiving: Friday 22 July at Canon Roche Social Centre, Laindon Road.

Please Return This Form To: Billericay in Bloom, Town Council, The Loft, Crown Yard, High Street, Billericay CM12 9BX.

Enquiries To: TOWN CLERK 01277 625732.

Email: townclerk@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk

ALL CHANGE FOR THE HANGING BASKETS

The familiar hanging baskets provided by Billericay Town Council in the High Street will have a new look this year.

Things looked bad a few months ago when we were informed that we could not have hanging baskets on the lamp standards because they were shortening the life of these columns. The problem was that the baskets, which can be quite heavy, were pulling sideways on the columns and might be causing damage. This was not a prospect we wanted to envisage as the High Street without floral displays would be a less attractive place.

However a new design came to the rescue and the baskets will be in place as normal, albeit with a slightly different look. To avoid the problems with the sideways pull of a basket on a bracket, a new design puts a planter trough all the way around the lamp column so that there is no lateral force on the lamppost. This design has the advantage that it looks the same whichever direction that it is viewed from and so we hope you will notice the flowers just a little bit more.



TOWN WALKS 2011

Following the popularity of these Heritage Walks in past years, seven are being planned for this summer and will take place on the following dates:



Saturday 18th June
Sunday 3rd July
Saturday 16th July
Sunday 31st July
Saturday 13th August
Sunday 28th August
Saturday 10th September

The Walks will commence at 2.00pm at the Railway

Station and no pre-booking is required.

The gentle Walks last about 2 hours and encompass the Union Workhouse, the Festival Gardens and the buildings along the High Street, ending at the Cater Museum.

BYTC

Billericay Youth Town Council

Holocaust Memorial Day Youth Event

The Vice-Chairman of the Youth Town Council, Sophie Harrison, recently had the privilege of being selected by the British Youth Town Council to be part of the steering group to organise a Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) National Youth Event on 23rd January, 2011 in York. This was a great achievement as only five youngsters were chosen from throughout the Country to serve upon the steering group for this event. Other members of the Youth Council were very interested in attending as well so ten Youth Town Councillors accompanied by Town Councillors David Knight and John Buchanan, set off from Billericay at 5.45am on their journey to York. They all had a very successful day learning about the holocaust and subsequent genocides and taking part in workshops.



YOUR COMMUNITY YOU DECIDE

To promote the setting up of new parish councils across the east of England a resource package has been produced incorporating a DVD and a comprehensive range of informative publications. Billericay was chosen to feature in the DVD to represent effective Youth Councils, and our own Sophie Harrison is the star. The video is available on YouTube - search for "Your Community You Decide" or link to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6kPSfsDHnuQ>



Repairs to School Roof, Fass, Gambia

Funds raised at the 'Billericay's Got Talent' event held in 2010 have been used to put a new roof on the school in Fass, Gambia and Cllr David Knight took these pictures when he recently visited the school.



Young People of the Year Award 'YOPEY'

Two members of the Billericay Youth Town Council have been nominated for the Essex Police Young People of the Year Award - 'YOPEY'



Tayler Cronly-Dillon aged 16 suffers with brittle bones and has undergone 23 operations however, this does not deter her from being an active member of the community and Youth Town Council. Tayler is always full of enthusiasm, determination and is always smiling. She is passionate about making life better for young people.

Sophie Harrison aged 17 has served for four years on Billericay Youth Town Council,



two of them as chairperson. However she also volunteers at Hanningfield Reservoir Centre where she helps serve customers, answer questions and leads outdoor visits for youth groups. Sophie also supports the Holocaust Memorial Trust and was one of the main organisers of the Holocaust Memorial Day National Youth Event held during January.

This is the fourth year YOPEYs contest has taken place in Essex and the aim is to give the younger generation a fairer image and encourage more young people to give to the community. The contest looks for young people who are positive role models and 'give to others'.

Tayler and Sophie will know if they have been selected as finalists during the Summer.



communitynews



Jack Petchey Presentation Awards

Cllr Peter Bowditch, Chairman of the Town Council attended the Jack Petchey Presentation Awards evening at the Town Gate Theatre, Basildon on 27th January when members of the Billericay Girl Guide Division received their Awards.



Is your street organising a Big Lunch this year on 5th June? A chance to get together and meet your neighbours either as a street party with entertainment or a simple lunch. This event began life as part of the Eden project and is now nationwide. It is also part of National Family Week which runs from 30 May to 5th June (www.nationalfamilyweek.co.uk)

To find out more about the Big Lunch go to www.thebiglunch.com where you can register an interest and get your free starter bag. And if you do take part don't forget to tell us about it and send us some photos

ARTHRITIS CARE - BILLERICAY BRANCH

Caring person required for voluntary secretarial role. Small, friendly group. Monthly meetings, further details Telephone 01277 657658.



CATER MUSEUM

Glass Butter Churn

Millions of glass butter churns were produced from the 1800s to the 1960s. People continued to churn butter in the home right up to modern times, though the churns from the 1950s and 1960s were often fitted with an electric motor!

When you milked the cow or bought milk from the dairy, you first left it to stand in a cool place. The cream rose to the top and it was the cream which was skimmed off to make butter.

It was often the job of younger children to turn the crank handle, moving the paddles to agitate the cream. The first stage would be whipped cream. Then the cream would grow more yellow in colour and thicken until butter was formed.

The butter was removed from the churn and paddles were used to squeeze out all the remaining buttermilk. This whitish liquid was never wasted, but could be used as a drink or in baking. Butter could be kept longer than milk, and longer still if salt was added.

SPRING GARDEN OPEN DAY

Saturday 14th May (12 – 5pm). Children are invited to fill pot plants to take home, with experts from Hyde Hall Gardens available to answer gardening questions. Characters in period dress will demonstrate herbal lotions and potions.

BUS PASS

Important change to the concessionary bus pass scheme – Essex County Council now administers the English Bus Pass scheme for residents of Essex.

- The look of new bus passes will change but your current pass is valid until its expiry date
- The use of your personal information has not changed – just who is responsible for the scheme
- Basildon Borough Council will still process your application and answer your questions

For further information contact 0845 6037631 or email: publictransport@essex.gov.uk

GENEROUS RESPONSE TO KIDS OUT APPEAL

The Rotary Club of Billericay raised £251.47 from a tin shake held in Billericay High Street on February 19 in aid of Rotary's national Kids Out project. The money raised, along with the amount of £432 kindly donated by the Waitrose charity scheme, making a grand total of £683.47, will enable the Club to give disadvantaged children an annual day out, taking place this year on June 8.

The Club wishes to thank all those who contributed so generously in appalling weather conditions.

ROYAL WEDDING

If you are having a street party or other community event on 29th April send us some photographs and tell us all about it.



PATIENTS PARTICIPATION GROUP

Billericay Health Centre invite you to join them for afternoon tea on 12th May from 3 to 5pm at the Health Centre.

The Group are hoping to raise funds for Dr. Fernie who is taking a party of teenagers to Nepal in July to help refurbish an orphanage. For £1 you can have a pleasant afternoon, talk to Dr. Fernie and help the young Hindus in Nepal. Contact the Health Centre if you wish to come to this event which is Open to All.

The money raised will be used for the refurbishment work – not to help with the group's travel expenses.

DO YOU HAVE PHOTOS TAKEN IN BILLERICAY?

The Billericay Community Archive are looking for your photographs taken in Billericay at an event or featuring scenes or buildings in the Town.

They might be of people at an event in Lake Meadows or a church or school event. We have a website www.billericayhistory.org.uk which is putting together the history of the town not recorded elsewhere; we are aiming this at a more social level.

This web-based archive is available to people interested in Billericay from all over the world.

Do you have relatives abroad who can help?

If you have photos and can fill in the details around the photo, we would love to hear from you. Contact us at editor@billericayhistory.org.uk and we will arrange to scan your photos and write a story for inclusion in the website.

Come on-dig out those photos, everything is useful from very recent to the mists of time.



Victorious Town return to New Lodge after winning the FA vase in 1976 – they won this trophy three times.

CONGRATULATIONS to The Mayflower School team who won the Basildon District Young Persons Parliament Project – The Zeus Party, a team of five sixth form pupils put forward a manifesto whereby schools could apply for funding to help organise charity events.

CONGRATULATIONS to Billericay School Year 10 students who wrote, recorded, edited and presented two podcasts which have now been uploaded online – The 'Crunch cast' podcasts were named by the young people involved and can be listened to at: <http://crunchcast.podbean.com/2010/11/22/crunchcast-episode-1/>

NHS SOUTH WEST ESSEX CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

The NHS South West Essex have launched a consultation document about their intermediate care bed review.

The proposals retain community services at all three of the community hospitals (Mayflower, Brentwood and Thurrock) but do mean a change in the number of beds. The review also provides an opportunity to consider bringing a broader range of community services to the community hospital sites in the future.

The consultation document is available to view on: www.swessex.nhs.uk/get-involved/consultations/intermediate-care-bed-review
The closing date for the consultation period is 12 noon on Friday 13 May, 2011.



AN EVENING WITH ST. GEORGE AND FRIENDS 23rd April 2011

Mayflower Morris Men are holding an evening of English song, dance, poetry, prose, music, and drama on St. George's Day (Saturday 23rd April) from 8-10.30 p.m. at St. Mary Magdalen in Billericay High Street. The intention is to celebrate England and Englishness. Tickets are £7 (includes light refreshments) and are available

from Chris Saunders on 01277 840473 or e-mail saunderscr@aol.com or see www.mayflowermorris.com for details.

A MUMMERS' PLAY: ST. GEORGE AND THE DRAGON Sat. 23rd April

Mayflower Morris Men will perform their Mummers' play twice at 11 and 11.45 a.m. on Saturday 23rd April on the corner of Billericay High St. and St. Edith's Lane. Totally free. For all ages. Remember to boo the Dragon! See www.mayflowermorris.com for further details.

IT'S COMING BILLERICAY SUMMERFEST SUNDAY 17TH JULY 2011

Hard on the heels of the spectacular Christmas Market last December, The Rotary Club of Billericay Mayflower are busy planning for The Billericay Summerfest which will be held at Sun Corner on Sunday 17th July 2011. This is an all day event with: the MG Car Club displaying over 200 classic and vintage vehicles at what is billed as the 'Queen Victoria Car Show', a stage with live local bands, alternating with presentations in a central arena by amongst others; The Army Cadets, who will undertake a number of Field Drills and a Field Craft Display, the renowned Mayflower Performing Arts, with a very colourful show including flags, sabres and rifles being spun to a choreographed dance routine and an exhibition of football skills by local soccer school Pass who have connections with a number of London's professional clubs. All this together with the usual kiddie rides, a selection of craft and farmers' market stalls and exhibits by local charities, clubs and societies in the town.

Entry to the Billericay Summerfest is free and this year will feature; beer and Pimms tents, an ever popular hog roast and a selection of other refreshments and food for all tastes. Further details about this event can be obtained from ifor@mua.co.uk or 01992 709413 or David Randall at djr66@aol.com

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT – FRUITS OF THE NILE

On Saturday 5th March in St Mary Magdalen Church Cllr Peter Bowditch, chairman of Billericay Town Council and John Buchanan, chairman of Billericay District Residents' Association welcomed John Kabyetsiza to Billericay. John is the finance director of Fruits of the Nile in Uganda, a Fairtrade company that sells sun-dried fruit to the UK under the brand name "Tropical Wholefruits". He gave an interesting presentation about Fruits of the Nile and answered lots of questions afterwards.

Fruits of the Nile came up with the idea of solar drying the fruit as a way for farmers to preserve their fruits and have value added. All that is needed is solar energy and fruit both of which are available in abundance. Simple solar dryers, constructed from a wooden frame covered with plastic, let the light in, keep insects out and use natural convection. This process has minimal environmental impact using renewable solar energy, retaining waste at the point where the fruit is grown and minimising transport costs by transporting fruit only when it has been dried.

Fruits of the Nile buy all the sun dried products at guaranteed Fairtrade prices. Now there is no wastage as there is always a market for the dried fruit.



STEPPING FORWARD – BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

Stepping Forward is a social group aimed to give support to families in the community who have suffered a bereavement, and who feel they would like to start taking up their life again and join in social events.

We have a monthly meeting on the first Saturday of every month between 10.00 am and 12 mid-day at the Meeting Hall, behind the Chequers Pub, High Street, Billericay; there is a small charge of £1.50.

The group is open to men and women of all ages, and gives the opportunity to talk to like-minded people who have also experienced a bereavement.

Some of the events arranged are fundraising for St Luke's Hospice as many of our members have lost a loved one at the hospice or they have had some connection there.

For further details about the group, please contact Linda either by email or phone: Tel: 01268 490045/07899 818115; email: lyn-currie@hotmail.co.uk.

ORCHID[®] CYCLE ESSEX ORCHID CYCLE – SUNDAY 12TH JUNE 2011

Sponsored cycle rides from Billericay through the Essex countryside in aid of fighting male cancers.

Choose from 20, 40, 75 or 100 mile signed routes.

Further details can be obtained from www.orchid-cancer.org.uk or email: events@orchid-cancer.org.uk or ring 020 3465 7293.



TOWN GUIDE

The Billericay Town Council are now commencing work on the next edition of the Town Guide and would like to invite all Billericay Clubs, Organisations and Groups to contribute material for inclusion. The new Guide will be distributed to all residential properties within the town.

If you are able to contribute could you please forward your contact details to:

Town Clerk, Billericay Town Council, The Loft, Crown Yard, Billericay, CM12 9BX: Telephone 01277 625732 or email: townclerk@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk

LOCAL ELECTIONS – 5TH MAY

Along with the Local Elections on 5th May there is to be a Referendum on the voting system for United Kingdom Parliamentary Elections.

A referendum will be held to decide on the following question:

At present, the UK uses the 'first past the post' system to elect MPs to the House of Commons. Should the 'alternative vote' system be used instead?



COUNCILLORS WHO SHOULD BE CONTACTED FOR THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Finance & General Purposes | – Cllr Jim Devlin |
| Planning Committee | – Cllr John Buchanan |
| Environment Committee | – Cllr David Knight |
| Town Crier Newsletter | – Cllr Marion Wilson |
| Recreation Working Party | – Cllr Peter Bowditch, <i>Chairman of the Council</i> |
| Litter Working Party | – Cllr Moira Moore |
| Christmas Lights Working Party | – Cllr Tina Arnold |
| Sun Corner Working Party | – Cllr John Buchanan |
| Pedestrian Cycle Routes | – Cllr John Buchanan |
| Billericay in Bloom | – Cllr Jim Shrubbs |
| Bus Passenger Representative | – Cllr John Buchanan |

Contact details for these Councillors are listed under Town Councillors

TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

MAY 2011

| | |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| Tuesday 3 | Environment |
| Tuesday 10 | Planning |
| Thursday 12 | Finance & General Purposes |
| Tuesday 17 | ANNUAL TOWN MEETING |
| Tuesday 24 | Planning |
| Thursday 26 | ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING |

JUNE 2011

| | |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| Tuesday 7 | Planning |
| Tuesday 14 | Environment |
| Tuesday 21 | Planning |
| Thursday 30 | Finance & General Purposes |

JULY 2011

| | |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| Tuesday 5 | Planning |
| Thursday 7 | TOWN COUNCIL |
| Tuesday 19 | Planning |
| Tuesday 26 | Environment |
| Thursday 28 | Finance & General Purposes |

All meetings start at 7.00 p.m. and are held in The Coach House, Crown Yard, High Street and are open to the public.

ESSEX POLICE

24 hour non-emergency number 0300 333 4444

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – TUESDAY 17 MAY

This is a meeting specifically for residents of Billericay to attend and ask questions.

A guest speaker from the Essex 2012 Legacy will be in attendance to talk about the London 2012 Olympics and the opportunities for Essex. Further details of the meeting will be available on the website and in the press nearer the date.

BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCILLORS

| Name | Address | Phone No. | E-Mail | Ward |
|-------------------|---------|-----------|--------|------|
| Tina Arnold | | | | E |
| Peter Bowditch | | | | W |
| John Buchanan | | | | E |
| Ian Davie | | | | W |
| Jim Devlin | | | | W |
| Colin Dyer | | | | W |
| Terence Gandy | | | | W |
| Edgar Guest | | | | SW |
| David Knight | | | | E |
| Susan McCaffery | | | | SW |
| Kevin Mesnard | | | | W |
| Moira Moore | | | | E |
| Rod Rapley | | | | W |
| James Shrubbs | | | | E |
| Daphne Spencer | | | | E |
| Trevor Stansfield | | | | W |
| Dr.Hameed Ud-Din | | | | SW |
| Pamela Went | | | | W |
| Marion Wilson | | | | E |

CHAIRMAN: Cllr Peter Bowditch

TOWN CLERK: Helen Philpott
Billericay Town Council
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