



Billericay Town Crier

February 2018

www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL SIGNS SPECIAL CONSTABLES AGREEMENT



Chief Inspector Sam Smith, Cllr Jim Devlin, Chairman of the Town Council and Superintendent Simon Anslow

The Town Council will fund the shift allowance paid to the two Specials which will amount to around £1000 for each Constable. In return the Town will get Special Constables who are based in Billericay and, apart from exceptional circumstances of major incidents elsewhere, will be patrolling only in Billericay. The nature of modern policing is very mobile and officers are drawn to areas of higher crime, therefore, this initiative redresses the balance by ensuring we have more local policing, which residents tell us is important. The Town Council recognizes that policing has changed and wants to bring back some of what has been lost now that regular beat bobbies are a thing of the past.

Special Constables are fully trained police officers and have all the powers of the regular force unlike Community Support Officers. These specials will concentrate on the sort of low level crime that causes concern amongst local residents and will be able to draw on their more intimate knowledge of the area. The only difference is that Specials give their time on a voluntary basis to support their communities. It will be a while before we see the Specials actually patrolling the streets of Billericay as there is a training programme and probationary period to be completed after recruitment.

Essex Police is now in the process of recruiting suitable candidates for this important new role. There is no upper age limit for Special Constables and we need people with a strong local interest and desire to give something back to the community. All you need is the ability to give 10 hours per month or more of your time and to be able to meet the fitness standards required. Why not find out more by attending our Annual Town Meeting (for details see our back page) or visit: www.essex.police.uk/join-the-police/special-constabulary

During the Autumn of last year the Town Council started negotiations with Essex Police to provide two Special Constables for Billericay. The idea was for the Council to fund the expenses of two Specials who would be committed to spending their time within the Town concentrating on issues of concern to local residents and providing a visible police presence.

At the Town Council meeting on 14th December 2016 the agreement between Billericay Town Council and Essex Police was approved with Chief Inspector Sam Smith and Superintendent Simon Anslow in attendance. The agreement was signed by Superintendent Simon

Anslow and Cllr Jim Devlin, Chairman of the Town Council. Billericay thus became the first Council in Essex to sign up to this scheme. Council Chairman Jim Devlin said, "I am delighted that Billericay is the first Council in Essex to take up the chance to have Community Special Constables, I foresee these as being the first of many across the County. This scheme is not a replacement for regular policing but is a case of Billericay residents seeing a direct benefit as extra policing from the precept (local taxation) they pay rather than contributing to the County budget and the money being spent on law enforcement elsewhere."



CIVIC SERVICE

ON SUNDAY 4th March, Billericay Town Council will hold its fifth Annual Civic Service at Billericay Baptist Church in Perry Street starting at 3pm. The service is organised by Churches Together in Billericay (CTB) and is an opportunity for all members of the wider community and representatives of many local groups to come together and celebrate our town. All residents are very welcome to attend.

COMMONWEALTH DAY



BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL will celebrate Commonwealth Day on Monday 12th March by raising the Commonwealth flag at Sun Corner. Councillors attend the flag raising and the Chairman, Cllr. Jim Devlin, reads out the Commonwealth Proclamation prior to raising the flag.



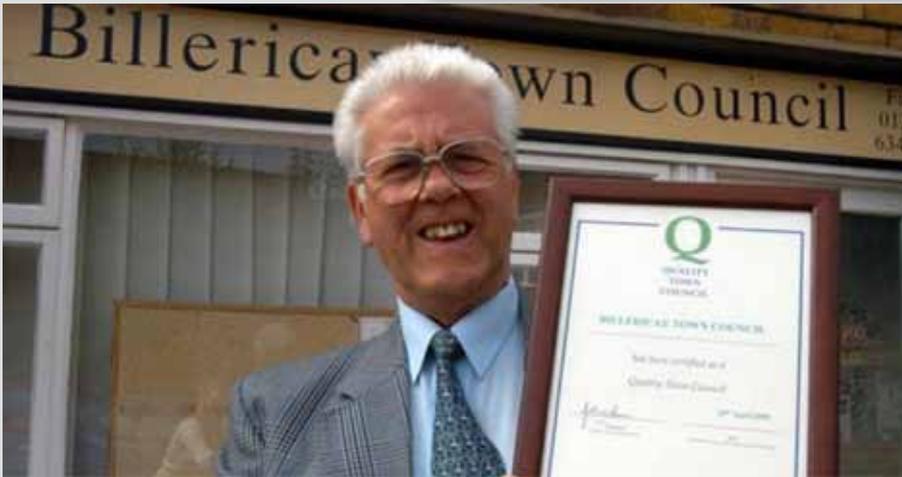
For further information and general enquiries contact: Town Clerk
Billericay Town Council • The Loft • Crown Yard • High Street • Billericay CM12 9BX
T: 01277 625732 • E: townclerk@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk • W: www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk

Official Office Opening times 9.30am - 12.30pm Mon-Fri. Outside these hours please ring as there may well be office staff present.

@BillericayTC BillericayTownCouncil

Details of Town Councillors can be obtained from the Town Council website or Offices.

IN MEMORIAM



TREVOR STANSFIELD

12TH NOVEMBER 1931 – 5TH JANUARY 2018

FORMER BILLERICAY TOWN Council Chairman Trevor Stansfield died on 5th January aged 86. He was one of the original Councillors when Billericay Town Council was first formed in May 1997. He became its second Chairman in May 1999 having been Vice Chairman during the previous year and Chairman of the Planning

Committee in the first year of the Council 1997-8. Trevor was Chairman of the Council until he stood down in May 2006 and he steered the Council during its formative years. Age eventually caught up with him and he retired from the Council in May 2016. He was the last of the original Councillors.

Trevor was part of the steering committee that worked on getting a Council at the Parish level for the Town in the years leading up to its formation. I recall attending meetings at Trevor's house for discussions relating to a Council for the Town.

After Trevor stood down as Chairman he still was an active member of the team and could be relied on as an "Elder Statesman" providing valuable advice.

Although being Chairman of the Town Council can involve a lot of time, Trevor still managed to participate in many other activities throughout Billericay. He was a past Governor of Mayflower School, past Chairman of Billericay Residents' Association and past Chairman of the Billericay Twinning Association. He also found time to be a member of the Rotary Club of Billericay and Editor of The Resident, the newsletter of the Residents' Association.

Trevor did not grow up in Billericay. He moved to the town with his late wife Margaret 50 years ago, but he loved the Town and became committed to the local community for which he worked tirelessly. He will be sadly missed by many in Billericay. – *Cllr Jim Devlin*



MIK DUNN 31ST MARCH 1932 – 15TH DECEMBER 2017

JACK MICHAEL DUNN, better known to everyone as Mik, died on 15th December aged 85. Mik served on Billericay Town Council for four and a half years from December 2005 until May 2010.

Mik was a valuable member of the Planning Committee and was also a former Vice Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee. He served on a number of Working Parties and Project Groups, most notable of which was the Project Team that set up the community wide group which produced the Billericay Design Statement which has subsequently been incorporated in Basildon Borough Council's Planning Guidance.

Mik stood down from the Council in May 2010 because of deteriorating health but that did not stop him from taking part in one of our events that was close to his heart, the annual Litter Pick. Mik took part for the last time two years ago and he will be sadly missed this year.

Jim Devlin, Chairman of the Town Council, said, "I considered Mik a friend and a valued colleague on the Council and I will miss him personally."



Mik as a young man in uniform

TOWN COUNCIL PRECEPT TO RISE BY 5.2 PENCE PER WEEK

FOR THE FIRST time in 8 years we will be raising the precept, the money residents pay to support the Billericay Town Council's activities. There are two elements to the rise. The majority will be used to help fund the development of the new Chantry Way Centre, whilst another element has unfortunately been forced upon us.

The Town Council agreed to raise the precept by an additional £1.98 per year (for a Band D property) as we progress the next stage of the Chantry Way redevelopment which will provide the town with a modern community hub available for local groups and charities.

A further rise of 3.64% (equivalent to 72 pence per year for a Band D

property) is required to cover the shortfall in funding from Basildon Borough Council who have decided to withhold the Local Council Tax Support grant from the Town Council and other parish and village councils in the Borough this year.

The total cost for a Band D property in 2018/19 will therefore be £22.50 per year – a rise of £2.70, equivalent to just over 5 pence per week.

Billericay has historically had one of the lowest precepts, less than a third of the average of £61.03 in England. Despite this rise we expect to remain in the lowest 20% of local authorities.



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON EVENT

ON NOVEMBER 19th Billericay's annual Christmas Lights Switch On event took place starting the countdown to Christmas. The Salvation Army played carols outside the Chequers Pub followed by the Harmony Brass Band who played Christmas songs on the trailer stage after which the Chairman of the Council Jim Devlin formally welcomed everyone. As in previous years the entertainment was drawn from local talent, including three school choirs, Woodlands, St Peter's and Mayflower. We were also entertained by Dance Steps Academy and the acts were linked by the music of Harmony Brass Band.

We were joined at the Switch On by the Town Crier, Father Christmas, the Citizen of the Year Carl Roberts and the Young Citizen of the Year April Simmonds and her brother Fraser who has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. After the countdown April and Fraser switched on the lights.

Afterwards children were able to come and meet Father Christmas, receive some sweets and parents were able to take photos. There was a lovely community feeling in the High Street and a great time was had by all.



BEST DRESSED WINDOW

EACH YEAR THE Billericay Youth Town Councillors together with two Town Councillors select premises in the High Street which they consider to be worth special mention for their Christmas decorations. The winner receives a cheque for £100 to be donated to a local charity of their choice. This year's winner was The Chequers public house and they decided to donate the money to the Neo Natal Intensive Care Unit at Basildon Hospital.

BASILDON WITHDRAWS FUNDING FOR HIGH STREET REFURBISHMENT

A £320,000 PROJECT to refurbish the High Street was cancelled by Basildon Borough Council late last year. This project was intended to improve and smarten the character of our Conservation Area and would have seen the replacement of lamp posts with those of a "heritage style", new litter bins and planters, benches and the refurbishment of railings.

At a very late stage Basildon decided to cancel the project and move the funding elsewhere. Had it been clearly shown that this was to fund another project which was of more benefit to the Borough as a whole the Town Council could have understood. However, the justification was based solely on one Basildon councillor stating "because Wickford needs it more." Since the other project had yet to be fully defined, costed or justified it is difficult to see how the Committee could reasonably reach this conclusion.

Billericay Town Council wrote a strongly worded letter of complaint to the Chief Executive in Basildon. Sadly the response was disappointing. Whilst it stated that the Basildon Committee had followed the relevant procedures we believe it failed to address the issue of how funding could be reallocated to a project whose benefits had yet to be identified.



CLLrs Frank Tomlin and Gareth Talbot

TOWN COUNCIL WELCOMES TWO CO-OPTED COUNCILLORS

CLLRS GARETH TALBOT and FRANK TOMLIN were welcomed onto the Town Council on Thursday 25 January. Gareth and Frank have both lived in the town for nearly forty years. They are retired from automotive companies and are happy to bring their skills and experience to the Council.

LAMP COLUMN FAULTS DIMMED CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

THE TOWN COUNCIL closely monitored the lamp column electrical issues in the High Street. These electrical faults resulted in the failure of the Christmas lights attached to those lamp columns. The Town Council acted promptly to try and resolve the problems and is now in correspondence with Essex County Council regarding the issue.



Youth
Town
Council

TONIGHT WE ARE YOUNG TALENT SHOWCASE



THE YOUTH TOWN Council has had a very busy year, being involved with the Soapbox Derby, laying a wreath on Remembrance Sunday and also carrying the Town Council flag in the Parade. They also assisted with the Christmas Lights Switch On and helped out at the Christmas Market.

On 25th October a group of Youth Town Councillors, together with Cllrs. Clark, Dansey and Spence, attended a Citizenship Ceremony at County Hall Chelmsford. We were extremely lucky to be joined by the Lord Lieutenant of Essex and the Chairman of Essex County Council, who not only gave us a tour of the Council Chamber, but also explained the ceremony and joined us for lunch giving the Youth Councillors a chance to ask lots of questions. The Citizenship Ceremony was an extremely interesting process and it was obvious that it was very special for the new citizens.

BILLERICAY YOUTH TOWN Council put on a truly wonderful evening of entertainment at the Chantry Way Centre on Friday, January 26th, which showcased some of the amazing young amateur talent which we have here in Billericay. The performers were aged between 3 and 18 years old and their talents ranged from singing and dancing to magic and musicianship.

The acts were supported very professionally by Tom Mitchelmore who provided the sound and lighting for the evening, and Youth Town Councillor Joe Short acted as compere (watch out Ant and Dec). We were extremely grateful to the following for their support in generously donating the raffle prizes – Tan & Glo Mobile Tanning, Spa Cottage, Stock Florist, BTFC, Greenwoods Hotel & Spa and Reids Billericay,

The evening was also attended by April Simmonds who is Billericay's Young Citizen of the Year together with her brother Fraser who has Duchennes Muscular Dystrophy. Over £200 was raised for the Fraser and Friends charity from the raffle and donations for refreshments. Residents expressed admiration on social media for show casing local talent in aid of charity and hoped for similar events in the future.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, held on November 12th, was a very cold but bright day. Over the past few years support for Remembrance Sunday has been growing and this day was no different. Even the cold didn't deter people from turning out to line the High Street. The parade was impressive as usual. The service was led by Rev. Paul Carr. Wreaths were laid by clubs, groups and societies from all over Billericay.



THE DEMISE OF "MR STUMPY"

IN OCTOBER the lime trees by St Mary's were pollarded by the Church due to roots causing damage to the War Memorial. One tree was found by experts to be very diseased; the level of decay and brittleness meant there was no alternative other than for it to be felled urgently. Whilst the town was saddened by its loss, both as a feature around the Church and War Memorial, and because it has played such a great part in the town's Christmas Lights, it also brought out a lovely level of positive humour from Billericay residents on social media who rapidly dubbed the tree "Mr Stumpy". A beautiful eulogy was written by the Revd. Paul Carr, photos were taken and even a painted "I Love Stumpy" mug produced. Fare thee well, Mr Stumpy.



communitynews

MAYFLOWER MORRIS MEN EVERY THURSDAY 8 PM

BILLERICAY'S MORRIS DANCERS practise every Thursday and are now teaching beginners in St Mary Magdalen Church, Billericay High Street. Free. No age limit. Our town has had a Morris side since 1575 – come along and be a part of a great English tradition. Contact: Julian Whybra 01277 654228 www.mayflowermorris.com

ABBAYFIELD BILLERICAY SOCIETY LIMITED

PROVIDING ASSISTED LIVING for up to 10 elderly residents, situated opposite Billericay Fire Station, we help to combat loneliness and isolation by offering a community environment. Residents enjoy independence and privacy combined with support, companionship and home cooked meals. Call us on 01277 626390 for more details or further information.



AT THE SOUTHERN end of the High Street this building stood where Audit House now stands. The grocers shop was originally owned by the Moore family who were here from the early 1800's until selling up in 1948. The building was built in the 18th Century and the double

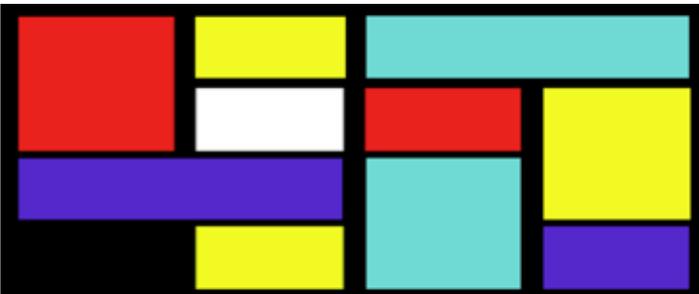
MOORE'S GROCERS

fronted shop front was installed sometime around 1900. To the left can be seen the corner of the Police Station which was built in 1938.

This building was replaced by a modern building which retains the 'eyebrows' above the windows. The architect purposely retained this feature. Look up when you are passing by.

To see more of Billericay's past visit the Billericay Community Archive at www.billericayhistory.org.uk

OLD BILLERICAY



CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

THIS SEPTEMBER BE part of Billericay's highly successful Art Trail! We are looking for artists – beginners, hobbyists or professionals, to take part in this year's Trail. We want to share your fantastic art with the whole community, displaying it in local shops, businesses and other venues around our High Street.

Are you a business looking to host an artist or help in any way? Please do get in contact!

In 2017 many people took part – exhibiting their work, walking the Art Trail and enjoying the wide range of free activities. Businesses saw increased footfall with over 1,300 people visiting St Mary Magdalen Church to view the art and watch our "Portrait Artist of the Year" Competition which will return this year.

Applications are now open (closing date May 1st). To apply, go to BillericayArtTrail.org, or get an application form from The Fold, Billericay Library or Picturesque (85 High Street). For queries, please email jo@BillericayArtTrail.org.

We have linked with the Mill Meadows project who are asking artists to submit paintings and drawings to be included in an exhibition and could feature in their History of Mill Meadows publication. For details visit: millmeadows.org.uk

BILLERICAY OPERATIC SOCIETY PRESENTS "The Producers"

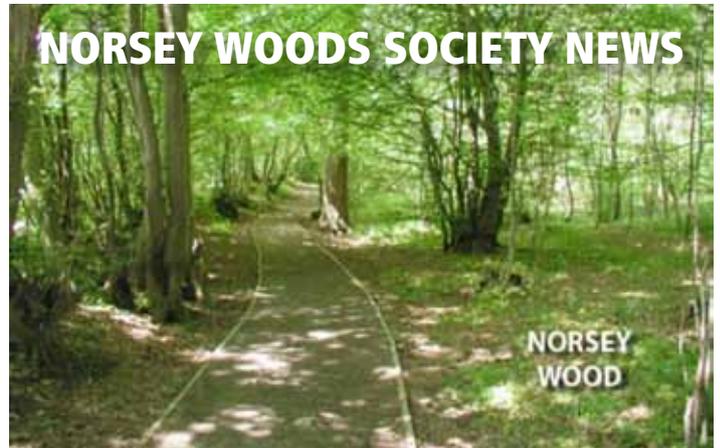
At The Brentwood Theatre

Tuesday 20th to Saturday 24th March

Mel Brooks' award-winning musical is an outrageous, crowd pleasing farce about two Broadway producers who set out to create a guaranteed flop by staging the most offensive show in history!

Tickets are £15 to £17 from the Society's box office on 01277 650672 (9am to 8pm, 7 days a week) or online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/billops (Parental guidance advised)

NORSEY WOODS SOCIETY NEWS



LESS THAN A mile from the High Street along Norsey Road, Norsey Wood Local Nature Reserve is 165-acres of Ancient Woodland. The Basildon Council Ranger has been maintaining a variety of woodland habitats for birds, butterflies and small mammals including bats by re-establishing the ancient coppicing cycle supported by a weekly working party of mainly retired volunteers.

Many visitors are attracted by the annual Bluebell display but miss the earlier carpets of Wood Anemones and the seasonal succession of birdsong, lesser known woodland flowers, butterflies and dragonflies. Later in the year come berries and nuts to feed the wildlife, sweet chestnuts to collect, and fungi flourish before Autumn leaf fall and Winter's pause. Then the cycle starts again in the Spring.

In Springtime, to ensure the delicate balance between visitors and wildlife, visitors are requested to keep to the main paths between March and end-June, and to keep their dogs under close control, to allow low nesting birds such as Chiffchaff, Great Tit, Blackbird, Long-tailed Tit, Robin and Wren to raise their young undisturbed.

Come and visit the wood: there is a small car park off Outwood Common Road (CM11 1HA) or walk in via the pedestrian entrances near Lilford Road, Deerbank Road or Break Egg Hill. Take a moment to look at the displays outside the Ranger's Office, pick-up a map and explore beyond the Easy Access Trail (suitable for wheelchairs and buggies) to make your walk more interesting. Make a note of our Open Day on Sunday 13 May and look out for the attractions advertised shortly before the event. In the meantime see our website www.norseywoodsociety.uk or e-mail on norseywoodsociety1977@gmail.com.

NEWS FROM MILL MEADOWS NATURE RESERVE

A SMALL TEAM of Members of the Mill Meadows are working away on the new Trail project, following the award of £62,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund. A survey has been conducted on people's use of the site and drafts are being written for the new interpretation and website. These include informative maps at all the main entrances showing paths and the points of historical as well as natural interest. The maps will be supplemented with narrative, some of which will be accessible via a mobile phone at key points on the site.

We have set a date for our 'celebration event' for the Heritage Lottery Funded trail project of Sunday 9th September 2018. The programme will be featuring music, drama, poetry and many side stalls to entertain us, all with a rural theme and promoting the heritage of Mill Meadows. There will also be a guided walk around part of the site showing some of the key features, especially the veteran trees. By that time the footpath improvement work should be completed. Alan Talboys Treasurer Mill Meadows Society.

BILLERICAY CHORAL SOCIETY SATURDAY 21 APRIL 2018

Billericay Choral Society presents: Edward Elgar's "Spirit of England", plus Land of Hope and Glory, Rule Britannia, Jerusalem and many more well known patriotic numbers.

For further details please contact Chris Kempson: Tel 01277 656443

**BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

3rd MAY – CHANTRY WAY CENTRE at 7.00PM

Guest Speaker – Representative of Essex Police

TALK ON COMMUNITY SPECIAL CONSTABLES

If you want to make a real difference in our town, by volunteering as a Billericay Community Special Constable and playing a part in keeping our town safe, then come along and find out more.

For more information visit: www.essex.police.uk/Specials/Billericay

**YOU ARE INVITED
TO NOMINATE TWO
CITIZENS OF THE YEAR**

DO YOU KNOW a resident of the Town Council parish of Billericay who makes a difference in the Community? Do you know a young person living in our parish who goes the extra mile for their community? Following on from the success of the award last year we are looking for two citizens – one to represent the wider community and one to represent the youth.

If you would like to nominate residents for one or both awards please write to the Town Clerk at the Council Office (address on front cover) who will send you the appropriate nomination forms for completion.

GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN – LITTER PICK

THIS YEAR'S LITTER Pick will be held on Saturday, 3rd March 2017. Our target area will be the High Street and its surroundings including the Festival Gardens. If you can spare an hour, then please come join us and help participate in the national Great British Spring Clean to tidy up our town. Meet at the Town Council Offices at Crown Yard, High Street, Billericay at 9:30am.



**CHANTRY WAY CENTRE
COMMUNITY FACILITY FOR HIRE**

YOUR TOWN COUNCIL runs the community building in Chantry Way (situated behind Ravens Bakery and Harry's Bar just off the High Street) from Basildon Borough Council. There is a large meeting room and kitchen facilities available to hire daytime, evenings and weekends at very competitive rates which are discounted for over 50s and community groups. If you are interested and would like further information please contact the Town Clerk on 01277 625732 or email: bookings@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk.

VACANCIES ON TOWN COUNCIL

THERE ARE CURRENTLY two seats on the Council which we hope to fill at our next meeting on March 8th. If you have an interest in serving the Billericay community and are over 18, a British subject or citizen of the Commonwealth or EU, and live or work in Billericay then you are eligible to stand. Please contact the Town Clerk for further information.

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS
MARCH 2018**

Thur 1 Finance & GP
Thur 8 Town Council
Tue 13 Planning
Tue 27 Planning

APRIL 2018

Tue 3 Environment
Tue 10 Planning
Thur 12 Finance & General Purposes
Tue 24 Planning

MAY 2018

Thur 3 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
Tue 8 Planning
Thur 10 Annual Town Council
Tue 22 Planning
Tue 29 Environment

JUNE 2018

Tue 5 Planning
Thur 7 Finance & General Purposes
Thur 14 Town Council

All meetings are open to the public and press and are held in The Coach House, Crown Yard, unless otherwise stated and start at 7.00pm.

BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCILLORS

Name	Address	Phone No.	E-Mail	Ward
Cllr A Adshead	29 The Meadow Way CM11 2HL	01277 632104	adam.adshead@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr R Chapman	99 Church Street CM11 2TS	01277 657696	robert.chapman@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr J Clark	33 Carson Road CM11 1SA	01277 659842	jo.clark@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr R Clark	1 Wick Glen CM12 0HS	07802 425842	richard.clark@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Cllr M Dear	12 Redwing Drive CM11 2PG	01277 622499	marie.dear@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Cllr J Devlin	231 Perry Street CM12 0NZ	01277 656937	jim.devlin@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Cllr C Dyer	6 Montpelier Close CM12 0UH	01277 625732	colin.dyer@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Cllr D Hayden	Laurel Cottage 7 The Grove CM11 1AU	01277 656221	derek.hayden@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr L Mitchelmore	32 Bellevue Road CM12 9HB	01277 658111	lesley.mitchelmore@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr V MacManus	31 Kings Way CM11 2QF	01277 525231	victoria.macmanus@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	SW
Cllr M Moore	47 Laidon Road CM12 9LG	01277 627266	moira.moore@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	SW
Cllr M Roessler	9 Second Avenue CM12 9PR	07760 373070	martin.roessler@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Cllr D Spencer	Fir Tree Lodge 16 Back Lane CM4 9DG	01277 829750	daphne.spencer@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr G Talbot	185 Perry Street CM12 0NX	07983 421686	gareth.talbot@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	SW
Cllr A Talboys	8 Wren Close CM11 2YU	01277 657576	alan.talboys@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr M Thomas	39 Chestwood Close CM12 0PB	01277 650453	mark.thomas@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Cllr F Tomlin	2 Ruskin Dene CM12 0AN	01277 625692	frank.tomlin@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Cllr J Tutton	11 Bluebell Wood CM12 0ES	01277 655443	james.tutton@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
CHAIRMAN:	Cllr Jim Devlin	Telephone:	01277 625732	
TOWN CLERK:	Deborah Tonkiss Billericay Town Council The Loft, Crown Yard, High Street Billericay, Essex CM12 9BX	Telephone: E-Mail: Website:	01277 625732 townclerk@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	

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