



Billericay Town Crier

June 2023

www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL

AWARD FOR BEST CORONATION STREET PARTY GOES TO – RESIDENTS OF UPLAND ROAD!



Upland Road Street Party

WITH THE PRIZE of £100 donated to Brightside School, residents of Upland Road held the winning street party to celebrate the King's Coronation. Congratulations to the Organizers; Jenny Smith, Claire Worden, Rachel Manley and Kelly Jarvis.

In bright sunshine, they transformed the street and houses in patriotic Red, White and Blue. With the street closed, music, a children's entertainer, a royal quiz, mini-Olympics, face painting, a children's royal craft table and a roast fit for the King, all took place.

With Over 50 households participating with both young and old residents coming together to celebrate, a good time was had by all! Even the Billericay Community Police Team popped in, and they also collected for Billericay Food Bank!

Rachel Manley encapsulates the spirit of the day; *'It was fabulous day on a very long road – lots of fun, face painting, bingo, quiz, mini-Olympics, magic and party game: most of all it was lovely getting to know neighbours we never even knew we had.'*



Ri-Ri's

CORONATION BEST DRESSED WINDOW COMPETITION – THE RESULTS ARE IN!

SO IMPRESSED WERE the judges of the quality of entries to the 'Coronation Best Dressed Window' Competition that they decided to award TWO prizes of £100 each to the nominated charities of the joint winners!

Cllrs Dear, May, and Moore toured the High Street and judged the windows on Friday 5th May and the joint winners were RiRis Dress Shop for their stunningly simple red, white, and blue dress display, and N Shelley for their meticulously curated Coronation themed tea party display.

Each winner was duly presented with a certificate and the £100 award for their chosen charities, which were 'Coppafeel' Breast Cancer Health



N Shelleys

Awareness, (RiRis) with Michelle receiving the award; and St Luke's Hospice (N Shelleys) with their Laura Phipps doing the honours.

The Judges were gratified to find that many High Street businesses had entered the spirit of the occasion with Union Jack themed displays with at least ten reaching the 'long list' of finalists. However, the Judges were unanimous in declaring the two worthy winners. We hope the accompanying photographs do justice to their displays and we thank all those who took the time and effort to create their window displays.

LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
FOUNDATION

T: 01277 625732 • E: townclerk@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk • W: www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk

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Billericay Town Council • The Chantry Centre • Chantry Way • Billericay CM11 2AP

Office Opening Times – 9.30am - 5.30pm Monday - Friday.

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HELLO FROM THE EDITOR: CLLR. MARIE DEAR

WELCOME TO THE June edition of the Town Crier and with all the latest news from the Town Council. This edition also includes the Annual Report giving a deeper analysis of the Town Council's projects, finances and activities.

We are never short of material as there are so many community minded volunteers in Billericay. Articles from residents of no more than 200 words in length are welcomed for consideration.

A big thank you to our graphic designer, David Vinten, for his work on our publications.



Residents enjoy the day

COMMUNITY OPEN DAY

ON FRIDAY 24TH March the Town Council hosted an event which showcased the various Billericay based community groups who offer a wide range of services and activities to residents.

Lyn Wilson was the brains behind the event and when she suggested it to the Town Council it was thought to be such a good idea that the Council offered the use of the Chantry Centre at no charge.

There were a wide variety of offerings ranging from the Norsey Wood Society, Billericay Tree Wardens, and the Billericay Community Cinema through to bereavement support groups and hobby clubs such as Photofold. It was good to see so many people coming together, chatting over tea and cake and finding out about all the varied activities which take place in and around our town. Around 400 people passed through the doors and as it was so successful the Town Council have agreed to hold the event again next year.

Put Friday 22nd March 2024 in your diary for the next Community Open Day – and if you run a local charity or not for profit group that would like to take part please contact the Town Council office on 01277 625732 to register your interest.



Jerry Owers

NEW STAFF MEMBER FOR TOWN COUNCIL

IN THE LAST nine months the Town Council has increased the number of staff it employs by 100%. This is mostly due to the popularity of the Chantry Centre, as bookings are increasing there was a need for additional staff to undertake the extra administration and keep the building well maintained.

Our newest staff member is Jerry Owers who started as the part time caretaker in April. In his first few weeks Jerry has planted three new trees, a bed of Coronation themed plants, repaired and painted walls in the main hall, replaced damaged ceiling tiles and re-organised the Chantry's storage areas. Jerry is also here to help set up rooms as per hirer's requirements and assist with any issues.



Litter Pickers

TOWN COUNCIL LITTER PICK – 29TH APRIL 2023

ON SATURDAY 29TH April members of Billericay Town Council, Billericay Town Rotary Club and residents came along to litter pick the High Street to ensure it looked spick and span for the Coronation weekend. Our thanks to everyone who attended.

Following feedback from residents and the street cleansing team, Basildon Borough Council are currently trialling solar compacting bins at two locations in Billericay High Street – next to the bus stop outside number 127 and also outside Waitrose. The aim is to reduce the volume of waste and therefore increase the capacity of the bins, leaving less possibility of overflowing bins.

BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE ITS NEW CITIZEN AND YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR FOR 2023

ON 2ND MAY Cllr Jo Clark presented George Wood with his award for Young Citizen of the Year. George was nominated for his dedication and service to the Youth

Town Council. He is the group's publicity officer and Vice-Chairman and rarely misses a meeting. George is always keen to help out in the community and recently was a track marshal at the Soapbox Derby. He has been elected to the Young Essex Assembly and received a Jack Petchey Award for a talk he gave on youth crime.

On 4th May Cllr Jo Clark and the Town Clerk visited Billericay Foodbank to present Stuart Gibbs with his Citizen of the Year award. Stuart is a very modest man but has been one of the leading lights at the foodbank which has gone from strength to strength and helps support many households in the local area. He leads from the front in logistics and fund raising and is highly valued by the other team members.



Young Citizen: George Wood & Cllr Jo Clark



Adult Citizen: Stuart Gibbs & Cllr Jo Clark



King Charles III



Cllr Devlin and Viv



Queen Camilla

CLLR. JIM DEVLIN ATTENDS BUCKINGHAM PALACE GARDEN PARTY

ON 3RD MAY Cllr Jim Devlin and his wife, Viv, were delighted to attend a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. The invitation to the Garden Party was as a result of Cllr Devlin's time as a Town Councillor and Chairman of the Council as well as work as a member of the Essex Association of Local Councils Executive.

The day had wonderful weather and the whole area around the Palace was decorated in readiness for the Coronation, making the day that much more enjoyable. Those attending had connections to the Armed Services, Charities, the NHS or Government. The organisation of the event was superb

and even the security was unobtrusive. King Charles and Queen Camilla waded through the crowd and were presented to specific guests who had been singled out, including Lionel Richie. Cllr Devlin was able to take many photographs to remember the day and 3 are shown here.

Afterwards Cllr Devlin and his wife took the opportunity to walk down The Mall and spoke with many of those who were already sleeping out so they could get front row positions for the Coronation Procession on the Saturday. London had a wonderful atmosphere on that day with people visiting from all over the world exchanging pleasantries.



Cllr Mark Thomas and Cllr Jo Clark

NEW TOWN COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

AT THE ANNUAL Town Council meeting on 4th May Cllr Mark Thomas was elected as Chairman. Cllr Jim Devlin was elected as Vice Chairman. Cllr Thomas joined the council in 2016 and has been a resident of Billericay since 1973. Cllr Thomas takes pride in the appearance of the town being a big supporter of environmental issues. Having recently retired Cllr Thomas said now was the time for him to give back to the community.

Councillors thanked Cllr Jo Clark for all her hard work on the Council during her year of office. Cllr Clark was Chairman during an unprecedented period of Royal events with the Platinum Jubilee Beacon lighting in June which was sadly followed three months later by the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Cllr Clark attended the Chantry Centre during the period of mourning, overseeing the book of condolence and talking to the many residents that came to sign the book.

Cllr Clark congratulated Cllr Thomas and wished him well in his role as Chairman of the Council.



High Voltage Big Band Entertain

TOWN COUNCIL CIVIC SERVICE 2023

ON SUNDAY 14TH May the Emmanuel Church hosted the 9th Annual Civic Service in Billericay. It was an opportunity for church members, councillors and residents to come together and celebrate the wonderful community spirit which there is so much of in our town. The theme for this year was Celebrating Service Organisations and there were brief presentations from all three Rotary Clubs, plus Billericay Lions and the 41 Club about the work they do at home and abroad. Musical entertainment was provided by High Voltage Big Band and the Deputy Lieutenant Mrs Susie Cornell was in attendance.



Billericay Town Council Annual Report 2022/2023

Billericay – A Great Place to Be

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2022/23 Cllr. J Clark



It hardly seems possible that a year has gone by since I took over as Chairman, having served as Vice Chairman for the previous nine years. During this past year history has been made on more than one occasion. Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh had died the previous year on April 9th 2021 having been the longest serving Royal Consort in history. Last February 2022 Queen Elizabeth II celebrated the 70th Anniversary of her Accession to the throne. However as this day also marked 70 years since the death of her beloved father King George VI, it was not an occasion the Queen wished to celebrate so it was decided to hold celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee during the first week of June. Billericay of course joined in by lighting the Beacon on Sun Corner along with an estimated 3,500 Jubilee

Beacons across the UK., The Channel Islands, Isle of Man, and Overseas Territories around the World. At Sun Corner a programme of events brought the Town together along with festivities and street parties throughout the weekend. Billericay knows how to party.

Sadly just 3 months later on September 8th 2022 our Queen of 70 years died at the age of 96 years. For so many of us we could not remember a time when the Queen was not our Monarch. Billericay Town Council responded immediately and opened a Book of Remembrance the following day at the Chantry Centre for residents to convey their sympathies and their recollections. So many just wanted to talk about how they felt.

Our new community building, the Chantry Centre, came into its own at this time and for many it was the first time they had seen inside. I am pleased to say that people have been very

impressed, not only by the appearance but also the facilities. The Centre has continued to expand its use of the rooms and the variety of activities which take place there and as a result of the increased workload we have now employed two new part time workers, one looking after the bookings, the other as caretaker helping to look after the building.

We have new lampposts in the High Street which we believe are far more sympathetic to our historic town. As a result we are now in the process of looking at different ways to decorate our town for the forthcoming Christmas.

The Coronation of King Charles III on May 6th heralded a whole new era. To bring about the festive spirit and set the mood the Council had the High Street decorated in red, white and blue. At street parties and private parties residents enjoyed a wonderful holiday weekend. ■

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE Chairman: Cllr. M Mordecai



With increasing costs, it was necessary this year to increase the Precept for 2023/24 by 4%. The annual cost for a typical Band D household will be £25.74 a year (£24.75 2022/23) – about £2.15 per month – this small increase still ensures that Billericay remains one of the lowest charging Parish/Town Councils.

During the year were delighted to make a donation of £100 to Essex and Herts Air Ambulance.

Following the move to the Chantry Centre it soon became clear that the one full-time and one part-time member of Staff were getting distracted from their core roles by having to actually run the Chantry Centre. It was therefore necessary to recruit another part-time member of the Administration Team, along with a part-time Caretaker, which now allows the Town Clerk and Committee Clerk to concentrate on their roles in full.

In moving to the new building, we continue our high level objectives which are two-fold:

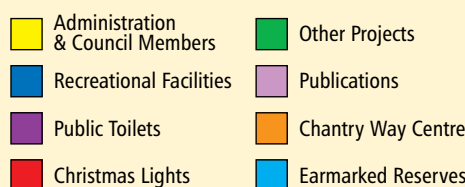
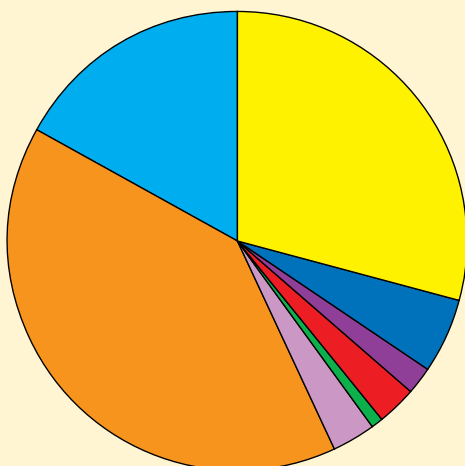
- **Social:** to provide facilities for community groups to use at an affordable cost. This year, there were 2,822 hours of activities for community/not-for-profit groups based in Billericay, and 4520 hours of Commercial, which does include the Barclays Banking Hub, that has proved a success for the Community.
- **Financial:** to generate income from commercial hirings to subsidise costs. Almost 75% of the revenue has come from commercial organisations. On closing the financial accounts for 2022/23 we, subject to Audit, expect to have

generated over £72,000 (£40,000 2021/22) in revenue.

Cost control plays an important part of F&GP's activities and we had fixed our gas and electric contract until 2025 for electric and 2027 for gas. This has been especially important in the current climate of price rises.

I would like to thank all members of the Finance and General Purposes Committee for the work that they have put in, in ensuring we give 'best value' to the Community. ■

EXPENDITURE & RESERVES 2022/2023



EXPENDITURE AND RESERVES

2021/22	EXPENDITURE	2022/23
£'000	DESCRIPTION	£'000
91	Administration & Council Members	113
18	Recreational Facilities	20
18	Public Toilets	8
10	Christmas Lights	10
0	Other Projects	4
5	Publications	11
16	Election	0
193	Chantry Way Centre	154
0	Youth Town Council	0
114	Earmarked Reserves	65
465	Total	385

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

2021/22	INCOME	2022/23
£'000	SOURCE	£'000
300	Precept	303
0	Interest Earned	0
0.5	Local sponsorship	0
1.5	Outside Funding	9
6	General Reserve	0
0	Earmarked Reserve	0
38	Chantry Way Centre	73
119	PWLB	0
465	Total	385

HEALTH, WELLBEING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE Chairman: Cllr. M Moore



The Health, Wellbeing & Environment Committee works to enhance the environment around Billericay. We do this either by providing additional services or enhancing services provided by other councils.

We are responsible for providing all the floral displays in the High Street, including the planters and flower beds at the War Memorial, during both summer and winter. Unfortunately we had to remove the hanging baskets last summer as they were being damaged by trucks delivering to the shops so became a health and safety hazard to both pedestrians and motorists. Basildon Borough

Council are in the process of replacing the High Street lamp columns and we will look at new flower baskets next year. We also maintain two small gardens in the town – the Festival Gardens located in Crown Road and the Jim Shield Garden at the junction of the High Street and Western Road.

We've listened to residents' concerns about litter, so we've replaced five bins – two at the train station, one just before the roundabout in Stock Road, one in Queens Park and one at the junction of Lake Avenue and Stock Road. We are also reinstating the annual High Street litter pick and this year it was a clean up for the Coronation.

There is still a knock-on effect to the work of

the Committee following the Covid-19 pandemic and the move to the Chantry Centre. As a result we have decided that the Town Council will no longer run Billericay in Bloom, but it is hoped that one of the service organisations within the town will take over and revitalise the competition. We will continue to provide Christmas lights in the High Street as well as an illuminated Christmas Tree outside the Chantry Centre, and a brand new lighting scheme is planned for Christmas 2023.

We also have a very active independent tree warden group that reports to the Committee and are valued eyes and ears where the trees of the town are concerned. ■

PLANNING COMMITTEE Chairman: Cllr. J Tutton



Over the past year the Planning Committee have reviewed 297 applications. Of these, this committee and Basildon Borough Council (BBC), have agreed the determination on 182 of them.

The other 115 applications show that we objected to 32 but BBC Planning granted them and 31 show that we had no objection but BBC refused them. However, of these 31, 8 were subsequently amended and resubmitted, they were then granted by BBC. The figures do not totally add up because the remaining 52 have not been determined yet by BBC. Our approximate agreement rate with the BBC is near 80%

The common objections for the refused applications have been:-

- Over development of the site
- Excessive height/bulk
- Detrimental to neighbouring properties/out of keeping with the street scene
- Habitable room on the boundary

In the same time frame there were 14 planning appeals submitted by applicants who were not happy with the decisions of the Councils, none of these have been determined yet.

There have been a few larger development applications for us to consider:

- 66 Laindon Road (Ex Reids), which had been designed in conjunction with the Basildon Planning team, so it was well designed and laid out.
- Land north of Kennel Lane, requesting outline planning permission for 200 dwellings
- Off Potash Road – 150 dwellings and a 50 bed care home
- Care Home off Stock Road on the current site of G J Staines

The first one of these the Committee approved, the last three we objected to.

We have considered 4 licensing applications, all of which were granted.

Members of the Committee have also been involved in other initiatives or training during this period:

- Essex Highways User Survey
- The Boundary Review 2023 – the proposed changes to local boundaries
- Basildon Council Housing Strategy Stakeholder Event – which dealt mainly with the current social housing stock situation, changes that are in place or about to happen to improve the dwellings and the areas that they are in. Surprisingly there was no mention of social housing requirements for the Local Plan.
- Basildon Council Local Plan Focus Group – there has only been one meeting so far, at which the group leaders outlined the thoughts behind having this focus group and how it could operate. It was left for attendees to think about how they think it could be developed and how they could be involved, ready for a follow up meeting.
- Planning Enforcement Training

The Planning Committee Meetings are every 2 weeks on a Tuesday at 7:00pm, in the Chantry Centre. All meetings are open to the public. ■

BYTC Chairman: Freya Ramsay

Here at the Youth Town Council, we have done our part in our community over the last year as a group dedicated to our community. We have visited our local food bank in which we organised food and received a talk from the kind volunteers who offer their time there. We have had discussions with Basildon Creative People and Places about arranging events in Billericay dedicated to our youth and creative interests. We are currently also working toward a Youth Café for those who need an area to either relax or study in after school. The council has worked incredibly hard this year in playing a part in improving the livelihood of not just the youth but everyone in Billericay. ■



Youth Town Councillors at Billericay Foodbank

COUNCILLORS ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS 3 MAY 2022 – 23 MARCH 2023

COUNCILLOR	PLANNING (22)	FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES (6)	HEALTH, WELLBEING & ENVIRONMENT (9)	COUNCIL (10)	TOTAL
Cllr A Adshead		5		4	9
Cllr J Clark	13	5	5	6	29
Cllr L Clark			6	4	10
BCllr R Clark	21	4		6	31
Cllr M Dear	5	4	2	3	14
Cllr J Devlin	17			6	23
Cllr J Henshaw	8			2	10
Cllr C May	1	1		4	6
Cllr M Moore	21	6	6	6	39
Cllr K Mordecai	18		6	7	31
Cllr M Mordecai		6	6	6	18
Cllr M Roessler		4		4	8
Cllr E Sainsbury			4	4	8
Cllr C Smith				5	5
Cllr D Spencer	18		4	5	27
Cllr G Talbot		4	1	7	12
Cllr A Talboys	22	3		7	32
Cllr M Thomas	6	5	5	6	22
Cllr J Tutton	18	4	5	4	31
Cllr K Herlock				1	1

BILLERICAY TOWN TWINNING FRENCH TWINNING 19TH APRIL – 23RD APRIL 2023

ON WEDNESDAY 19TH April our friends from Chauvigny, near Poitiers in France, arrived at Stansted for their bi-annual visit, which has been delayed by Covid, to Billericay. The first evening our guests spent with their hosts.

On Thursday a party of seventeen went by coach to Windsor for a tour of the Castle, lunch and a walk around the town. Our French guests were very impressed by the history of the Castle and of St. George's Chapel. After all the history and culture we enjoyed a wonderful lunch at Browns and then before leaving had a short walk around the town.

Friday we had our joint committee meeting and then each host entertained their guests in their own way. A visit to Hyde Hall, a bluebell walk or a pub lunch. The choice was the hosts' to make. That evening we had our dinner for all our members and guests at the De Beauvoir Arms where we were served a wonderful meal.

On Saturday we took the train to Southend where at the Central Museum we had a guided tour of the Prittlewell Hoard which was only excavated in 2003 by the Museum of London. The guide spoke in English and Jeannine, our Chairman, gave us an immediate translation. After that we of course had to have the traditional meal of fish and chips at Thomassi's and then we took them down the pier, by train, which was a novelty for our French guests as piers like Southend's don't exist in France.

That evening saw our farewell dinner in the Reading Rooms at Billericay where we all bought a plate of various foods. It was a most convivial evening before their return to Poitiers airport on Sunday morning. Both our visitors and we the members of Billericay Town Twinning thought the visit was a resounding success.

CHANGES TO THE WASTE AND RECYCLING SERVICE

**THURSDAY 13TH JULY - 7PM
CHANTRY CENTRE MAIN HALL**

THE TOWN COUNCIL has arranged this meeting for residents. This is your opportunity to come along and find out directly from Basildon Council officers how the changes will affect you.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

JUNE 2023

Thursday 1 F&GP
Tuesday 13 Planning
Thursday 15 Full Council
Tuesday 31 Planning

JULY 2023

Tuesday 4 Health, Well Being & Env
Tuesday 11 Planning
Thursday 13 F&GP
Tuesday 25 Planning
Thursday 27 Full Council

AUGUST 2023

Tuesday 8 Planning
Tuesday 22 Planning
Tuesday 29 Health, Well Being & Env

SEPTEMBER 2023

Tuesday 5 Planning
Thursday 7 F&GP
Thursday 14 Full Council
Tuesday 19 Planning

All meetings are open to the public and press and are held at The Chantry Centre, Chantry Way, unless otherwise stated and start at 7.00pm.



**A REWARDING VOLUNTARY ROLE
Billericay Representative**

Would you like to help local people in Billericay?
We're looking for volunteers to represent Basildon Mind in Billericay Community Hub.

You will provide a listening ear, signposting and share information about our services.
Skills required include good listening, communication and having a non-judgemental attitude.

Every Wednesday from 2pm to 5pm.
Full training, support and supervision given.

Contact us at Volunteering@Basildon.org
or call 01268-284130

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 J Clark	33 Carson Road CM11 1SA	01277 659842	jo.clark@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr L Clark	c/o The Chantry Centre	07902 979632	laura.clark@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
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 J Henshaw	46 The Avenue CM12 9HG	07544 499272	james.henshaw@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	SW
Cllr K Herlock	c/o The Chantry Centre	01277 625732	kathryn.herlock@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr Chris May	5 Devereux Way CM12 0YS	01277 627005	chris.may@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Cllr M Moore	47 Laindon Road CM12 9LG	01277 627266	moira.moore@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	SW
Cllr K Mordecai	c/o The Chantry Centre	01277 625732	kim.mordecai@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr M Mordecai	c/o The Chantry Centre	01277 625732	martyn.mordecai@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr M Roessler	9 Second Avenue CM12 9PR	07760 373070	martin.roessler@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	SW
Cllr E Sainsbury	17 Hares Chase CM12 0HJ	07517 362368	edward.sainsbury@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Cllr C Smith	c/o The Chantry Centre	01277 625732	christine.smith@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	W
Cllr A Talboys	c/o The Chantry Centre	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 J Tutton	11 Bluebell Wood CM12 0ES	01277 655443	jim.tutton@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
CHAIRMAN	Cllr Mark Thomas			
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