

Billericay Town Crier

October 2023 www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL



MOST RESIDENTS WILL be aware that in the Spring Basildon Borough Council replaced the old High Street lamp columns with extremely smart heritage style lights. This coincided with the renewal of the Christmas Lights contract, so the Town Council was determined to provide an exciting new scheme, and now that there are brand new columns try to ensure that we get as much of the High Street illuminated as possible as

this is something we weren't able to do in past years due to the condition of the old columns and the amount of CCTV cameras in the High

Street. Our new contractor Aylesford Electrical has been working with Town Council officers and members since the summer and we are looking forward to switching on the new scheme on Thursday 16th November.



TOWN COUNCIL MARKS CORONATION WITH PLAQUE FOR CHANTRY CENTRE

TO MARK THE historic occasion of the Coronation of King Charles III, the Town Council's Health, Wellbeing and Environment Committee commissioned two designs, from the British Ironwork Centre in Oswestry, for a celebratory plaque to be proudly displayed, subject to fire regulation approval, in the lobby of the Chantry Centre.

At their meeting on 14th September, Councillors subsequently voted in favour of purchasing the stainless steel on a black background design, splendidly depicting the Royal Coat of Arms along with the date of the Coronation.



WASTE AND RECYCLING MEETING – CHANTRY CENTRE WEDNESDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 4PM-7PM (TO BE CONFIRMED)

STARTING ON 27TH November Basildon Borough Council will commence a new waste and recycling collection system. As this is of interest to residents Officers of Basildon Council have offered to come along to the Chantry Centre to listen to feedback and answer questions about the new system. If you have concerns or recommendations come along and share those at the meeting.

The date of the meeting is confirmed but the timing has yet to be agreed. Please visit the Town Council website or contact the Town Clerk nearer the time for the confirmed time.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY **PARADE 12TH NOVEMBER 2023**

AS IN PREVIOUS years Billericay Town Council will be responsible for the closure of the High Street on Remembrance Sunday.

The High Street will be closed from Sun Corner to the junction with Western Road/Norsey Road from 10:15 until 11:45am. The public car parks will only be accessible before and after that time.

The Parade will start from the Fire Station and proceed up Laindon Road, across Sun Corner, and up the High Street to the War Memorial where the Remembrance Service will be held.



For further information and general enquiries contact: Town Clerk Billericay Town Council • The Chantry Centre • Chantry Way • Billericay CM11 2AP T: 01277 625732 • E: townclerk@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk • W: www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk

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



BILLERICAY YOUTH TOWN COUNCIL (BYTC)

THE BYTC RECENTLY visited Parliament and met with John Baron MP. George Wood, (Publicity Officer & Vice Chairman) said, "This was a fantastic day out which gave us a great opportunity to learn about the workings of Parliament. Everybody thoroughly enjoyed the experience."

Members are currently working on a project about youth safety where they will produce a booklet and a social media banner for young people.

The Billericay Youth Town Council help at numerous local events. Some youth town council members will be volunteering at the Lake Meadows fireworks on the 4th November.

The BYTC is also recruiting for new young people who are aged 11 to 18 and live or attend a school in Billericay. Youth Councillors said, "It's a great experience to help the community and make Billericay a better place!"



LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2024

ON THURSDAY 2ND MAY 2024 there will be an election to fill the 20 seats on Billericay Town Council.

Local councils work towards improving community well-being and providing better services. Their activities fall into three main categories: representing the local community; delivering services to meet local needs; striving

to improve quality of life and community well-being.

There are no special skills required to be a Town Councillor. To qualify you must live or work in Billericay, be over 18 and a citizen of the United Kingdom. All you need to ask yourself is:

Am I passionate about my local community?
Do I want to help make a long-lasting change?
Do I have concerns about a specific issue and want to do
something about it?

If you answer yes to any of the above then why not consider standing as a Town Councillor next May?

IF you are interested in standing as a candidate or would like more information about the role of a local councillor please contact the Town Clerk who will be happy to help and advise further.





DIARY DATE – JUNE 2024



ON 6TH JUNE 1944 the largest Naval, Air and land Operation in history took place, involving many hundreds of thousands of brave men who had to leave their families at home, not knowing if they would ever come back. Communities throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, UK Overseas territories and those along the shorelines of Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword beaches in

Normandy France, will light beacons on 6th June 2024 in tribute to the heroism of all those that landed on the shores of Normandy during a particularly dark period of war.

Billericay Town Council will be participating in this tribute by lighting the beacon on Sun Corner at 9.15pm on Thursday 6th June 2024. Please put this date in your diaries and join us in commemoration.

FESTIVAL GARDENS – UPDATE

THE FESTIVAL GARDENS were originally given to the people of Billericay by an anonymous lady to commemorate the Festival of Britan in 1951. In 2013 the Town Council took over the area's management from Basildon Borough Council on a 25-year lease.



We employ a grounds maintenance company to cut the grass and look after the trees and plants, but they only come fortnightly between April and October and there are often times when the Gardens need a bit of additional TLC.

The Council's caretaker, Jerry, has added the Gardens to his everexpanding list of jobs and this summer he started carrying out regular litter



picks there. Along with the usual cans of drink and fast food wrappers he has also encountered dumped builders' debris including traffic cones and roof tiles! He's recently removed graffiti and sanded down both the wooden sign and plinth. He then revarnished the wooden sign to make it look like new and the directional sign has been repaired and securely returned to its place atop the plinth.

MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS? – HELP IS AT HAND!

ANYONE WHO IS worried about their, or a loved one's mental wellbeing, will be relieved to know there are locally, active groups whose mission is to provide support and companionship.

Basildon Mind

Basildon Mind is a registered charity, championing those with mental health problems in Basildon, Billericay and Wickford. They offer support, advice, and services to enable and empower those experiencing mental health problems to regain control of their life, live independently and confidently. Based in Basildon they offer;

- Counselling,
- Helpline,
- Supported Housing,
- Walking and talking groups,
- Allotment,
- Forensic advocacy (supporting inpatients),
- Facilitated hospital meetings,
- Partnerships with other Essex Mental Health services.

Contact: Helpline & Counselling 01268 284130 / Charity Shop & Office 01268 289700. Email: info@basmind.org

Billericay

Mind continues to gather information from residents at the Drop-in at the Community Hub in Billericay High Street. The Hub is open on Wednesdays from 2-5pm and is aimed at understanding residents' needs better.

Humankind (Motto: 'Because we're better together!)

Meeting weekly in the Billericay Reading Rooms, Humankind aims to combat loneliness and social isolation and connect the community. Weekly community sessions are free and take place every Wednesday 10.00 — Midday for befriending services and group activities. Everyone welcome!

Also, they are on the look out for Volunteers to help and become involved.

Look out for their new 'Kindness Café' opening next year in the High Street. Contact: Email: hello@humankindcafe.co.uk



ENVIRONMENT ISSUES STREET SCENE REPORTING TO BASILDON BOROUGH COUNCIL

RESIDENTS OFTEN ASK where do they report issues regarding the environment.

Things like dumped rubbish, stray animals, abandoned vehicles, street lighting, potholes and road surface issues, parks, open areas and trees, street cleaning concerns, graffiti, broken street furniture, and untaxed vehicles.

The Borough Council has an extensive website which covers all these issues. Residents need to visit Street Scene Reporting on the website: www.basildon.gov.uk/street.

There they will find a separate tab for each of these issues. Once the tab is opened the issue can be logged and actioned by Basildon Borough Council. Its only by logging such issues that Basildon Council can be aware of problems so its up to us as residents to make sure we log these problems on the website — its a way of ensuring they can be fixed.

MESSAGE FROM ESSEX POLICE REPORTING CRIME

WE ARE OFFERING more ways of reporting non-emergency crime and antisocial behaviour. We want to make it easier and more convenient for you to get in contact with us.

We're encouraging people to go online to make non-emergency reports. This will help us to provide a better, more efficient service for our communities, and assist those asking for our help guickly.

We still have our 24-hour 101 Service which people can call if they feel it is more appropriate to speak to us or don't have access to the internet.





KEEPING OUR HIGH STREET VIBRANT

BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL is glad to welcome two new retailers to our High Street.

Levere home wares and gifts can be found at 131 High Street. It has a wide range of stock.

Vintage Bee is a treasure trove of quality collectiables at 74b High Street. Why not visit these new retailers and see what they have to offer. Its up to us to keep our High Streets vibrant and shop locally if we can.



PARKRUN RETURNS, LIKE A PHOENIX RISING FROM THE ASHES

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 4TH saw a fire break out in the old boathouse in Lake Meadows. The Fire Brigade reacted quickly but there was serious damage to the wooden building used by Billericay parkrun, Lake Meadows Junior parkrun and Billericay Boat Club.

Since 2017 parkrun (where young and old run, jog or walk 5km) has become a key part of Saturday life in Billericay. It regularly has over 200 attendees and volunteers with Sunday's Junior parkrun attracting 65-100 young people.

Sadly all their equipment was destroyed in the fire. A fundraiser was established and thanks to the incredible generosity of Billericay residents and community groups (and some from further afield) within a few hours enough money was raised to replace all of the equipment lost. At a meeting of Billericay Town Council members were keen to help and will await to hear if assistance is needed.

Hard work by the parkrun teams meant that just 12 days later parkrun returned to Billericay with 257 people completing the course on Saturday 16th.

We congratulate parkrun on their dedication and on the generosity of so many people – not only those who donated to replace equipment but the volunteers who turn out every week to run these events for the benefit of all.



BILLERICAY CYCLING CAMPAIGN

BILLERICAY CYCLING CAMPAIGN is a community group of residents with a common passion to encourage the people of Billericay to get on their bikes. Cycling has innumerable benefits for individuals and the community alike including health, sustainability, and wellbeing.

In June we launched our inaugural 'Bike Bus' which serves the school children of South Green Infant and Junior School and now takes place every Friday morning. The Bike Bus has a set route through South Green and children can join the 'bus' on their bikes.

Our longer-term ambitions are to campaign for adequate cycling infrastructure. Studies indicate that dedicated cycle lanes are a primary step in encouraging people to cycle. Our discussions thus far with Billericay residents indicate that many people would like to use their bikes to commute, shop, take children to school or ride for leisure but consider the roads in Billericay are unsafe. If you would like more details about our campaign please contact: billericaycyclingcampaign@gmail.com and see our Facebook page.

DEFENDING OUR TOWN FROM CONTINUAL TREE LOSS



TREES ON GREEN verges are legally protected to resist unlawful felling. However, trees in front gardens that are not designated with a Tree Protection Order (TPO) can be felled without permission from the Local Authority. This has meant that veteran oaks and characterful trees that add to the Street Scene's amenity value along our roads can be felled to facilitate Gap-site developments.

For years this has occurred along many Billericay Roads, especially Norsey Road, thus degrading our

town's leafy overall aspect. Paradoxically, estate agents say that trees in close proximity to a property increases their market value. As a prime example, The Billericay Tree Wardens (BTW) acted, following objections from eight residents, by requesting a TPO on a characterful and iconic Monkey Puzzle tree along the Norsey Road where a Planning Application had called for its felling. The request for a TPO was granted by Basildon Borough Council in March 2023 and the planning application was thus refused. However, Basildon Borough Council did advise that if the replacement structure were to be redesigned, then there would be no reason to fell the tree. BTW thus strives to ensure Billericay does not lose its green assets.

The BTW are a subgroup of the Billericay Town Council.

THE CATER MUSEUM REOPENS ITS DOORS ON 3RD DECEMBER

THE CURATOR, VOLUNTEERS and Trustees of the Cater Museum in Billericay High Street are very pleased to announce that we are reopening to the public.

After a prolonged period of closure firstly due to Covid and then to substantial renovations taking place we are eager to welcome both returning visitors and newcomers to relive, learn, and reconnect with the stories that have shaped our town.

Visitors can expect a blend of the familiar – such as our famous two-headed lamb in its brand new display case – alongside new and re-organised displays with brand-new stories that offer a fresh perspective on Billericay's past. Get ready to take a journey from Billericay's prehistory all the way through to the modern period.

You can find us at 74 High Street, and we will see you on the 3rd December, the day of the Billericay Christmas Market. (Please note unfortunately there is no lift access to the first and second floors.) The Cater Museum: Billericay's Doorway into the Past.

CINEMA CELEBRATES 8TH BIRTHDAY!



BILLERICAY COMMUNITY CINEMA is celebrating 8 years of screening 150 films to over 7,200 people. Initially part funded by a grant from Billericay Town Council it started in 2015 in Billericay Library before moving to the more spacious Chantry Centre in 2021.

Two films are shown each month: one on a

Thursday evening; the other a Sunday Matinee which, whilst open to all, particularly welcomes those who fancy a bit of company on a Sunday afternoon — a natter, a cup of tea, a slice of home-made cake and, of course, a great film!

As we start our 9th year we've some great films coming up including Charlie Chaplin's The Immigrant, Bohemian Rhapsody, Mrs Harris Goes to Paris, The Jazz Singer and Hitchcock's adaptation of Daphne du Maurier's Rebecca.

As a not-for-profit, volunteer based community group our aim is a healthy mix of friendly community spirit with entertaining films. Whether on your own or in a group you can be assured of a very friendly welcome. Tickets are £5 (Thursdays) and £4 (Sunday).

Find out more online at BillericayCine.com - or pick up a leaflet at the Chantry Centre, Library, Slipped Discs and Billericay Brewing Co.



PHOTOFOLD SCHOOLS COMPETITION 2023

ONCE A YEAR Photofold Camera Club hold a photography competition for the Junior Schools in Billericay. The schools participating this year were: Brightside Primary School, Buttsbury Junior School and St. Peter's Catholic Primary School. Our theme this year was Pattern and Texture, which was quite a difficult theme. All schools were allowed to enter 16 photographs.

The exhibition was held in Billericay Library in the children's section from 18th September to 3rd October. The presentation was held on Saturday 23rd September. Our judge this year was Chris Thurman OBE, and Mark Thomas Chair of Billericay Town Council, presented the prizes. Each winner received

a trophy, a framed photograph of their entry and a certificate.

Brightside was first, St. Peter's came second and Brightside also gained a third. Buttsbury School received several Highly Commended and Best of School. Each participant received a certificate of entry.

We are grateful to Billericay Library for letting us display our competition and having our presentation there. Our thanks to all the schools participating and to the parents, teachers and children that attended the presentation also to members of Photofold who came along to support. Pam Toulson, Photofold Committee Member.

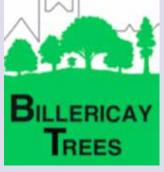


MAYFLOWER MORRIS MEN

WE PRACTISE FOR our new dancing season every Thursday from 14th September at St. Mary Magdalen, High Street, at 7.30 p.m. Beginners – dancers and musicians – old and young welcome. Tuition is free.

You supply the hankies, we do the rest. For more info: 01277 654228 or www.mayflowermorris.com

THE BILLERICAY FOREST SCHOOL INITIATIVE (BFS) – EMPOWERING THE YOUNG



SINCE 2017 A series of woodland "classes" have been held in local woods to introduce young people to the great outdoors. The purpose of these sessions is to encourage the children to gain confidence and learn new skills in the raw face of the natural world — muddy puddles and all.

Learning by personal hands-on experience is a building block for self-confidence and self-esteem. The

BFS initiative is run by Lauren Ramsay, a qualified Primary school teacher and her team of experienced facilitators that with skills that impart resilience, independence, and creativity in the young. Children of today will be tomorrow's ambassadors needed to combat the climate crisis in its various guises not only for us humans but for all the biodiversity. Teaching sessions are held in and around Billericay, including, Norsey Wood and Mill Meadows. The BFS run TWIGLET sessions for toddlers and preschoolers on a Monday and Thursday mornings and once a month on a Saturday morning there's a family fun session — 10am — 11:30am. Information about all of our sessions can be found on BFS website: www.billericayforestschool.co.uk

The Billericay Tree Wardens (BTW) are a subgroup of the Billericay Town Council.



TOGETHER FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES EVENT MONDAY 22ND JANUARY 2024 7PM — 9PM THE CHANTRY CENTRE, CHANTRY WAY, BILLERICAY

BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL is pleased to be able to provide facilities to host Basildon Council's 'Together for Safer Communities' event which will give local residents the opportunity to meet with their Borough councillors.

The aim of the meeting is to give residents the opportunity to discuss any community safety concerns, receive crime prevention advice and materials and also provide the chance to sign up to local schemes such as Neighbourhood Watch and Active Citizens.

Essex Police and Neighbourhood Watch will also be in attendance to provide a brief overview of crime and anti-social behaviour, discuss local issues and offer advice and guidance on how residents can protect themselves and their property.

Free crime prevention materials will also be available such as property and bike marking kits, vehicle crime packs, number plate screws, personal alarms, credit card defenders, purse dipping bells and 'No Cold Calling' stickers.

COUNCILLOR VACANCY

DUE TO THE non-attendance of Cllr Christine Smith there is currently a vacancy in West Ward.

If you are interested in applying please contact the Town Clerk before 6th December for consideration, by co-option, at the 14th December Council meeting.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

OCTOBER 2023

Tuesday 3 Planning

Tuesday 10 Health, Well Being & Env

Tuesday 17 Planning

Thursday 19 Finance & General Purposes

Thursday 26 Full Council Tuesday 31 Planning

NOVEMBER 2023

Tuesday 14 Planning

Tuesday 21 Health, Well Being & Env

Tuesday 28 Planning

DECEMBER 2023

Thursday 7 Finance & General Purposes

Tuesday 12 Planning Thursday 14 Full Council

JANUARY 2024

Wednesday 3 Planning

Tuesday 9 Health, Well Being & Env

Tuesday 16 Planning

Thursday 18 Finance & General Purposes

Thursday 25 Full Council Tuesday 30 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.

BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCILLORS Address Phone No. E-Mail Ward Name 29 The Meadow Way CM11 2HL 01277 632104 Cllr A Adshead adam.adshead@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk Ε Cllr J Clark 33 Carson Road CM11 1SA 01277 659842 jo.clark@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk Ε 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 ONZ 01277 656937 jim.devlin@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk W Cllr J Henshaw 46 The Avenue CM12 9HG james.henshaw@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk SW 07544 499272 Cllr K Herlock c/o The Chantry Centre 01277 625732 kathryn.herlock@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk F 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 Ε Cllr M Mordecai c/o The Chantry Centre 01277 625732 martyn.mordecai@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk F SW Cllr M Roessler 9 Second Avenue CM12 9PR 07760 373070 martin.roessler@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk Cllr E Sainsbury 17 Hares Chase CM12 0HJ edward.sainsbury@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk W 07517 362368 Cllr D Spencer Fir Tree Lodge 16 Back Lane CM4 9DG 01277 829750 daphne.spencer@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk Ε Cllr G Talbot 185 Perry Street CM12 0NX gareth.talbot@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk W 07983 421686 Ε Cllr A Talboys c/o The Chantry Centre 01277 657576 alan.talboys@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk W Cllr M Thomas 39 Chestwood Close CM12 0PB 01277 650453 mark.thomas@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk Cllr J Tutton 11 Bluebell Wood CM12 0ES 01277 655443 jim.tutton@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk Ε CHAIRMAN Cllr Mark Thomas TOWN CLERK Deborah Tonkiss, Billericay Town Council Telephone: 01277 625732 townclerk@billericaytowncouncil.gov.ukThe Chantry Centre, Chantry Way Fmail: Billericay, Essex CM11 2AP Website: www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk

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