



# Billericay Town Council Annual Report 2009/2010

YOUR QUALITY COUNCIL

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I am pleased to introduce the Billericay Town Council Annual Report for the Municipal financial year 2009/2010. It contains details of our workings in the current year and our plans for 2010/11.

One councillor resigned due to family reasons and was replaced by Cllr Susan McCaffery elected after a bye-election in September. The next full Town Council election will be in 2012 and I urge any resident to think about standing at that time; in the meantime I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of our Council for their contribution towards making this another successful year covering as many topics as we can to improve the facilities and environment for our residents. This current fiscal year has seen steady progress made by the Town Council and the main highlights are:

- ▶ Reviewed 206 planning applications
- ▶ Delivered Multi Use Sports Area in Lake Meadows
- ▶ Successful Billericay in Bloom Competition
- ▶ Two "Big Litter Picks"
- ▶ Renewal of our Quality Status
- ▶ Qualification as a Well Being Council
- ▶ Visit from the Government of Bermuda
- ▶ Switching on ceremony of the Christmas Lights
- ▶ Sixth Edition of the Town Guide
- ▶ Stakeholders in the Billericay Health Steering Group Review
- ▶ Billericay walk signage and a new Circular Walks brochure
- ▶ Application for Town Green status being pursued
- ▶ Billericay Youth Town Council continues in a very positive mood
- ▶ Open house on Annual Christmas Family Fayre evening
- ▶ Commencement of the Greening Billericay Campaign

The Town Council has now set a rate for a Band D property of £19.80 for the coming year commencing April 2010. This is an increase of £3.52 for the whole year or, to put it another way, just less than 1 penny per day. In previous years we have funded some of our expenditure from reserves, to keep down the precept, something we have been unable to do this year to the same extent. This increase means our average annual increase over the last five years has been 4.25%. The Finance Committee have been very prudent in managing our financial business including taking action to avoid risk in the banking system and so far we have avoided difficulties. We continue to seek outside funding to support our projects and this year has seen further success in securing funds.

I was delighted that our application to seek the

renewal of our Quality Status was successful and we will work to maintain this status and improve our working practices over the next four years. We were delighted to be asked by National Association of Local Councils to host a meeting with members of the Bermudian Government, who are looking for model systems in order to devolve local responsibilities to town and parish councils on their island.

We are now qualified to function as a Well Being Council which allows the town council to extend and evolve its activities within the town.

Christmas Lights Switching on Ceremony was a great success this year with two choirs singing Christmas Carols supported by a silver band and the introduction of a programme of events and balloons. Again we received a number of compliments from the local residents which were very welcome. We



thank all those organisations and retailers who made donations and shared in its success.

The sixth edition of the Town Guide was published and issued free to 12000 households in the town.

We were stakeholders in the Billericay Health Review a public consultation conducted by the SW Essex NHS. The outcome was to retain all seven GP Practices, St Andrews and Mayflower Community hospital and improve and increase medical services locally by investing in these facilities. Additional NHS dental services will be provided.

The Billericay Youth Town Council members reconvened in October, reappointed their chairwoman from last year and have continued to progress as a very energetic group.

In March we were pleased to deliver the new Multi Use Sports Area into Lake Meadows at a cost of £49,893, of which £20,000 came from Essex County Council Youth Opportunities Fund; we thank them for their support for this project. We also thank Basildon District Council for their total co-operation throughout this project and for the land to build the play area. We are also grateful to the Billericay Youth Town Council for all their energy, ideas and successful funding application with regard to

bringing this all-weather play area to fruition.

We have signposted a number of healthy short cut pathways which crisscross our town to enable residents to find their way to and from strategic points in the town.

The Annual Christmas Family Fayre – a late night shopping opportunity – arranged by the Billericay Mayflower Rotary Club in the High Street was a very damp event but residents were not put off and turned out in good numbers. For the first time we opened our Town Council meeting room to the public. We were very impressed by the number of residents that took the opportunity to visit us and spend time to discuss our activities and enjoy a welcome glass of hot mulled wine.

Looking forward we are actively seeking to retain Sun Corner as a Town Green in perpetuity and with no objection from Basildon District Council we are

now continuing a dialogue with Essex County Council and we hope to have a successful outcome shortly.

We continue to work closely and in partnership with Basildon District Council and other organisations to enhance areas within the Town. Lake Meadows is of special interest to us and with the possibility of further concerts scheduled for July this will again raise the profile of Billericay.

This year saw the council introduce new activities with the starting of a Tourist Working Party, a Parking Project Group and a Greening Campaign, this campaign was the theme of our last Annual Town Meeting and has progressed to a really current active period with a Green Day set for the 19 June.

Finally, I would like to thank all those people and groups who have helped us continue to serve you, our residents, during the past year; many of those co-opted onto the various working parties have made a significant contribution to support the council's activities. Our policy continues to outreach into the community, developing relationships and partnerships which can help us all to serve the Billericay people.

My special thanks go to our Town Clerk, Helen Philpott and our Administrative Assistant, Madeline Gapes for the dedication, professionalism, and hard work in enabling this council to run as smoothly as it does.

I have enjoyed my second year as Chairman which has allowed me to continue through delegation to free up time to attend, on behalf of the Town Council, a number of functions both in and outside the town, promoting our town and enjoying the good name it has in the district and beyond.

**Cllr Peter Bowditch**

**Chairman Billericay Town Council**

For further information and general enquiries contact:

Town Clerk • Billericay Town Council • The Loft • Crown Yard • High Street • Billericay CM12 9BX  
[www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk)

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Official Office Opening times 9.30am-2.30pm Mon-Fri

Outside these hours please ring as there may well be office staff present



## FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE (F&GPC)

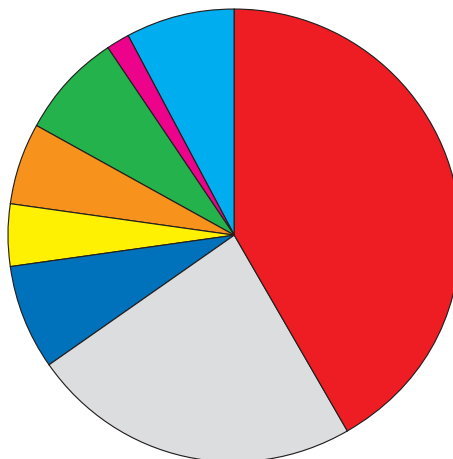
Chaired by Cllr. Jim Devlin

The Finance & General Purposes Committee has a role similar to that of a Financial Director in a company. It is the committee's responsibility to scrutinize the financial performance of the Council and to ensure that the Council remains within budgetary constraints.

Each year the Committee receives the financial estimates from other Committees and pulls these together into a draft budget for the next financial year. This budget is then put to Council together with a number of options for amendment and the consequences of these alternative budgets. Council then decides the budget to be adopted. This expenditure budget is what results in the required precept which is collected on our behalf by Basildon Council.

2009/10 has been challenging as the budget set last year planned to use £57270 of reserves to subsidize the precept. During the year some planned expenditure was cut and some was deferred into next year meaning that our reserves will fall by less than £20000. Prudent financial management dictates that we should maintain sufficient reserves to cope with unseen eventualities and to set aside sums for future projects which would cause an undue burden on the precept should they be financed during a single year.

The budget for 2010/2011 has been set with a five year horizon to our planning, which will enable us to maintain our precept changes within inflation each year. We have also decided that we will not use reserves to fund running costs of the Council.



- Administration & Council Members
- Recreational Facilities
- Public Toilets
- Christmas Lights
- Other Projects
- Publications
- Youth Town Council
- Earmarked Reserves

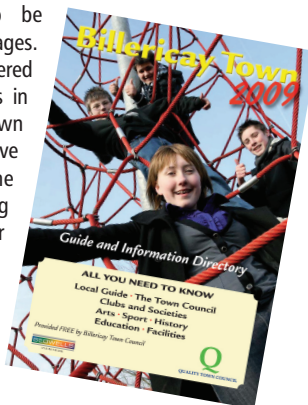
\*Earmarked Reserves are for Christmas Lights replacement fund £5,000, Billericay Design Statement £5,000 and Allotments provision £10,000  
**Note:** Due to the early production of the Annual Report some of the 2009/2010 expenditure figures are year-end estimates.

**The Town Crier Working Party chaired by Cllr. Marion Wilson.** – We have continued to produce the Town Crier quarterly for free delivery to all who live in the Billericay town area.

During the year we have changed the design to produce what we hope is a more attractive and eye catching newspaper. In April of this year the Town Crier will be enlarged to provide space for Community News.

**The Town Guide Working Party chaired by Cllr. Marion Wilson.** – The sixth edition of the Town Guide was launched in October 2009. Due to the overwhelming response from clubs and societies, this edition had to be extended to 72 pages. Copies are delivered to all households in the Billericay town area and we have found that some copies are making their way all over the world.

The Town Guide can be obtained from the Town Council offices or the library.



## PLANNING COMMITTEE

Chairman:  
Cllr. John  
Buchanan

The committee meets every 2 weeks to consider all planning applications in the town. The meetings are open to the public. We submit our objections to every proposal which will have a harmful effect on the quality of life of people living nearby or using the area. We pay particular attention to the High Street Conservation area, and work with Basildon Council to enforce every breach of the planning rules. We have also scrutinised the County Council's extensive and complicated schemes for on-street parking all over the town, and have generally favoured the least amount of change, although the County Council says it has listened to your views and in general is proceeding with its schemes. The additional vehicle activated speed warning signs have now been installed. Next year we expect to nominate other highways schemes for the town.



**Pedestrian & Cycle Routes Working Party –**

**Chairman: Cllr. John Buchanan.** – The six "Healthy Shortcuts" to help you walk from place to place across the town have been completed, including signs at key points to help you find your way. A leaflet with a map showing these shortcuts has been produced and is available from the Council Office. Twelve guided walks of the Town Trail were organised, these will be handled by the Tourism Working Party in future. Roads most suitable for cyclists within Billericay have been reviewed with the County Council, who will produce a map, and the route of National Cycle Route 13 through the town has been agreed. Next we will investigate possible leisure cycle routes based in the town.

**Sun Corner Project Group – Chairman: Cllr. John Buchanan.** –

The Council is still determined that Sun Corner should be registered as a Town Green. Prolonged negotiations have taken place behind the scenes with Basildon Council and Essex County Council to ensure Sun Corner is best protected for you to use for all sorts of leisure activities, for ever. Basildon Council have withdrawn their objection. We expect this to be resolved this year.

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

2008/9	INCOME	2009/10
£'000	SOURCE	£'000
214	Precept	201
11	Interest earned	5
13	Local sponsorship	8
75	Outside funding	20
1	Other income	1
0	Insurance Claim	8
	From General Reserve	18
<b>314</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>261</b>

### EXPENDITURE AND RESERVES

2008/9	INCOME	2009/10
£'000	DESCRIPTION	£'000
109	Admin & Council Members	109
95	Recreational Facilities	62
59	Public Toilets	19
10	Christmas Lights	12
10	Crime Prevention	0
18	Other Projects	15
9	Publications	20
3	Youth Town Council	4
1	Earmarked Reserves*	20
<b>314</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>261</b>





## REPORT FOR THE YEAR APRIL 2009 TO MARCH 2010

The Environment Committee has had an exceptionally successful year in the initiation, support and completion of its projects. These, hopefully, have been of benefit to all residents. Again, I thank all Councillors and members of the public who have provided such valuable contributions.

The highlights for the year are:

- ▶ Greening Billericay Campaign community public meeting;
- ▶ The twelfth annual Billericay in Bloom competition;
- ▶ Continuing provision of Hanging Baskets, Planters and Flower beds;
- ▶ Improved and extended Christmas Lights along the High Street and beyond;
- ▶ The fifth 'Celebration of Christmas Lights';
- ▶ The fourth Christmas Shop Window competition;
- ▶ Two further publicly-supported Litter Picks;
- ▶ Continued the provision of the Automatic Public Convenience facility which is well used;
- ▶ New Teen Multi-Use Sports Area in Lake Meadows;
- ▶ Two further Plant-a-Shrub sessions at the Child in the Park and Festival Gardens;
- ▶ Partnership with Basildon District Council to enhance Lake Meadows.
- ▶ Bus Shelters – as a result of Town Council involvement four new shelters have been installed within the town by Essex County Council

The details of each project are described below:

### Billericay in Bloom Working Party chaired by Cllr Moira Moore.

– In 2009 we introduced two new categories "Best Garden Design" and "Best Topiary" as well as a Gardening Quiz. This and the extraordinarily good weather led to a record entry level last year when 77 green-

fingered residents of Billericay showed off their beautiful gardens, pots, vegetable plots and Hanging Baskets to our two RHS judges, who had a tough time in determining who would come out top of the crop in each category! The prizegiving was equally well attended with Ken Crowther from BBC Essex presenting the prizes and giving a talk. Thank you to everybody who entered, sponsored and supported this popular annual event in our town.

**The Christmas Lights Working Party chaired by Cllr Tina Arnold.** – In our 5th year of providing Christmas Lights to the town, more improvements have been made to the lights by extending the lamp

post motifs further along the High Street over the railway bridge on one end and, on the other end towards Sun Corner, new icicle light chains have been installed. In addition all lamp posts have been fitted with new digital timers.

The Celebration of the Christmas Lights event was held on Sat Nov 28th, when balloons in the town's colours of blue and yellow sporting the Mayflower ship were given out to the children by Youth Town Council members in fancy dress, the Salvation Army led the Carol singing supported by the Billericay School Choir and Father Christmas was in attendance to switch on the Lights.

The shop window competition this year was won by "The Olive Branch" shop, who donated their £100 winnings to St. Luke's Hospice.

Despite the recession lots of businesses sponsored the new scheme of plaques, which were fitted to the motifs on the lamp posts as well as programs and posters.

Many thanks to everybody who helped make this a very colourful and enjoyable event.



### Litter Working Party – chaired by Cllr. Moira Moore.

– Another successful year for the 'Big Litter Pick'. We held two events in April and October 2009. Despite lots of rain in October we had a good turnout. We collected approximately seventy bags of litter on each occasion and improved the picking process by using litter pickers, disposable gloves and hi-viz jackets. Partner organisations who helped local residents at the litter pick included the Air Cadets, the Billericay Lions, Rotary Club of Billericay Mayflower, Royal British Legion, Billericay Society and District and County Councillors. During the year the Council continued with the provision of litter bins.

The Town Council works closely with Basildon District Council on litter collection and enforcement.

### The Recreation Working Party (including Lake Meadows Partnership) chaired by Cllr. Peter Bowditch.

– This year we have had detailed discussions with Basildon District Council regarding what we can achieve under the Lake Meadows Partnership. This is ongoing with the upgrade of certain facilities under review. The Multi Use Sports Area in partnership with the Billericay Youth Town

Council and Basildon District Council has been secured and built alongside the Teen Area and provides an all weather surface for all ages to play ball games. This project has been an outstanding success story from start to finish and we will now look to the skateboard area and consult to determine if it needs upgrading.

### The Greening Billericay Campaign Working Party chaired by Cllr. David Knight.

– Significant effort from Councillors and from members of the public resulted in a community-wide public meeting in March to commit to reducing CO2 and water

through implementing 'small, inexpensive actions'. An environmental Green day will follow in June.

### The Tourism Working Party chaired by Cllr. Jim Devlin.

– This Working Party was set up during the year to manage the existing Town Walks and to promote the town to visitors as well as residents. The Town Walks were extended in number last year and numbers exceeded expectations with many people coming to Billericay to see the history of our town. Thanks are due to those volunteers who have led the walks.

Efforts of the Working Party so far are being directed to increasing our presence on both Essex and East of England tourism websites.

**Allotments.** – During the year the public asked the Council to investigate the provision of allotments and this is still being pursued.

### War Memorial – Cllr. Paul Arnold is responsible for maintenance.

– Billericay Town Council is the custodian of the two War Memorials. In November 2009, two new large decorative urns were introduced within the WW2 memorial to give added interest. The new planting comprises a permanent centre golden columnar conifer in each pot, with the surrounding planting to reflect the changing seasons. The first planting this year was red cyclamen to compliment the Remembrance Day colours of red. Many Town Councillors gathered on 5th November to give the Memorial area its autumn spruce up, in preparation for the Remembrance Day Parade.



To view the Annual Report and further details of Town Council activities look on the Town Council's website:  
[www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk)







### Chairperson Sophie Harrison

The second year of our term for Billericay Youth Town Council has arrived and in November we had our Annual General Meeting to elect officers and agree on future projects.

The officers' appointments were considered at the Annual Youth Town Council meeting and the following were elected:

Sophie Harrison as Chairperson, Alex Jones as Vice-Chairman, Jake Piper-Hood as Secretary and Gareth Rogers as Treasurer. Gareth and I were lucky enough to be re-elected into our posts.

Also it was decided to have an Event Organisers sub-committee and the Youth Town Councillors appointed were:

Bethan Cousins, Andrew Turner, Tayler Cronly-Dillon, Gopika Jem and Georgina Goodey.

Since November we have been working on various projects including: a MUSA (Multi Use Sports Area) for which we obtained grant funding to assist with

the purchase; another Talent Show, an Easter Egg Hunt, Greening Billericay Campaign, Renovation of The Skate Park and Making a Video of Billericay. Since the Annual General Meeting, we have had various groups from the community attend our twice monthly meetings including representatives of the Skate Park Committee, Southend and Essex Health Services and Officers of Basildon District Council. We hope that from these visits we have helped them with their research and we have also gained knowledge of what happens in our local community. We have recently taken part in visiting MUSA sites and interviewing manufacturers and as a result of this Steelway Fence's tender was successful. This facility in Lake Meadows was completed in April.

In the Summer of 2009, we visited Parliament as a group which was very enjoyable yet educational; maybe some of us will be there sometime in the future. Also, a group of us received awards at the Basildon Youth Awards, these Youth Town Councillors included:

Emma Willis, Gareth Rogers, Jack Davie, Alex Jones. Also two Youth Town Councillors received special awards:

Tayler Cronly-Dillon for Overcoming Adversity  
Sophie Harrison for Inspirational Role Model



In December, the Youth Town Councillors dressed up in fancy dress for the Christmas Lights Switching on and handed out balloons, as well as programmes. This was good fun and we all looked brilliant.

One of my first functions as re-elected Chairperson was to lay a wreath on behalf of the BYTC at the Remembrance Day Parade and I was also able to partake in the judging of the Best Shop Window Competition, which was very well deserved and went to the Olive Branch.

Our term so far has been very enjoyable and I can't wait to progress further with our projects until the next election.

## FACTS

The Town Council represents YOU and has a consultative role in relation to Basildon District Council, Essex County Council and other authorities responsible for police, water and health.

## DID YOU KNOW

The Town Council's Coach House meeting room in Crown Yard is available to hire at reasonable cost; a comfortably furnished room which can accommodate up to 40 people seated. For details of hire contact the Town Clerk.  
The Annual Report can be made available in large print. To obtain a copy in alternative format please contact the Town Council.  
The Town Council has supplies of the Pink recycling sacks, free of charge, and Green garden waste sacks, £1.40. Bus Pass application forms can also be obtained from the Offices.  
Members of the Public are welcome to attend Council and Committee meetings and are given the opportunity to ask questions – dates of meetings and agendas are available on the Council's website.  
As well as the Town Guide and 'Healthy Shortcuts' leaflets, copies of the Town Council's Town Trail leaflet and Circular Walks leaflet can be obtained from the Town Council office.

### COUNCILLORS ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS 28 MAY 2009 – 10 MARCH 2010

NO. OF MEETINGS	22	7	7	8
COUNCILLOR	PLAN	F&GP	ENV	COUNCIL
P Arnold	16	5	7	7
T Arnold	13		7	6
P Bowditch	8	6	5	7
J Buchanan	18		6	8
J Devlin	18	6	4	8
J Dunn	20	5		6
C Dyer		5	5	5
T Gandy				6
E Guest		4		6
D Knight		7	7	6
S McCaffery From 28/9/09				4
K Mesnard				3
M Moore	18	4	5	4
R Rapley	14	5		4
J Shrubbs	11			5
D Spencer	9		3	5
T Stansfield	5	2		2
H Ud-Din				5
P Went			4	8
M Wilson		5	3	6

PLAN = Planning

F&GP = Finance & General Purposes

ENV = Environment

### BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCILLORS

Name	Address	Phone No.	E-Mail	Ward
Paul Arnold	c/o Billericay Town Council	01277 625732	ClrPArnold@aol.com	E
Tina Arnold	c/o Billericay Town Council	01277 625732	ClrTArnold@aol.com	E
Peter Bowditch	18 Cranmer Close, Billericay CM12 0YQ	01277 659530	peter.bowditch@tiscali.co.uk	W
John Buchanan	72 Meadow Rise, Billericay CM11 2EF	01277 656715	cllr.buchanan@tiscali.co.uk	E
Jim Devlin	231 Perry Street, Billericay CM12 0NZ	01277 656937	btc@devlin.plus.com	W
Jack Dunn	78 Perry Street, Billericay CM12 0ND	01277 654539	morse-morse@hotmail.co.uk	W
Colin Dyer	6 Montpelier Close, Billericay CM12 0UH	01277 625732		W
Terence Gandy	Mille Fleurs, 32 Nozsey View Drive, CM12 0QR	01277 624309		W
Edgar Guest	c/o Billericay Town Council	01277 625732		SW
David Knight	15 Larch Close, Steeple View, SS15 4DY	01268 545945		E
Susan McCaffery	c/o Billericay Town Council	01277 625732	s_mccaffery@sky.com	SW
Kevin Mesnard	21 Cromwell Avenue, Billericay CM12 0AE	01277 630373	kevinmesnard@hotmail.com	W
Moirra Moore	47 Laindon Road, Billericay CM12 9LG	01277 627266	moirra1moore@btinternet.com	E
Rod Rapley	43 Crescent Road, Billericay CM12 0JQ	01277 622125	rod@oaktree43.freemove.co.uk	W
James Shrubbs	c/o Billericay Town Council	01277 625732		E
Daphne Spencer	Fir Tree Lodge, 16 Back Lane, Stock CM4 9DG	01277 829750		E
Trevor Stansfield	174 Perry Street, Billericay CM12 0NX	01277 623519	tremar@aol.com	W
Dr. Hameed Ud-Din	207 Church Street, Gt. Burstead CM11 2TP	01277 625732		SW
Pamela Went	4 The Mullions, Billericay CM12 9XG	01277 658961		W
Marion Wilson	25 Parklands, Billericay CM11 1AS	01277 626321		E
CHAIRMAN:	Clr Peter Bowditch			
TOWN CLERK:	Helen Philpott Billericay Town Council The Loft, Crown Yard, High Street Billericay, Essex CM12 9BX	Telephone: 01277 625732 Fax: 01277 634784 E-Mail: townclerk@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk Website: www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk		