



Billericay Town Crier

YOUR QUALITY COUNCIL

www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL

January 2011

TOWN COUNCIL TAX FROZEN

The Town Council recently approved its budget for 2011-2012 and decided to maintain the precept for a Band D property at £19.80; this compares favourably with the national average for large Town Councils of £98. We have not needed to dip into reserves to achieve this and thus we look forward to being able to maintain our precept at inflation or preferably below inflation.

Cllr Jim Devlin, Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee said "In common with many councils throughout the country we have taken note of the Government's call for zero increases this year. However, unlike the Borough and County Councils, the Town Council receives no block grant from

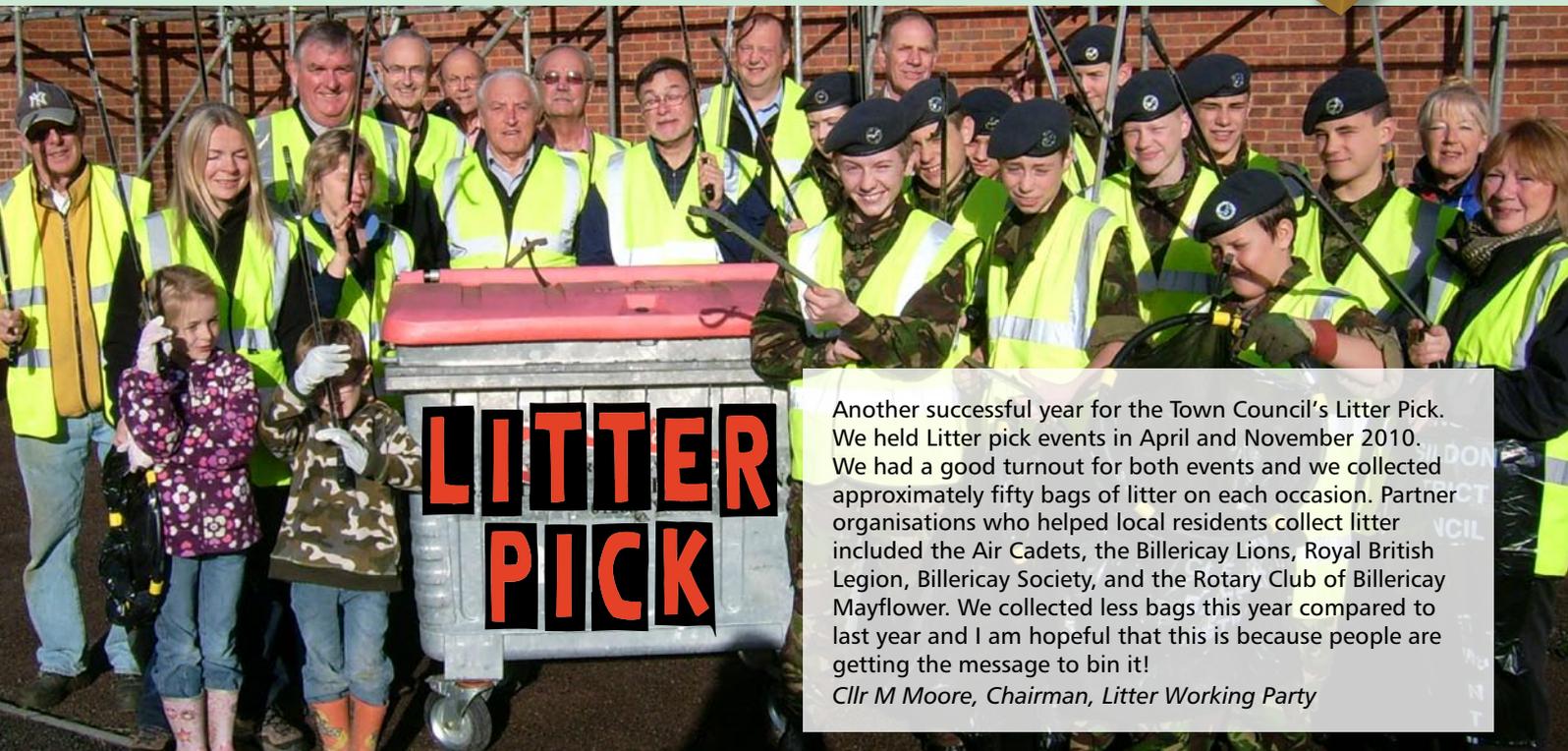
Central Government and will therefore not receive money to help it maintain a 0% change. On the other hand we will not suffer any cutbacks and therefore we are in a better position to maintain providing our services and also to continue to make capital investments in the town."



SALT BAG TRIAL

As Essex County Council had stated that they would not be providing any additional salt bins, they invited Town and Parish Councils throughout the county to take up the offer of a trial 1 tonne salt bag. Billericay Town Council were concerned as to where the bag could be stored but on the initiative of Cllrs J Shrubbs and I Davie and with the help of Essex County Councillor Hedley, we entered into a ground breaking partnership with the Fire Authority, and it was agreed that storage could take place at the Fire Station. The bag was delivered and Town Councillors and a volunteer transferred the salt into smaller bags which were then made available to local residents for distribution on roads and pavements during snowy conditions.

For information regarding the Essex County Council winter gritting service etc. visit their website: <http://www.essex.gov.uk> and useful information can also be found on the DirectGov website.



Another successful year for the Town Council's Litter Pick. We held Litter pick events in April and November 2010. We had a good turnout for both events and we collected approximately fifty bags of litter on each occasion. Partner organisations who helped local residents collect litter included the Air Cadets, the Billericay Lions, Royal British Legion, Billericay Society, and the Rotary Club of Billericay Mayflower. We collected less bags this year compared to last year and I am hopeful that this is because people are getting the message to bin it!

Cllr M Moore, Chairman, Litter Working Party

For further information and general enquiries contact:

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

T: 01277 625732 • F: 01277 634784 • E: townclerk@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk • W: www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk

Official Office Opening times 9.30am - 2.30pm Mon-Fri. Outside these hours please ring as there may well be office staff present.

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

BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL



GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SPONSORSHIP OF

**BILLERICAY DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
MICHAELA HEALTH & BEAUTY
F.E. FARRER UNDERTAKERS
HALLMARK HEALTHCARE
SHADFORTH PHARMACY
BILLERICAY HOMECARE
THE CROWN / THE ORB
BENNETTS FUNERALS
NEWMAN & HOOPER
WAITROSE
JARVIS PRINT
RAVENS BAKERY
BASILDON COUNCIL
THE COACH & HORSES
WOODWARD CARPETS
IMPARTIAL ADVISER LTD
E.EDWARDS, SON & NOICE
ROTARY CLUB OF BILLERICAY
THE LIONS CLUB OF BILLERICAY
PETER MURRAY FINANCIAL SERVICES
ROTARY CLUB OF BILLERICAY MAYFLOWER
BILLERICAY MAYFLOWER TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

FOR THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2010



BILLERICAY SPARKLES

We were delighted that many hundreds of residents, young and old, came to the heart of our town at the War Memorial to help Father Christmas count down the seconds leading to the switching on of the Christmas Lights on Saturday 27th November. It was a colourful event with balloons, in the town's colours of blue and gold, being handed out to children by members of the Billericay Youth Town Council in fancy dress. The Town Crier rang in the event and read out his historic scroll, whilst the Wickford Salvation Army band got everyone in the mood for Christmas. The traditional carol singing was led by the Billericay School choir, who turned out in good numbers and with excellent singers too! And traditionally members of the Billericay Lions Club were in attendance and the Snow Fairy of the Chequers Pub ensured that snow fell in abundance.

Our thanks go to all those who were involved and helped make this such an enjoyable event including Jarvis print for producing the carol sheet free of charge. Even more thanks to the people of Billericay and all the children for coming along and helping Father Christmas switch on our lights, and who made this event complete.

Cllr Tina Arnold, Chairman, Christmas Lights Working Party



BASILDON COUNCIL APPROVES BILLERICAY DESIGN STATEMENT

Basildon Borough Council have agreed the recommendations made in the Billericay Design Statement which will be used when deciding planning applications relating to the town in order to maintain its character and enhance its environment.

Cllr Richard Moore, Cabinet member for Development Control and Customer Services said: "I would like to thank the Billericay Design Statement Association for producing the design statement for Billericay which has taken three years of hard work.

The Basildon Borough Council recognised that this work has been done by the members of the Association on a voluntary basis, and that there has been considerable involvement of local residents and businesses in responding to the various consultation exercises.

It is a very professional document that illustrates the interest that residents have in their town and how they wish to preserve and enhance its character."

Cllr Ian Davie, Billericay Town Councillor and Chairman of the BDSA said: "We are very proud of the design statement, and it is the culmination of three years of hard work from a voluntary group of people from the community. I am delighted that this has been endorsed by Basildon Borough Council, as without that it is just a document full of pretty pictures of Billericay with no real weight. This approval makes it viable. I want to thank Basildon Borough Council for its professional input and support through the process."



BEST SHOP WINDOW COMPETITION

Every year Billericay Town Council undertakes a Christmas Best Shop Window Competition, the winner of which is requested to nominate a local charity to receive the prize money. This year the windows were judged by the Chairman of the Environment Committee, Cllr David Knight and Youth Town Councillors Beth Deacon (Chairwoman), and Michael Ingall.

The winner of this year's competition was The Olive Branch, 128 High Street, who nominated local charity St. Luke's Hospice to receive the prize money of £100.

On Tuesday 21st December the cheque was presented to Heather Penny, Corporate Fundraiser, St. Luke's Hospice and a winning certificate was presented to Tracey Hordon of The Olive Branch; Members of the Billericay Town Council were also in attendance.

A representative of St. Luke's Hospice said this was an unexpected welcome boost to their funds which they are very pleased to accept. The recent bad weather has meant that a considerable number of fundraising events have had to be cancelled and the hospice estimate that they have lost £10,000 in fundraising.

BYTC

Billericay Youth Town Council Elections



Newly appointed members of the Youth Town Council with Chairman of the Council, Cllr Peter Bowditch

The new elections of the Billericay Youth Town Council took place during November and at the annual general meeting (AGM) the committee was voted for by the newly elected members. The officers are now myself, Beth Deacon, Chair; Thomas Proudfoot, Secretary; Gareth Rogers, Treasurer and former chair Sophie Harrison as Vice-Chair.

I am really enthusiastic and hopeful about the new Council as there are some promising new Councillors as well as hard working and passionate re-elected members.

We have already discussed ideas about new projects that we hope to be able to work on, such as a Battle of the Bands competition, re-fitting the skate park over at Lake Meadows and producing a short film to promote the youths of Billericay which will primarily be used for our twinning town of Billerica in the USA.

In previous years, the Youth Town Council have achieved quite a bit including the multi-use play area at Lake Meadows and successful Talent Shows to showcase the talent that youths in Billericay have and to raise money for charities such as H.E.L.P.I.N.G. I know that the Youth Town Council will continue to be successful but will be pushing to do more this year for the youths in and around Billericay by teaming up with other Town Councils, such as Basildon and Wickford, to share ideas and complete larger scale projects.

This year really looks promising for the younger generation in Billericay.
Beth Deacon, Chair, Youth Town Council

BBC – SATURDAY CRUNCH SERVICE

9.00 am to 12 noon – Garden refuse and general rubbish can be taken to the following:

- 05 February Billericay – Radford Crescent
- 12 February Meadow Rise/Kelvedon Rise behind Shops
- 05 March Billericay – Hannakins Farm
- 19 March Carvers Wood

ESSEX POLICE

24 hour non-emergency number 03003334444

Councillors who should be contacted for the following services:

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

Contact details for these Councillors are listed on the Council Website under Councillors

The Billericay Town Council helped sponsor the Twins Club Christmas Party which the Chairman, Cllr Peter Bowditch, was pleased to attend



TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

FEBRUARY 2011

Tuesday 1	Planning	Tuesday 8	Environment
Tuesday 15	Planning	Thursday 17	Finance & General Purposes

MARCH 2011

Tuesday 1	Planning	Thursday 3	TOWN COUNCIL
Tuesday 15	Planning	Thursday 17	Environment
Thursday 24	Finance & General Purposes		
Tuesday 29	Planning		

APRIL 2011

Thursday 7	TOWN COUNCIL	Tuesday 12	Planning
Tuesday 26	Planning		

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



communitynews

FLAG FLOWN FROM ST MARY MAGDALEN



After many years a flag has been flown again at St Mary Magdalen. As a result of working with the Parochial Church Council, the Town Council were able to provide a St. George's flag and to assist with the cost of repairing the flagpole to enable it to be flown on Remembrance Sunday.

GRIEF JOURNEY

Are you lonely, grieving, coping with a loss? 6 weekly free sessions, led by grief counsellor Dr Bill Webster, are shortly to be launched within Billericay and further details can be obtained by looking at the website www.griefjourney.com.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Sam Dowsett and **Max Warren-Watson** (both from St. John's School) and **Nicole Dines** (Mayflower School) for being chosen by the panel of judges to go through to the District Finals of the Rotary Club Young Chef of the Year competition which will be held at Chelmsford in February, 2011. The Rotary Club of Billericay organised the local heat of the competition resulting in ten students from three schools taking part, Billericay, St. John's and Mayflower.

Oliver Valentini, 13 for reaching the final of BBC Radio 2's Chorister of the Year competition.

Sophie Harrison, Vice-Chair of the Billericay Youth Town Council for being selected by the British Youth Council to visit Berlin and be involved in the Holocaust Memorial Day and the Youth Event on 23rd January 2011 at York. Only three teenagers were chosen nationally to lead this event.





ART TRAIL RETURNS IN 2011

Following the success of the first ever Basildon District Art Trail, the organisers are pleased to announce that the trail will return in 2011. The trail will now be known as the A127 Trail covering the towns of Basildon, Wickford and Billericay and applications are now invited for artists and venues to participate in next year's event. The event was particularly well supported in Billericay and many shops went on to support their artist once the trail had finished. Lesley Draper of the Billericay Cookshop and Emporium was delighted to have taken part: "The Billericay Cookshop & The Emporium were pleased to participate in Billericay's first art trail. Any event which encourages new visitors to the town is always welcome. We are now working with one of the artists (Lesley Spriggs) in promoting her work. We look forward to next year's event". Bells Blinds extended the run of Coleen Campbell's exhibition for a few further weeks after the trail too. Artist Dean Smith, the man behind the first art trail, is extremely pleased with the response to the 2010 event. "It proves there is an appetite for art in this area and a wealth of creative talent that needs a public outlet to display its work. I hope many more artists and venues will join us



CATER MUSEUM

74 High Street, Billericay • For further details telephone: 01277 622023

EVERY OBJECT TELLS A STORY

A new display in the museum is based on the recent gift by Town Cllr. Guest of Billericay. Seventeenth century trade "money" was issued to fill the need for low value coins in making change. Between 1648 and 1672 a great amount was issued by merchants, each agreeing to accept that issued by other merchants in the area. The restoration of the monarchy under Charles II saw the issue of copper coinage and tin farthings, making those trade tokens unnecessary, so the Billericay "money" slowly vanished from everyday use.

The local tokens were issued by Billericay traders Joseph Fishpoole, Miles Hackluitt, Abraham Thresher, Edward Rhett and Samuel Waite.

Miles Hackluitt is thought to have lived at 70 High Street, where a number of clay pipes, perhaps rejects, were found under the floor along with two coins from the period of Charles II. The image of three pipes appears on his issue. Joseph Fishpoole was a dealer in wool and resided in "Hurlocks", now 39 High Street. Joseph died a rich man and was buried in Great Burstead church together with his wife Rebecca. Abraham Thresher resided at the Red Lion and was described as a shopkeeper in 1690.

to make the 2011 A127 Trail bigger and better than this year", he says. 2011's trail dates are 9th-18th September. If you would like more information about providing a venue or if you are an artist who lives or works in one of the three towns and would like to submit your work for possible inclusion in the 2011 Trail, please go to www.a127trail.com. or contact Dean Smith on: 01268 522973

THE CENSUS IS COMING – HELP TOMORROW TAKE SHAPE

On Sunday 27th March 2011 the National Census will be undertaken for the first time in 10 years; it has taken place every 10 years for over two centuries, interrupted only by World War Two. It is of crucial importance to Essex for a number of key reasons.

The main reason for having a census is simple – it provides central government with the information they need to allocate funds of about £100 billion each year to the organisations and structures that look after our communities. We all know that our society is changing and the census will take a snapshot in time which details the changing face of Essex.

This has practical benefits for all of us. If there is a marked increase in births in an area the County Council can draw up plans for new or bigger schools; if the age groups within the town show an increase in older residents, Health Authority services are planned to take this into account. The more accurate the profile of our communities the better the quality of spending on the services we use.

So when March comes around, watch out for the distinctive purple letter through your letter box – the Census 2011 form – it will only take ten minutes to complete.



LOOK OUT FOR A PURPLE PATCH IN LAKE MEADOWS NEXT SPRING

Last autumn the Rotary Club of Billericay, helped by members of the public planted 1000 purple crocus bulbs in the garden of The Child in the Park in aid of the Purple Pinkie campaign aimed at eradicating polio in parts of Africa.

BILLERICAY COMMUNITY ARCHIVE

Many people attended the launch at Billericay library on Saturday 20th November and provided lots of memories and photographs which will be included on the Community Archive website for all to see. Since the launch Billericay has gone global with visitors to our website from Australia, Canada, Germany, USA, Russia, Poland, Israel, New Zealand & Italy, as well as from all over the UK.

More memories of Billericay are still needed from all periods, long ago up to the present day. The website is not a standard history of the town but is trying to get at the more personal and everyday things that history leaves out. You can also go to the website and submit items directly, contact members of the Community Archive group via email or telephone me on 01277 656937. If you have friends and relatives abroad give them the website address so they can participate. This is a community archive and everyone is welcome to contribute or help. Contact: email – editor@billericayhistory.org.uk and visit the website www.billericayhistory.org.uk

Can you add to the story of Billericay?

Jim Devlin, Chairman, Billericay Community Archive

THOUSANDS MARK SUCCESS FOR BILLERICAY CHRISTMAS MARKET

Crowds poured into Billericay High Street for the Christmas Market on December 5th. The organisers headed by the Rotary Club of Billericay Mayflower, who had run midweek pre-Christmas fun nights for the past 16 years, were reacting to encouragement from Billericay Chamber of Commerce for a change to an all-day Sunday market. Other service clubs in the town assisted with the organisation and on the day including the Lions Club, Round Table and other Rotary clubs.

More than 90 shops opened and there were over 120 stallholders including an international market bringing a range of specialist food from the continent and crafts from many countries. A UK craft and farmers market with stalls such as hog roast helped towards creating a great atmosphere. The Lions Club organised the Santa parade and a grotto at the Reading Rooms. Round Table presented a range of live modern music with local pop and rock bands on one stage while Mayflower Rotarians presented more traditional local acts on another. Choirs representing various churches in the town sang carols in St Mary Magdalen Church throughout the afternoon and there was an activity 'village' in the main car park. A decision will be made shortly on a future event and information will be available on www.billericaychristmasmarket.com.

