



# Billericay Town Crier

YOUR QUALITY COUNCIL

www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL

January 2013

## Billericay Celebrates the New Sun Corner Status

As residents know, Sun Corner is a green area situated at the edge of the High Street and has been used by local residents for sports and pastimes for at least 45 years. On occasions it is also used by visiting circuses and fairs and a number of local organisations use it for local community events. It is also used by groups and individuals for the playing of team games, daily by dog walkers and children from the nearby schools. It is a green oasis within the centre of the town.

After many years of work the Town Council, together with Basildon Borough Council, Essex County Council and local residents joined together in a dedication ceremony on Saturday, 17th November 2012 to celebrate Sun Corner being granted Queen Elizabeth II Field status. This



*Cllr John Buchanan, Chairman of the Town Council; County Councillor Kay Twitchen, Chairman of the Essex County Council; Lord Petre, Lord Lieutenant of Essex and Borough Councillor Mo Larkin, Mayor of Basildon Council at the Dedication Ceremony*

means that Sun Corner is now protected in perpetuity for the people of Billericay. As part of the ceremony, Lord Petre, the Lord Lieutenant of Essex, unveiled a plaque commemorating the day.

The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge was launched to safeguard hundreds of outdoor recreational spaces in perpetuity for future generations in celebration of the Diamond Jubilee and as a permanent tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

*Cllr Moira Moore*



## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Christmas Lights Switch On took place this year on Saturday, November 24th. As always this was very well supported by Billericay folk despite the awful weather. Father Christmas, with thanks to the Billericay Lions, arrived to switch on the lights and members of the Billericay Youth Council in their wonderful costumes handed out balloons and treats to young and young at heart. The Salvation Army Band played for us and everyone enjoyed joining in the traditional carols led by the Mayflower School Choir. Jim Shrubbs our Town Crier was there rallying people, whilst The Chequers Public House helped to create the Christmas scene with their snow machine.

The Billericay Town Council provides and organises the lights by way of the Christmas Lights Committee and each year it seeks to make improvements. This year our range of lights included the illumination of our new Town Beacon on the corner of the QE II Field (Sun Corner) and also at the other end of the High Street, the illumination of the tree in Jim Shields Garden on the corner of Western Road. None of this could have been achieved without help, so a big thank you to all those who in some way contributed to making this possible, those businesses and charities who made donations, those involved in the organisation of the lights,



*Members of the Youth Town Council in fancy dress at the switching on of the Christmas Lights*

those who participated on the day and last but not least to those stalwarts who turned up and braved the torrential rain.

Thank you one and all.

*Cllr. Jo Clark – Chairman, Christmas Lights Committee.*

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.

# CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SPONSORSHIP

The sponsors of the Christmas Lights in 2012:

Bennetts Funerals

Billericay District Residents' Association

Billericay Homecare 🍷 Quality Solicitors FJG

Billericay Mayflower Twinning Association

Billericay Neighbourhood Watch

Billericay Candy Bar 🍷 Ravens Bakery

Billericay Cookshop and Emporium

Billericay Lions Club 🍷 Queens Park Co-operative

A.J Grayburn & Co. Ltd. 🍷 Shadforth Pharmacy

Reginald O'Neill Dental Practice 🍷 Lloyds TSB Bank PLC

Fish 'n' Chick 'n' 🍷 Hallmark Care Homes

Peter Murray Financial Management Ltd

Michaela Health & Beauty

Rotary Club of Billericay

Newman & Hooper Ltd

N Shelley 🍷 Woodward Carpets

The Chequers Public House

Jarvis Print



# BEST SHOP WINDOW COMPETITION



Youth Town Councillor Oliver Alexander, Town Councillors Jo Clark, Chairman of the Christmas Lights Working Party and Peter Bowditch, Vice-Chairman of the Council, with Tracey Hordon of the Olive Branch and Heather Penny, St. Luke's Hospice.

Grateful thanks to the Echo Newspaper for providing the photograph

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 Town Council, Cllr John Buchanan, Chairman of Christmas Lights Working Party, Cllr Jo Clark and Oliver Alexander and Lily Ray, members of the Youth Town Council.

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 11th 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 and Youth Town Council were also in attendance.

Certificates have also been issued to the following premises that were Highly Commended: The Candy Bar, The Gift Box, Thermaseal and A.E. & J.E. Farrer Funeral Services.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

# CLEANING OF THE WAR MEMORIAL

Members of the Town Council and representatives of the British Legion and Billericay Society took part in cleaning the War Memorial prior to the Annual Remembrance Day Parade.

A number of residents congratulated the Town Council on maintaining the War Memorial and were appreciative that it looked impressive at all times. Particular comments were made about the way that this year the planting arrangements complemented the crosses.



# BIG LITTER PICK



25 brave souls were not deterred by inclement weather on Saturday 20th October. They tackled the litter in Billericay head on and a total of 36 bags were filled from different locations in the town including the Festival Gardens, Sun Corner, the Railway Station and the High Street. It was pleasing to see a wide range of ages taking part and everybody seemed to agree it was a very worthwhile exercise.

The Town Council is very grateful to all those who participated.

The next 'Big Litter Picks' will take place at 9.30am on 2nd March 2013 within the High Street and 18th May 2013 at Outwood Common. Please put these dates in your diary and come and join us.

Cllr Bob Chapman, Chairman of the Litter Working Party

## WINTER SERVICE FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL

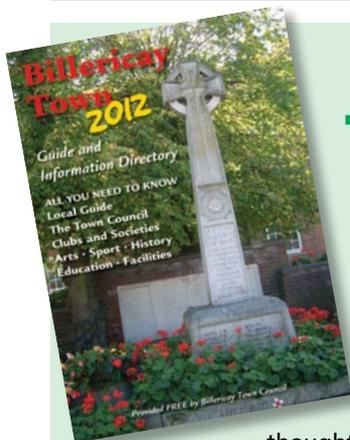


This winter the Town Council has again been ahead of the game by distributing almost a hundred 20kg bags of salt grit to residents before the first snowfall on 5 December. The salt is provided by Essex County Council and the standard quota is just one tonne, but because of its size and hilly nature we requested two tonnes for Billericay to be delivered no later than the end of October.

ECC finally notified us on 15 November that our allocation would be delivered to Billericay the following day and by 17 November we were able to commence distribution to those residents already on the priority list. Availability was publicised in the local press the following week and distribution of the full two tonnes was completed by 1 December, which in the event turned out to be masterful planning.

This is the third year that the Town Council has been able to assist residents with a supply of salt grit for use on stretches of road which are particularly troublesome in icy weather. The salt grit mixture is much more effective than salt alone, because as soon as the ice begins to melt the grit remains to provide additional traction or grip for pedestrians and vehicles. Only a light sprinkling (a normal shovel-full will treat up to 100 sq. metres) is necessary if applied before hard ice forms.

The Council also carried out a detailed survey of highway salt bins in the town during the past year and was able to replace a damaged bin – and fill it with salt – in Chapel Court during November (see above). The Council is examining the possibility of installing further new bins in critical locations where there are none at present, so if you feel that there is a strong case for a bin in your locality please contact the Town Council office on 01277 625732 or email [townclerk@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk)



## THE NEXT TOWN GUIDE

The Town Council will shortly be starting to prepare the next Town Guide. Please tell us what you would like to see in it. The section on clubs and societies is always very popular and useful but what about the other parts such as Days out Around Billericay or there may be things we haven't thought of that would be good to include.

It's your Town Guide. Tell us what you would like to see in it by mid February. Lost your guide? Pick one up from the library or the council offices.

## FRIENDS OF LAKE MEADOWS



Members of Friends of Lake Meadows at a Working Party

Earlier this year Basildon Borough Council in partnership with Billericay Town Council believed that the next stage of managing Lake Meadows was to consult the residents of Billericay with a view to setting up a properly constituted Friends Group to contribute to the wellbeing of this jewel in the crown in our town.

We contacted various organisations and convened a public meeting in July which was well supported and from that emerged a very enthusiastic group who soon set up a responsible committee which progressed quickly resulting in an inaugural hedge cutting and rose pruning event in early November.

The Borough Council and the Town Council are advisory members on the committee and all work programmes will be properly overseen and agreed by the officers of the Borough Council who will assist with supervision, equipment, disposal facilities and general health and safety matters. The Town Council will continue the Lake Meadows Partnership with the Borough Council which will be complementary to the Friends Group activities and bring a focus to all aspects of wellbeing in Lake Meadows.

With the capital investment and renovation from the Borough and Town Councils over recent years we can all see the added value resulting in a significant increase in activity from children and adults alike. The new management of the café has also been instrumental in offering residents a good experience when visiting Lake Meadows.

The Friends Group will be announcing their schedule of events for the New Year and any residents wanting to join this happy band to contribute, meet new friends and be part of a refreshing new venture, will be most welcome. Please contact;

Scott Gobeille 07771 962011 e-mail: [secretary@lakemeadows.org](mailto:secretary@lakemeadows.org). uk or visit the website for details of monthly working parties and events: [www.lakemeadows.org.uk](http://www.lakemeadows.org.uk)

*Cllr Peter Bowditch, Vice Chairman, Billericay Town Council*

## FRIENDS OF FESTIVAL GARDENS

Those living within the area of Crown Road will have noticed that work has been undertaken to the hedges within the Garden and it is now possible to view the Garden from the footpath. Following on from the success of the Friends of Lake Meadows the Town Council is keen to form a Friends of Festival Gardens. Several people have already indicated their interest in such a group and if you would like to join them we would like to hear from you.

# BYTC

## Youth Council

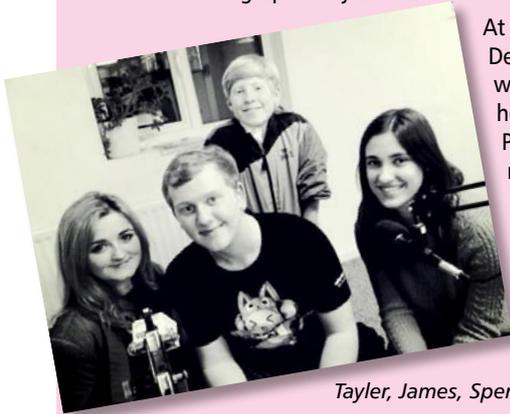
This was achieved with the help of Mayflower High School, Billericay School and St John's School. During our first meeting, we voted for the new officers who are Tayler Cronly-Dillon, Chairman; James Turner, Vice-Chairman; Shannen Lentell, Secretary and Oliver Alexander, Treasurer.

This year alone, we have already accomplished a great deal. Our first function was at the Remembrance Day Parade, where the Vice-Chairman (James) and I laid a wreath on behalf of the Youth Council. Again during November we also took part in our yearly event of the Celebration of The Christmas Lights by giving out balloons to all children who attended as well as dressing up in silly Christmas attire!

As a result of the elections of the Youth Town Council in October this year, I am pleased to say that we have a large number of councillors.

on the first Monday of every month! Four Youth Councillors will be in the studio at one time to present the show at which they will discuss topical subjects of interest to them as well as promote local musicians and the work that we, the Youth Town Council, do. It gives the listeners a chance to hear what events are being held and maybe even get involved. Our first show went extremely well and we cannot wait to take part again in the New Year. To conclude as a council, we look forward to putting our new ideas and creative thinking into new projects for next year and with the town's support we can make the Youth Town Council the best it can be.

*Billericay Youth Town Councillor Tayler Cronly-Dillon  
Chairman, Billericay Youth Council*



*Tayler, James, Spencer and Holly at the Phoenix FM studio*

At the start of December, we were given an hour slot on Phoenix FM radio station as a Billericay Youth Town Council show, which is to take place



*The newly appointed Youth Council with  
Cllr John Buchanan, Chairman of the Town Council*



## communitynews



## CHRISTMAS MARKET

The third Billericay Christmas Market held on Sunday December 2nd is being hailed as another major success for the town. The revised layout allowed for more stalls and more space for the crowds who attended to enjoy the great community atmosphere created by the variety of offerings and the entertainment provided. Santa Claus was as popular as ever with his parade and new more spacious grotto home in the Community Day Centre, while Punch & Judy was a sell out in the Reading Rooms. There were also plenty of rides for the youngsters in the Car Park where the 100 years old 'Downton Abbey' Carousel was a hit with families. Charities also prospered with some £30,000 being raised for good causes while despite the recession many shops enjoyed a bonus trading day to kick start their Christmas season. The Rotary Club of Billericay Mayflower would like to thank all those who contributed to the day and make special mention of the platinum sponsors Essex Auto Group, Burstead Golf Club, Anisha Grange and Para Bar Muir estate agents whose generosity help make the day possible.

## A MYSTICAL PERSON IN BILLERICAY



A bright sunny day brought out many thousands of people to stroll through the Christmas Market arranged by the Rotary Club of Billericay Mayflower and other organisations.

But for me the most spectacular event was to witness the skills of this mystical person, with a wispy beard, dressed in white and seamlessly juggling up to five crystal balls at a time. He had us all transfixed and drew a lot of attention, perhaps he was a wizard!!!

*Cllr Peter Bowditch, Vice-Chairman of the Town Council*

*Permission received from David Randall, Rotary Club of Billericay Mayflower*

## NORSEY WOOD SOCIETY

OPEN MEETING to be held on Monday, February 4th 2013 at the Day Centre, Chantry Way, starting at 7.45 p.m. Dr. Rod Cole will give an illustrated talk entitled "The Zapovedniki, Russia's Special Nature Reserves". All are welcome. The talk will be preceded by a short A.G.M. For further details please phone 01277 653852.



Getting ready for the Friends of Lake Meadows boat race on Boxing Day.



## LIONS EVENTS

**Saturday 9th March, 2013**  
**A Taste of Spain Quiz Night**  
**A Lions Fund Raising Event**

Emmanuel Church Hall 7.00 for 7.30pm  
Laindon Road, Billericay, CM12 9LD  
Tickets £12. Contact 0845 833 9849

Following the success of the last three years' gourmet events, we are holding another taste evening, where you will be able to sample tasters of Spanish Cuisine whilst taking part in one of our quizzes.

This has been sold out in the previous years and is limited to 100 seats so book early to avoid missing out.

**Saturday 20th April, 2013**

**Lions Club of Billericay present**  
**Swing Time Returns**

**A Charity Concert in Aid of St. Luke's Hospice**

Emmanuel Church and Hall. 7.00 for 8pm. Licensed Refreshments  
Tickets £12 Concessions £10. On the Night £15 Contact 0845 833 9849  
Laindon Road, Billericay. CM12 9LD

Lions enjoy presenting their annual concert and this year will be no exception. We bring for your entertainment The Ken Turner Big Band, led by their M.D. Curly Holliday, who bring with them new arrangements of the ever popular tunes from the great American Songbook.

With brilliant vocalists and talented instrumentalists they will bring back memories of the fifties and sixties, tunes that to this day are still as popular as they were then.

This also is a very popular event and is limited to 300 seats and tickets will be available from 1st February, 2013.



## Home Befriending Service Volunteers Needed

**Can you spare an hour a week to visit an older person in your local community?**

The Home Befriending Service supports people over 60 years old who are lonely or socially isolated by providing a weekly home visit by one of our trained volunteer befrienders.

If you would like to do something rewarding for your community that can make a real difference to an older person's life and are interested in becoming part of a team of volunteers that respects, values and helps older people please contact: Tania Fussell  
Tel: 01245 423336 Email: befriendingmid@ageuk Essex.org.uk  
Website: www.ageuk Essex.org.uk

**We will always be pleased to hear from you**



## TEA AND COMPANIONSHIP FOR THE ELDERLY WITHIN BILLERICAY

**CONTACT the elderly**

The Charity Contact the Elderly is intending to set up a Tea and Companionship Group within Billericay and there are over 430 groups nationwide. Contact the Elderly would like to hear from:

- **ELDERLY PEOPLE** aged 74 or more, living alone, who may have difficulties getting out on their own and with little support from family and friends.
- **DRIVERS** with cars and a Sunday afternoon to spare ONCE A MONTH, willing to collect one or two elderly people and join them for an afternoon tea party.
- **HOSTS** willing to put on afternoon tea in their homes for about eight elderly people and their drivers ONCE OR TWICE A YEAR or more. The only requirement is a downstairs toilet and step-free access!

If you would like to make a real difference to the life of local elderly people or if you know someone who will benefit from regular social outings, then please get in touch with the local development officer: Linda Braeburn

Telephone 01279 417264 Email: linda.braeburn@contact-the-elderly.org.uk

Further information can be found on their website:

[www.contact-the-elderly.org.uk](http://www.contact-the-elderly.org.uk)

## CONGRATULATIONS TO BILLERICAY EDUCATIONAL CONSORTIUM

who are very proud that they are the best provider of initial teacher training in England in 3 of the last 4 years.

Quote from a recent report:

*As was the case last year, the highest scorer of all is a SCITT (School-centred initial teacher training), the Billericay Educational Consortium, which consists of a group of Essex primary schools which collaborate to offer a 42-week course for a maximum of 25 trainees a year leading to a PGCE validated by the Open University. It has consistently been the top performing primary SCITT in the country and in 2012 its highly qualified entrants, outstanding Ofsted grades, and excellent rating given by newly qualified teachers have taken it to the very top of the 214 providers once more.*

## TALES AT THE FOLD

After its first extremely successful year which saw a number of highly acclaimed storytellers visit Essex for the first time "Tales At The Fold" has secured an even better range of tellers for 2013. Bringing historical tales, mighty myths, encounters with death, stories to warm the heart, a tale from the Celtic twilight and Indian versions of Grimms Tales, our storytellers will enchant all who listen.

As always there will be opportunities for anyone who wishes to tell a story themselves on the evenings when we have no guest teller. This year there will also be an opportunity to attend a beginners workshop for those who have an interest in stories and storytelling.

Programme for the start of 2013:

**February 28 – Paul Jackson, Beyond Memory**

**March 28 – Dave Tonge, The Shaming of Agnes Leaman**

**April 25 – Carl Merry, Beginners Workshop**

For further details please contact: Carl Merry at:  
[carl.tale-spinner@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:carl.tale-spinner@blueyonder.co.uk)

**BILLERICAY FOLK DANCE CLUB** meets at the W1 Hall, St. Edith's Lane every Tuesday evening (except the 2nd of the month) between 8pm-10pm. Our new session started on 15th January but beginners will be welcome at subsequent meetings. First evening is free – for more details contact Pam on 01277 623248.



## DID YOU KNOW

- that the Town Council has a room that can be hired?

If you are a local resident or community group you can hire the room for £20 a session.

Sessions are from 9am-1pm and 1pm-5pm.

Arrangements can also be made for evening hire.

- Dead fluorescent tubes and long life bulbs can be deposited at Barleylands in the "small electrical appliances" section.

- Bus Passes are now dealt with by Essex County Council: Telephone 08452000388 or click on 'public transport' on the [www.essexhighways.org](http://www.essexhighways.org) website

## COUNCILLORS WHO SHOULD BE CONTACTED FOR THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

Finance & General Purposes	Cllr Jim Devlin
Planning Committee	Cllr Ian Davie
Environment Committee	Cllr Jules Bottazzi
Town Crier Newsletter	Cllr Marion Wilson
Recreation Working Party	Cllr Peter Bowditch
Litter Working Party	Cllr Bob Chapman
Christmas Lights Working Party	Cllr Jo Clark
Billericay in Bloom	Cllr Pam Went
Town Guide	Cllr Marion Wilson
Salt Bin Working Party	Cllr Ian Davie
Street Signs & Highway Furniture	Cllr Rod Rapley
Bus Passenger Representative	Cllr John Buchanan

Contact details for these Councillors are available on the contact list below or on the Town Council Website under Councillors.

## TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS FEBRUARY 2013

Tuesday 12	Planning
Tuesday 19	Environment
Tuesday 26	Planning
Thursday 28	Finance & General Purposes

## MARCH 2013

Thursday 7	TOWN COUNCIL
Tuesday 12	Planning
Tuesday 26	Planning

## APRIL 2013

Tuesday 2	Environment
Tuesday 9	Planning
Thursday 11	Finance & General Purposes
Thursday 18	TOWN COUNCIL

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

### Parking Enforcement

Issues within the town are now being dealt with by the South Essex Parking Partnership based at Chelmsford Borough Council and can be contacted on 01245 606710.

### Essex County Council's Recycling Centres for Household Waste (RCHW) Service

Arising from the significant increase in kerbside recycling services, the Essex County Council has reviewed the services provided at the RCHWs within the county. As a result of this Barleylands Recycling Centre now opens from 9.00am every day as opposed to 8.00am and the late night Tuesday opening has been removed.

### Essex Police

24 hour non-emergency number 0300 333 4444

## BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCILLORS

Name	Address	Phone No.	E-Mail	Ward
Tina Arnold	c/o Billericay Town Council	01277 625732	CllrTArnold@aol.com	E
John Bellringer	100 Church Street, Great Burstead, CM11 2TS	01277 650118	johnbellringer100@hotmail.co.uk	SW
Jules Bottazzi	7 Montpellier Close, Billericay, CM12 0UH	01277 653130	cllrjules@bottazzi.co.uk	W
Peter Bowditch	18 Cranmer Close, Billericay, CM12 0YQ	01277 659530	peter.bowditch@tiscali.co.uk	W
Tony Bown	76 Western Road, Billericay, CM12 9DT	01277 625732	ajb@jgrlaw.co.uk	E
John Buchanan	72 Meadow Rise, Billericay, CM11 2EF	01277 656715	cllr.buchanan@tiscali.co.uk	E
Robert Chapman	99 Church Street, Billericay, CM11 2TS	01277 657696	bob@chapman156.freestate.co.uk	E
Jo Clark	33 Carson Road, Billericay, CM11 1SA	01277 659842		E
Ian Davie	51 Tye Common Road, Billericay, CM12 9NR	01277 656139	i.davie@talktalk.net	SW
Marie Dear	c/o Billericay Town Council	01277 625732	marie.dear@btinternet.com	W
Jim Devlin	231 Perry Street, Billericay, CM12 0NZ	01277 656937	jjm@devlin.plus.com	W
Colin Dyer	6 Montpelier Close, Billericay, CM12 0UH	01277 625732		W
Susan McCaffery	25 The Rising, Billericay, CM11 2HN	01277 625732	s_mccaffery@sky.com	E
Moira Moore	47 Laindon Road, Billericay, CM12 9LG	01277 627266	moira1moore@btinternet.com	SW
Rod Rapley	43 Crescent Road, Billericay, CM12 0JQ	01277 622125	catral@fsmail.net	W
Daphne Spencer	Fir Tree Lodge, 16, Back Lane, Stock, CM4 9DG	01277 829750	daphne.spencer1@googlemail.com	E
Trevor Stansfield	174 Perry Street, Billericay, CM12 0NX	01277 623519	tremar@aol.com	W
Pamela Went	4 The Mullions, Billericay, CM12 9XG	01277 658961	pam.went@tiscali.co.uk	W
Emma Willis	5 Bluebell Wood, Billericay, CM12 0ES	01277 625732		W
Marion Wilson	25 Parklands, Billericay, CM11 1AS	01277 626321		E
CHAIRMAN:	Cllr John Buchanan			
TOWN CLERK:	Helen Philpott	Telephone:	01277 625732	
	Billericay Town Council	Fax:	01277 634784	
	The Loft, Crown Yard, High Street	E-Mail:	townclerk@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	
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