



Billericay Town Crier

May 2020

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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL

BILLERICAY TOWN HALL PROGRESS

ALTHOUGH PROGRESS HAD been very encouraging inevitably the construction of our new community building has been overtaken by recent events.

At the point work stopped we were just 9 days behind schedule – a very small delay which was caused early in the project when the architects and builders identified that some additional steels were needed in the structure. Our builders were confident that this time could be made up and we were still on target to meet our mid-July completion date. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Finance Committee made a number of site visits to review progress and to see how the internal structure mapped to our vision.

However, due to the Coronavirus pandemic our builders took the decision to stop work on the 24th March and secure the site. This decision was endorsed by both Billericay Town Council and our architects Ingleton Wood.

Externally the building and its decoration is complete with the grey of the roof and hall window frames providing a clear contrast with the white rendering of the walls and all of the external doors and windows are installed

We hope that with the scaffolding now removed you'll agree the building is a significant improvement on the old Chantry Way Day Centre. The view looking out from the stairwell across the Chequers to St Mary's Church is particularly impressive.

Inside all wall structures are in place, conduits for electrical cables and other infrastructure were being installed and some of the walls had been plastered. Much of the heavy plant required for the air-conditioning had been delivered, although we had recently learnt that the lift was being constructed in Italy and had, unsurprisingly, been delayed.

Having seen the plans evolve on paper over many months it has been exciting to



enter the building and compare how we imagined it to be with the reality. As the construction has progressed it has been interesting to see how the sense of space has changed. Certainly we can now get a really good feel for the size of the hall with its capacity of 162 and 4 metre high ceiling.

Good progress had been made on the meeting rooms and we're confident that they will prove of great use to both community groups and commercial businesses.

Stopping work will unfortunately have implications to the completion date although the health and safety of all involved is far more important. As with everything else currently, work will restart again as soon as it is safe to do so.

CITIZENS OF THE YEAR

TOWN COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, Cllr Jim Devlin, was delighted to telephone the two Citizens of the Year: Richard Leahy and Young Citizen of the Year, Katie Smith to let them know they were the winners of Town Council's Citizen of the Year awards.

RICHARD LEAHY has dedicated hundreds of voluntary hours to the local community. He has been involved in organising many of the community events in the town including the Soap Box Derby, Round Table Fireworks Display and Round Table Santa Sleigh. Richard is also an active member of Billericay 41 club, Rotary and he supports the Scouts. His motivation, energy and commitment to fundraising has helped ensure that many vulnerable and marginalised people have benefitted.

KATIE SMITH has volunteered at the Billericay Parkrun where she has acted as photographer, timekeeper, barcode scanner and results processor ensuring the smooth running of the event.

Other worthy nominees were:

Helen Arber – Her love and joy for theatre has brought a passion for music and performing arts to Billericay.

Steve Ferdinando – co-hosts a show on Radio X where he regularly shares information about Billericay. He trained for the London Marathon and is an excellent example of the community.

David Hayday – founded the Billericay Parkrun in June 2017, a weekly event catering for all ages and the visually impaired. So far over 38,000 people have finished the parkrun.

David Randall – has spearheaded the Christmas Market for a number of years. His oversight and management efforts have ensured the continued success of this popular event.

Cath Thwaites – who supports the community whether at the Christmas Market, the Christmas Lights switch on or other local causes.



Katie Smith

FRANK TOMLIN

IT WAS WITH great sadness that Billericay Town Council received the news that Frank Tomlin, one of our former councillors had passed away on 26th March.

Frank was widely known throughout the whole of the Basildon District and worked tirelessly for the community for over 50 years in public service. Frank is probably best remembered as a Basildon Councillor and for many years represented a Billericay ward although in later life he represented the Laindon Park ward in Basildon. Frank was Chairman of Basildon Council for a number of years and also Chairman of the Billericay Conservative Association.

As he got older he eventually decided to hang up his hat and retired from Council life. However, four years ago when Billericay Town Council found itself short of members Frank answered the call and stepped in to help.

Frank brought a wealth of experience to the Town Council and was always there to offer advice. Our Chairman valued Frank's advice and support. However as time went by Frank felt unable to continue and late last year he resigned from the Council citing ill health. Despite that he continued to proof read the Town Crier for us, a job he was particularly good at.

Our sympathy goes to his wife Stella and his family in their time of grief.



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Official Office Opening times 9.30am - 12.30pm Mon-Fri. Outside these hours please ring as there may well be office staff present.



For further information and general enquiries contact: Town Clerk
Billericay Town Council • The Loft • Crown Yard • High Street • Billericay CM12 9BX



Billericay Town Council Annual Report 2019/2020

Billericay – A Great Place to Be

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2019/20 Cllr. Jim Devlin



The past year has been one of the busiest years that Billericay Town Council has had in its history. At the end of our last municipal year the old Day Centre in Chantry Way was demolished; last summer building operations began on the new Town Hall which will take its place. Those of you that have passed the site will have seen the magnificent new Town Hall arise above the protective hoarding over the past few months and towards the end of the year the community will begin to benefit from the facilities that this building offers. I thank those councillors and staff for the work they have put in and the work yet to come.

Our Civic Service this year on the 8th of March was held at the Most Holy Redeemer church in Laindon Road and I am very grateful for the effort they put into holding this service for us in conjunction with Churches Together in Billericay, with a special mention to St Peter's School for their input. I spoke about our theme of tolerance

and how by being tolerant within our community we could not only build a better community but also bring that community together. Little did I know then what was just about to hit us and how important our local community was to become when a couple of weeks later the coronavirus arrived. The Town Council has tried to support where it can but we have limited staff resources and thus have restricted ourselves to making small cash grants to local voluntary groups to enable them to continue their work during the period of social distancing.

At the start of the municipal year, late last spring, I had great pleasure in presenting the Citizen of the Year Award to Jo Adshead, who has masterminded the Billericay Art Trail for a number of years. She has put her heart and soul into this fantastic event, almost to the point of exhaustion, and the work takes up a great part of her year. This event is a showcase for the artistic talent of Billericay and this award to Jo is not only for her work but also for the contribution that the Art Trail makes to the community life of the town.



Jo Adshead receiving her Citizen of the Year award from Cllrs Jim Devlin and Jo Clark

This was to be an election year for members of the Town Council but the Coronavirus Emergency put paid to that. The election has been postponed until May next year and all current Town Councillors will continue with the work they have been doing for another year. My thanks goes to them all and to our hard working staff for their input over the past year.

It only remains for me to wish everyone in Billericay well, stay safe and please heed Government advice during these difficult times to protect us all. ■

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



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

Billericay Town Council and local sponsors pay for the hanging baskets in Billericay High Street. These are a much-appreciated feature of our High Street during the summer months. The Town Council also provides and maintains the flowering plant displays in the planters around the High Street as well as funding the various plantings at the War Memorial throughout the year. The Town Council also cleans the War Memorial in readiness for the annual Remembrance Sunday Service in November.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Once again the Town Council's annual 'Celebration of Christmas Lights' was held on Sun Corner. Entertainment was provided by Billericay's local



schools, clubs and societies together with, of course, Father Christmas.

FESTIVAL GARDENS

Located in Crown Road, near the High Street, the Festival Gardens are an attractive small garden for the healthy enjoyment of local residents. Unfortunately the garden had become a magnet to a few young people who had been using the garden for drinking and drug use. The Town Council removed the hedging along Crown Road so that the garden was more open and garden visitors are more visible by local residents and passers by.

BILLERICAY IN BLOOM COMPETITION

The event in 2019 was very popular with over one hundred people attending the competition prize giving. We had a total of nine entry categories including the Best School

Garden, Best Front Garden, Best Commercial Premises and Best Wildlife Garden. Local infant and primary schools entered the categories 'Plant in a Recycled Container' and 'Herb Garden' with a total of fifty-five pupils entering these two categories – a record for this competition. The event was sponsored by a number of local businesses and local councillors. ■

COUNCILLORS ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS APRIL 2019 – MARCH 2020

COUNCILLOR	PLANNING	FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES	HEALTH, WELLBEING & ENVIRONMENT	COUNCIL	TOTAL
Cllr A Adshead		11	7	5	23
Cllr R Chapman				5	5
Cllr J Clark	18	10	6	7	41
Cllr R Clark	20	2		7	29
Cllr M Dear	5	9	5	5	24
Cllr J Devlin	15	8	7	8	38
Cllr C Dyer			3	5	8
Cllr J Henshaw	9			3	12
Cllr K Herlock			1	4	5
Cllr L Mitchelmore	20			6	26
Cllr M Moore	18	9	7	5	39
Cllr K Mordecai				7	7
Cllr C Roberts		8	4	6	18
Cllr M Roessler		11		8	19
Cllr D Spencer	17		7	7	31
Cllr G Talbot		10		7	17
Cllr A Talboys	20	8		4	32
Cllr M Thomas			6	6	12
Cllr J Tutton	16	8	7	3	34

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE Chairman: Cllr. Adam Adshead



The Finance and General Purposes Committee (F&GP) oversee and scrutinise all of the Council's financial activities ensuring that they comply with Financial Regulations and that the Council continues to operate within its budget. It also has responsibility for those activities which don't naturally fall within the remit of our Environment or Planning Committees which includes the construction of the new Town Hall community building. F&GP reviews and agrees the budgets for the various initiatives proposed; sets the Precept (the portion of your Council Tax that funds those Town Council activities) and it provides supervision of the Council's assets.

For the coming year we have raised the Precept by 3.14% to cover increased costs. A typical Band D property will now pay £23.67 per year – an increase of 72 pence. Of over 8,800 smaller town and parish councils, Billericay's precept remains within the lowest 20%.

TOWN HALL DEVELOPMENT

Most of the work of the Committee this year has

been focussed on the construction of the new building, the current status of which is covered elsewhere. It will become the new home for the Town Council, saving us the costs of leasing Crown Yard and the Loft. But more importantly it will provide a wonderful centrally located space for community groups to use with its 162 seat hall, equipped kitchen and 3 meeting rooms. We look forward to welcoming both regular users of the old Day Centre back and new users from Billericay's wealth of community groups and charities in addition to generating revenue from private and commercial hire.

Whilst the opening will inevitably be delayed by the Coronavirus epidemic the Committee continued to work on all the supporting infrastructure (hire charges, terms and conditions etc.) as well as planning for the move from our current premises.

GRANTS TO ORGANISATIONS

A small grant budget is available to be awarded to local community and charitable groups providing services to the town. This year it included £250 to the Cater Museum to fund storage boxes, £100 to

the Essex Herts Air Ambulance and £500 to the Schools Pastors for uniforms.

With the onset of the Coronavirus epidemic towards the end of the financial year we made available Emergency Grants of up to £100 to support community groups helping residents in Billericay. These have included:

- £100 for the Forget me Not Memory Cafe who are providing weekly activity packs to counter the effects of isolation
- £100 to Basis South Essex to provide a telephone befriending service to reduce feelings of isolation and loneliness across 172 visually impaired members living in Billericay.
- In addition we loaned our hi-vis jackets to the Billericay Foodbank as they enhance their service to provide deliveries during this time. ■

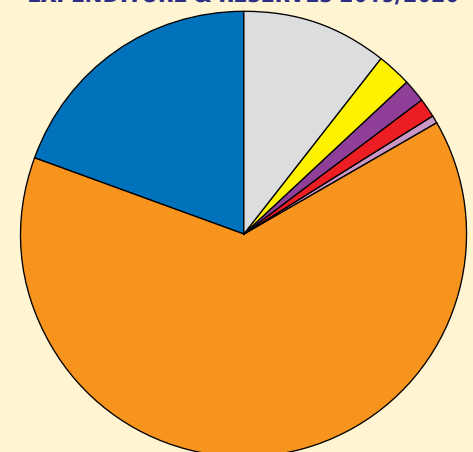
EXPENDITURE AND RESERVES

2018/19	EXPENDITURE	2019/20
£'000	DESCRIPTION	£'000
129	Administration & Council Members	140
14	Recreational Facilities	31
20	Public Toilets	20
19	Christmas Lights	19
1	Other Projects	0
9	Publications	9
0	Election	0
118	Chantry Way Centre	828
1	Youth Town Council	0
4	Earmarked Reserves – Building Fd	250
0	To General Reserve	0
315	Total	1297

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

2018/19	INCOME	2019/20
£'000	SOURCE	£'000
275	Precept	282
4	Interest Earned	4
5	Local sponsorship	3
10	Outside Funding	0
16	From General Reserve	7
4	From Earmarked Reserve	0
0	Chantry Way Centre	0
1	Premises Letting	1
0	PWLB	1,000
315	Total	1297

EXPENDITURE & RESERVES 2019/2020



■ Administration & Council Members	■ Publications
■ Recreational Facilities	■ Chantry Way Centre
■ Public Toilets	■ Earmarked Reserves
■ Christmas Lights	

PLANNING COMMITTEE Chairman: Cllr. Lesley Michelmore



This year the Planning Committee considered 294 planning and 7 licensing applications bringing a local perspective within the framework of National and Local Planning Policy including the Billericay Design Guide and Conservation Area. No objections were made to 195 planning applications although 18 were subsequently refused by Basildon Borough Council (the Local Planning Authority). Of the 70 to which the committee objected, 50 were granted permission – although some of those applications would have been amended prior to permission being granted.

The Council is supportive of planning applications that comply with National and Local Planning Policy and are sympathetic to and enhance the host building and character of the surrounding area, without impacting negatively on the amenity of neighbouring properties. This is particularly important in the Conservation Area along the High Street to preserve the historic character and setting of the many listed buildings as required in National and Local Planning Policy.

The restoration of Elizabeth Cottage and the Costa Coffee building this year are good examples of this.

Meetings of the Planning Committee are held in public and residents are very welcome to attend. If they wish they can address the committee on matters listed on the agenda. To ensure that there is enough seating, it is helpful if residents inform the Town Clerk if they plan to attend.

The Committee also considered 7 Consultations and members attended two community engagement events regarding the Development Proposals for Land South West of Billericay which has been allocated for housing in the Pre-submission Basildon Borough Local Plan. Within the Local Plan developers for the sites are required to produce a master plan to demonstrate that they are deliverable and will provide the necessary infrastructure to support the allocated housing.

In addition, members attended a briefing on strengthening police powers to manage unauthorised encampments. The committee subsequently commented on a consultation regarding the police powers related to unauthorised encampments. ■

TOWN CRIER & ANNUAL REPORT Editor: Cllr. Marie Dear



Published at intervals throughout the year the Town Crier gives the latest news on our activities and initiatives. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic this edition is online only. Articles over the last

twelve months such as the new Special Constable, War Memorial Refurbishment and Town Hall development progress seek to provide residents with an appreciation of the the work of the Council.

Additionally, articles cover the activities of local organisations, clubs, features and events.

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

THE ANNUAL REPORT provides a deeper analysis of the Town Council's projects and activities.

Sadly our proof reader, Frank Tomlin, has passed away. Frank's meticulous scrutiny of contributions will be missed. Thanks are due to our graphic designer, David Vinten, for his work on our publications. ■

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

STAY HOME ▶ PROTECT THE NHS ▶ SAVE LIVES

AT THE START of the decade we looked forward to the future not knowing that a destructive pandemic would travel around the globe. Billericay High Street is eerily quiet, there is little traffic, queues snake along the pavement outside the supermarkets where shoppers observe 2 metre distancing. The lockdown to control the spread of the Coronavirus creates a disturbing atmosphere.

Yet despite the grim consequences of the Coronavirus key workers are keeping the wheels of society turning: NHS workers, social workers, carers, government workers crucial to delivering essential public services; workers involved in the production and sale of food; public safety workers including police, armed forces personnel, firefighters and prison staff; essential air, water, road and rail transport workers; utilities, communication and financial services staff, including postal workers, waste disposal workers and teachers who are supporting these key workers. Billericay shows its thankfulness every Thursday at 8pm by joining the national

expression of gratitude and applauding from street to street. Children display rainbows of gratitude in their windows.

The Coronavirus has also brought out the best in society: nationally 750,000 volunteers have registered to help. Locally, groups like the Billericay Foodbank, are continuing food distribution. Volunteers from Billericay churches are willing to help the vulnerable. On a local neighbourhood level, neighbours are food shopping and collecting prescriptions for the elderly, the vulnerable and those who are self-isolating.

Additionally, Billericay Town Council has made 3 emergency community grants – £75 to Billericay Community Challenge for housebound activities, £100 to the Memory Cafe to support the expense of posting activity packs to those living with dementia and £100 to the Blind and Sight Impaired Society to help 172 visually impaired members living in Billericay to continue support with online keep fit classes and expenses for telephone befriender volunteers.

SOURCES OF CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION

GOVERNMENT

www.gov.uk/coronavirus

NHS

www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

www.essex.gov.uk/topic/coronavirus

BASILDON BOROUGH COUNCIL

www.basildon.gov.uk/coronavirus

BILLERICAY FOODBANK

BILLERICAY FOOD BANK

07707 466262

Tel No & Email

info@billericayfoodbank.org.uk

DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC THE 2020 ELECTIONS AND BILLERICAY IN BLOOM COMPETITION ARE CANCELLED. THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING IS ALSO CANCELLED AS GOVERNMENT HAS ADVISED THIS IS NOT REQUIRED THIS YEAR.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Due to the Covid-19 situation all meetings are subject to cancellation/postponement at short notice. Please check the Town Council's website and social media for the latest updates.

APRIL 2020

Tue 30 Annual Town Meeting POSTPONED

MAY 2020

Tue 5 Planning

Thur 14 Annual Town Council

Tue 19 Planning

Tue 26 Health, Well-being & Environment

JUNE 2020

Tue 2 Planning

Thur 4 Finance & General Purposes

Thur 11 Full Council

Tue 16 Planning

Tue 30 Planning

JULY 2020

Tue 7 Health, Well-being & Environment

Tue 14 Planning

Thur 16 Finance & General Purposes

Thur 23 Full Council

Tue 28 Planning

AUGUST 2020

Tue 11 Planning

Tue 25 Planning

All meetings are open to the public and press and are held in The Coach House, Crown Yard, unless otherwise stated and start at 7.00pm.

BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCILLORS

Name	Address	Phone No.	E-Mail	Ward
Cllr A Adshead	29 The Meadow Way CM11 2HL	01277 632104	adam.adshead@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr R Chapman	99 Church Street CM11 2TS	01277 657696	robert.chapman@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr J Clark	33 Carson Road CM11 1SA	01277 659842	jo.clark@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr R Clark	1 Wick Glen CM12 OHS	07802 425842	richard.clark@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Cllr M Dear	12 Redwing Drive CM11 2PG	01277 622499	marie.dear@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Cllr J Devlin	231 Perry Street CM12 0NZ	01277 656937	jim.devlin@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Cllr C Dyer	6 Montpelier Close CM12 0UH	01277 625732	colin.dyer@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Cllr J Henshaw	46 The Avenue CM12 9HG	07544 499272	james.henshaw@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Cllr K Herlock	11 Cranmer Close CM12 0YQ	07776 212968	kathryn.herlock@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	SW
Cllr L Mitchelmore	The Loft Crown Yard High Street CM12 9BX	01277 625732	lesley.mitchelmore@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr M Moore	47 Laindon Road CM12 9LG	01277 627266	moira.moore@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	SW
Cllr Kim Mordecai	18 Hilary Mount CM12 9JS	01277 659717	kim.mordecai@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr C Roberts	77 Tyelands CM12 9PB	07568 346 055	carl.roberts@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr M Roessler	9 Second Avenue CM12 9PR	07760 373070	martin.roessler@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Cllr D Spencer	Fir Tree Lodge 16 Back Lane CM4 9DG	01277 829750	daphne.spencer@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr G Talbot	185 Perry Street CM12 0NX	07983 421686	gareth.talbot@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	SW
Cllr A Talboys	8 Wren Close CM11 2YU	01277 657576	alan.talboys@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr M Thomas	39 Chestwood Close CM12 0PB	01277 650453	mark.thomas@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Cllr J Tutton	11 Bluebell Wood CM12 0ES	01277 655443	james.tutton@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
CHAIRMAN	Cllr Jim Devlin	Telephone:	01277 625732	
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