



Billericay Town Crier

June 2024

www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL



Doris Martin

JOIN THE TOWN COUNCIL TO COMMEMORATE THIS MOMENTOUS ANNIVERSARY AT SUN CORNER AT 9PM ON THURSDAY 6TH JUNE

BEACONS WILL BE lit on 6th June, 2024, as the principal event in the international commemorations for D-Day 80, the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy. D-Day was the largest Naval, Air and Land operation in history, so this 80th Anniversary is an opportunity to say thank you to the many hundreds of thousands of souls who sacrificed so much to ensure the freedom and peace we all enjoy today.

The Town Council is lighting the beacon on Sun Corner at 9.15pm on Thursday

6th June. We will be joined by the Royal British Legion, Air Cadets, Army Cadets and young people from some of the Town's uniformed organisations.

Come along and join us from 9pm to hear about the Billericay residents that play their part in D-Day, including Leonard Kemp and Doris Martin. Doris is now 104 years old and resides in a Hutton care home, but she lived in Billericay from 1960. As a member of the Territorial Army she served, using a typewriter, helping to prepare the battle plans for D-Day.



Retiring Councillors and Cllr Devlin

FAREWELL TO RETIRING TOWN COUNCILLORS

AFTER THE LAST Full Town Council meeting before the recent elections, Town Councillors gathered to say farewell to councillors who were retiring from the Town Council and not seeking re-election. The Vice-Chairman, Cllr Jim Devlin, thanked them for their steadfast support of the Town Council, for bringing their skills and experience and for sharing these for the benefit of residents.

Daphne Spencer was the longest serving of those councillors having joined the council in 2001. Daphne was involved with many committees and working parties but her greatest interest was supporting the young people on the Youth Town Council. **Jo Clark**, also had a great interest in the Youth Town Council. She was the first female Chair of the Town Council and since joining the council in 2012 Jo worked hard for the Town Council supporting many initiatives. **Martin Roessler** joined in 2016 and along with supporting many projects he was one of the leading forces on the working party involved in the planning of the Chantry Centre. **Laura Clark, Martyn Mordecai, and Ed Sainsbury** joined in 2021 and brought their expertise and knowledge to the council. **Jessica Leung** joined in December 2023 and although her time as a councillor was short she showed great enthusiasm about council matters.

Town Councillors thanked them and wished them the very best for the future.



Cllr Mark Thomas and David Sweet

CITIZEN AND YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 2024

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR – It proved a very difficult task for Town Councillors to select the winners of the Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year competition as the nominees were all of a very high standard.

The Town Council Chairman Mark Thomas had great pleasure in presenting **DAVID SWEET** with his certificate. David was nominated for his huge contribution to the

community and in the words of his proposer "Quite simply, I don't know how he fits it all in." David is the volunteer secretary for the Billericay Striders running club, he is also a core team volunteer at the Billericay parkrun in Lake Meadows on Saturday mornings. He is an active supporter of the Billericay Foodbank – being not just a regular donor but he cheerleads by encouraging support and donations via his social media channels. He is a volunteer for the Norsy Wood society and helps with the periodic Mill Meadows cattle check exercise. David is also involved with the Motor Neurone Disease association providing support to their fundraisers at the Great North Run and London and Brighton marathons. Town Councillors

were very impressed with how David makes a difference to so many people.

YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

SOPHIE VAIDYA was nominated by a fellow member of the Young Essex Assembly (and ex-Youth Town Councillor) who told councillors Sophie is a Year 12 Mayflower pupil and she hopes to become a cardiac surgeon.

Sophie dedicates most of her spare time in the local and school community – she created a team of student librarians to implement a behaviour and library management system which ensures the school library is a safe, quiet revision space. She volunteers with the 3rd Billericay Scouts, helping to run and prepare sessions, developing key relationships with the scouts and helping the young people to thrive and develop. As a member of the Young Essex Assembly Sophie leads on conferences, delivers workshops around youth voice and young people's mental health.

Sophie is described as selfless, inspiring, dedicated and a perfect mix of where passion and compassion shines through in everything she does. A very worthy winner of Young Citizen of the Year 2024.



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

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





COMMUNITY OPEN DAY

MARCH SAW THE second "Community Open Day" at the Chantry Centre, an event designed to showcase the work of many of Billericay's volunteer-led community groups and charities who put on events, activities or services for residents. Organised by Billericay Town Council it's an ideal use of the Chantry Centre supporting and promoting those who give so much to our town. It was an excellent opportunity for groups to spread the word about what they do, not only to people in town but also wider afield: a number of potential candidates for both the Basildon Borough and future Parliamentary elections spent time chatting and learning about what they do for the town's residents. Featuring over 20 groups as diverse as the Billericay Choral Society, the Billericay Horticultural Club, Billericay parkrun, the Photofold camera club and Hearing Help Essex it again proved very popular with both the groups themselves and the many visiting residents who popped in during the course of the day.

Both Councillors and exhibitors would like to thank the Town Council staff for organising what one exhibitor described as "a very successful and incredibly useful event. We spoke to so many people, gained new members and even a new volunteer!"

WELCOME TO NEW TOWN COUNCILLORS

THE ELECTIONS FOR Billericay Town Council held on 2nd May were uncontested, and although seven members stood down, we gained two new ones.



Peter Bunyan – East Ward

"I have lived in Billericay for 30 years. I am a retired school teacher and my first post was at Billericay School in September 1965. From 2002 until 2018 I worked with Anglia Tours, taking many school groups and adults to the Western Front. For 33 years I have been involved with Chelmsford Film Club and at present am its chair. I have also volunteered at the RHS garden at Hyde Hall. I enjoy walking and will always play a round of golf whenever I get the chance. I believe The Chantry Centre is a wonderful asset for Billericay and the surrounding

communities and would like to see it go from strength to strength. I am keen to help preserve and extend our very green environment here in Billericay, and beyond."

Eric Davies – West Ward

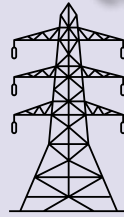


I am a retiree but while at work I was a union rep for supervisors in the Ford Engine Plant for a number of years, also I was a member of the sick pay tribunal for hourly employees as well as being co-opted onto various committees and working groups. My hobby has been archery for a long time, I have now retired from that, but during that time I was Records Officer for the county for a number of years and have also organised some county shoots. I am now looking for something constructive to do.

THERE ARE STILL VACANCIES TO BE FILLED

AT THE FULL Council meeting on 13th June 2024 the Council are looking to co-opt five new members. There are three vacancies in WEST ward and two in EAST ward. To be eligible you need to be over 18 and either a Billericay resident or work within the Parish boundary. If you would like to be considered, please contact the Town Clerk who will be happy to talk through the process with you. Email: townclerk@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk

THE GREAT GRID UPDATE NORWICH TO TILBURY FURTHER CONSULTATION WEDNESDAY 10TH APRIL TO TUESDAY 18TH JUNE (11:59PM)



THE TOWN COUNCIL has been reviewing the proposal to construct a line of electric pylons many miles long close to Billericay since it was made public a few years ago. Our objections were made in an initial consultation and these were shared with residents on our website. The Town Council had the following objections.

- This power line will be visible from most of the west of the town because Billericay is higher than the route. The route is very controversial as it goes through the first unspoilt Greenbelt as you leave London without housing, or any industrial buildings, an area which has remained unchanged for centuries.
- The pylons will be visible from the station in the centre of town and from Sun Corner at the end of the High Street. Billericay town centre is a Conservation Area, and this pylon route will have a detrimental effect upon that status.
- The area to the west of Billericay provides open vistas from the town which enhance the amenity of residents and need to be preserved. There are many viewpoints within the town that give views over open countryside to the west that will be despoiled by this power line.
- To avoid causing damage to the environment the power line should run undersea from the wind farm to the Tilbury site along the Thames estuary. Thereby not causing any damage to the environment, the main reason for needing the output from the wind farm. If the route needs to be on land, then it should run within the corridor of the existing power line to the east of Wickford. Residents can access this latest consultation and make comments at: nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury

HIGH STREET LITTER PICK

BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL held a litter pick in the High Street and surrounding areas on Saturday 18th May 2024.

The Town Council Chairman, Cllr Mark Thomas, was joined by town councillors and members of the Billericay Town Rotary club who undertook the collection of litter along the High Street and in Radford Way around the train station.

Currently the Council are working with Basildon Council to review both the provision of bins and frequency of their emptying in an initiative to keep the town as clean as possible.

All residents are welcome to come along to our litter picks so if you'd like to get involved look out for details of the autumn event on our social media.

DEMENTIA WEEK 13TH-17TH MAY BEST WINDOW DISPLAYS



WHEN Cllrs DEAR, THOMAS AND TUTTON judged the best decorated windows for Dementia Week they were delighted to find twenty one High Street venues had displays. Colourful posters by local school children made up much of the decorations.

It was difficult to choose the winners as the standard was high but three were chosen who will receive £100, £30 and £20 respectively to donate to a charity of their choice.

In first place were Shadforth Pharmacy with a display spanning two windows and themed to capture the concept of Dementia Week. In second place were Levere where appropriate, eye catching resources were used. In third place Farrers created a theme that was both sensitive and elegant.



Billericay Town Council Annual Report 2023/2024

Billericay – A Great Place to Be

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2023/24 Cllr Mark Thomas



It has been my pleasure to serve on Billericay Town Council (BTC) as Chairman since May 2023. During that time, so much has happened locally as well as nationally and internationally.

In May the whole country celebrated the Coronation of King Charles. Being able to celebrate a coronation is something that most people haven't experienced before, so BTC decided to encourage residents and shops to take part in the festivities by awarding prizes for "The best Street Party" and "Best dressed High Street window". The winners were given a £100 towards their chosen charities. BTC also decorated all the new lamp posts in the High Street in red, white and blue garlands. We also purchased a Coronation Plaque for the Chantry Centre and it is now prominently displayed in the lobby – hopefully many of you have now had the opportunity to see it.

The Chantry Centre continues to be a fantastic facility for the town and is being used by a wide range of community groups, businesses and private hirers, as well as being the home

of BTC. As a council, we are keen to expand the centre's use amongst all potential users, so we are currently looking into ways in which we can do this, including requesting feedback and suggestions from existing users. As the popularity of the Chantry Centre continues to increase, the decision was taken to employ a part-time caretaker to ensure that the centre continues to run efficiently and effectively for all users. I am pleased to say, that Jerry Owers joined the council staff back in April and has successfully undertaken an everincreasing number of tasks on behalf of BTC at the Chantry Centre and in and around the Town.

BTC continues to support the Billericay Tree Wardens in their efforts to protect and enhance the number of trees in and around Billericay. Recent planting schemes included 800 saplings planted in Pleasant Drive and Lake Meadows and a large number of saplings along Tye Common Road. On both occasions, BTC Councillors took part in these tree planting schemes.

In an effort to keep the town tidy, we organised a successful Litter Pick in April, assisted by members of the Billericay Town Rotary Club. We are keen to continue to undertake these and are looking

to arrange one on 18th May and another one later in the year, probably in October. To further enhance the street scene, we have agreed to purchase new pole planters for the new lamp posts along the High Street. These should bring much needed colour to our High Street.

The replacement of the street lighting allowed us to install the new Christmas lights scheme along the whole High Street, as we were previously restricted on which lamp posts could be used, due to CCTV cameras or other restrictions. Now that most of the restrictions no longer apply, we are in discussions to try to enhance the display for Christmas 2024.

Following the success of the Community Open Day last year BTC decided to take on the organisation of the event on an annual basis. On Friday 22 March 2024 the event saw many more charities and voluntary organisations in the town represented with an increased attendance from the public. Numerous local voluntary organisations had the opportunity to let residents know what they do and to recruit new volunteers. As Chairman it was heartening to receive very positive feedback from those taking part and attending. We look forward to delivering an even more successful Community Open Day next year. ■

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE Chairman: Cllr Martyn Mordecai



We have all experienced increasing costs this year and it is unfortunately no different for the Town Council. Whilst we have successfully managed many costs it was still necessary to increase the

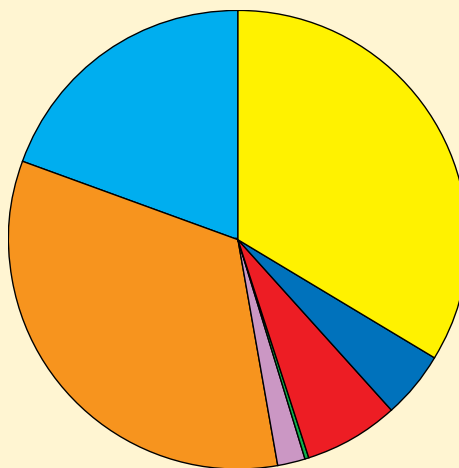
Precept for 2024/25 by 1.05%. The annual cost for a typical Band D household will be £26.01 a year (£25.74 2023/24) – this is an increase for the typical Band D household of just over 2 pence per month – and this small increase still ensures that Billericay remains one of the lowest charging Parish/Town Councils.

During the year we were delighted to make a donation of £100 to Essex and Herts Air Ambulance. In moving to the new building, we continue our high level objectives which are two-fold:

- **Social:** to provide facilities for community groups to use at an affordable cost. This year, there were 2,540 hours of activities lead by community/not-for-profit groups based in Billericay, and 2,106 hours run by commercial, which includes the Barclays Banking Hub, that has proved a success for the community.

- **Financial:** to generate income from commercial hirings to subsidise costs. Almost 70% of the revenue has come from commercial organisations. On closing the financial accounts for 2023/24, subject to Audit, we expect to have generated over £76,000 (£72,000 2022/23) in revenue.

EXPENDITURE & RESERVES 2023/2024



Administration & Council Members	Publications
Recreational Facilities	Chantry Way Centre
Christmas Lights	Earmarked Reserves
Other Projects	

Cost control plays an important part of F&GP's activities and we had fixed our gas and electric contracts until 2028. This has been especially important in the current climate of price rises.

Thanks are due to all members of the Finance

EXPENDITURE AND RESERVES

2022/23	EXPENDITURE	2023/24
£'000	DESCRIPTION	£'000
113	Administration & Council Members	142
20	Recreational Facilities	20
8	Public Toilets	0
10	Christmas Lights	28
4	Other Projects	1
11	Publications	8
0	Election	0
154	Chantry Way Centre	140
0	Youth Town Council	0
65	Earmarked Reserves	81
385	Total	420

INCOME

2022/23	INCOME	2023/24
£'000	SOURCE	£'000
303	Precept	317
0	Interest Earned	22
0	Local sponsorship	0
9	Outside Funding	5
73	Chantry Way Centre	76
385	Total	420

and General Purposes Committee, for the work that they have done in ensuring we give 'best value' to the town. ■

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 services provided by other councils.

We provide all the floral displays in the High Street, including the planters and flower beds at the War Memorial, during both summer and winter. In 2024 we are bringing back the summer flower baskets on the lamp columns as they were much missed by both residents and visitors. We hope the new fixings will see them remaining firmly in place and giving a beautiful floral display from June to October. The two small green areas that we look after in the town – the Festival

Gardens located in Crown Road and the Jim Shields Garden at the junction of the High Street and Western Road – are now being maintained by the Town Council’s caretaker as it is more cost-effective and means we can deal with any problems or issues immediately.

We have reinstated the High Street litter picks, holding one in 2023 and have two planned for 2024. We are also looking at providing additional litter bins and replacing the ones that are in poor condition in partnership with Basildon Borough Council.

We provided a brand new Christmas lighting scheme in the High Street in 2023. 10 companies tendered and after much debate a white theme was agreed which would involve string lights on all the lamp columns, a Christmas parcel for the

Jim Shields Garden, string lights in all prominent trees and a wrap around design on the Beacon at Sun Corner. Thanks to the new lamp columns installed by Basildon Council, it meant that every column had a decoration on it for the first time in many years.

The white theme was generally well received and we will be further enhancing the design next year with more icicle lights across the front of buildings, adding gold tinsel to the lamp columns and lighting up as many of the High Street trees as possible.

The Billericay Tree wardens continue to be the guardian’s of the Town’s trees and have also undertaken several planting projects to enhance and preserve the environment and bio-diversity in Billericay. ■

PLANNING COMMITTEE Chairman: Cllr Jim Tutton



It has been a busy year for the Planning Committee. The meetings have seen increased interest from the public, with 89 residents attending through the year. Primarily they attended to object to applications that are either developments on green belt land or applications that are considered inappropriate within the High Street or conservation area.

Developers are trying to gain outline planning permissions on prime sites before the new Local Plan comes into effect. With the support of Billericay residents, we are fighting and objecting to these plans every time they come before us.

There is also a trend towards converting or extending commercial properties into either purely residential or a combination of both, in and around the High Street.

Of the 266 planning applications reviewed by Basildon Borough (and subsequent 7 appeals), we

agreed with the Borough planning department on approximately 82% of the applications. At this time 49 are still to be determined by them.

Of the 7 appeals, 3 were allowed, 3 dismissed and 1 still to be determined.

The most common objections to applications are: habitable room on the boundary, excessive bulk, insufficient rear garden, poor and awkward design.

We also considered:-
3 licensing applications – Blue Boar, Giggling Squid, The Warehouse;
5 consultations – Local Plan Issue and Options; Statement of Licensing Policy; Street Trading Policy; East Anglia GREEN – Norwich to Tilbury and EPOA – Essex Parking Guidance.

We look forward to continued support from our residents, in trying to get the best planning outcomes for our lovely town. ■

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF THE CHANTRY CENTRE

Lead Councillor: Cllr Adam Adshead



Having been open nearly 3 years the Chantry Centre has gone from strength to strength and has established itself as the core community hub for activities and events in the town.

Over 125 different community groups, commercial businesses and individuals have made 1,745 bookings with us during the year providing activities as diverse as club meetings for photography enthusiasts, bereavement counselling, exercise classes for all ages and abilities, films, book clubs, Brownies and advice and support for new mums as well as being used for business meetings, company training sessions and as the venue for the Barclays community banking hub. It’s particularly pleasing that the largest category in terms of hours booked was by those groups focussing on social isolation and social support primarily for the elderly.

As in past years our entire venue comprising the hall, kitchen and our four meeting rooms was provided two days free of charge to the Rotary Club of Billericay Mayflower for their Christmas Market.

Financially revenue grew by more than 6% to just over £76,000 with the number of bookings up 8%. We’ve seen good growth in centre usage on Mondays and Tuesdays – but if you’re looking to run regular activities Fridays provide plenty of opportunities!

With revenue up and a slight reduction in overheads the net annual cost of providing the centre reduced to £1.40 for each household (2022/3 £1.65).

What’s next? There is plenty of scope to develop the centre further and the coming year will see us doing more marketing to promote events and activities, especially those run by and for the community to help them reach wider audiences. We are also looking at whether there are activities missing which residents would like to see and whether we can encourage community groups or companies to expand their offerings. ■

COUNCILLORS ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS 23 MAY 2023 – 24 MARCH 2024

COUNCILLOR	PLANNING (23)	FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES (7)	HEALTH, WELLBEING & ENVIRONMENT (7)	COUNCIL (7)	TOTAL
Cllr A Adshead		3		6	9
Cllr J Clark	7			7	14
Cllr L Clark			3	3	6
Cllr R Clark	18	6		6	30
Cllr M Dear	9	1	4	7	21
Cllr J Devlin	20			6	26
Cllr J Henshaw	6			5	11
Cllr K Herlock		1	3	7	11
Cllr J Leung	1		1	3	5
Cllr C May	19		6	5	30
Cllr M Moore	18	5	6	7	36
Cllr K Mordecai	16	4	6	6	32
Cllr M Mordecai	3	5	5	6	19
Cllr M Roessler		2		5	7
Cllr E Sainsbury			3	4	7
Cllr D Spencer	8			6	14
Cllr G Talbot		5		6	11
Cllr A Talboys	18	5		5	28
Cllr M Thomas		5	7	6	18
Cllr J Tutton	20	4	5	6	35

EVENTS WORKING PARTY

Chairman: Cllr Kim Mordecai



2023 was a quiet year for the Events Working Party. The only event was the King's Coronation, however, there was a directive from Buckingham Palace that it was to be a low key affair and so we just decorated the High Street with red, white and blue bunting and gave prizes for the best dressed shop window and the best street party, with the prize money being donated to charities of the winners choice. We are currently in the process of organising a commemorative event for the 80th anniversary of the D Day landings, which will see the beacon being lit. ■

HELLO FROM THE EDITOR

Editor: Cllr Marie Dear



Welcome to the June edition of the Town Crier with all the latest news from the Town Council. This edition also includes the Annual Report giving a deeper analysis of the Town Council's projects, finances and activities.

The Town Crier Working Party works to produce the Town Crier and includes Cllrs Adshead, Dear, May and Moore. At Working Party meetings articles are chosen and the logistics of distribution and printing planned with the help and support of the Town Clerk. As is usual with publications drafts are created and shared with members of the

Working Party. After editing articles are proof read by Cllr Adshead. As the Town Crier is published and distributed to every home in the Town Council parish 3 to 4 times a year the Working Party is kept busy.

There have been so many events covered by the Town Crier over the past year. 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.

A big thank you to our graphic designer, David Vinten, for his work on our publications. ■

BILLERICAY YOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Chairman: George Wood



Last year in the Billericay Youth Town Council we focused on community engagement, working with our local foodbank and organising events for young people. This year we shifted our focus to community safety in the Basildon Borough, which replicates the outcome of the Make Your Mark Survey, with crime and safety being the top concern of South Essex for young people.

On 14th August 2023 Youth Town Councillor, George, went to a Let's Talk Community Policing meeting where he mentioned youth crime and safety for young people, due to recent crime incidents affecting young Billericay citizens.

During our first meeting in September, George spoke to the Youth Town Council about the information he received from the police and an idea about creating a publication with safety information in it, specifically with young people in mind. Youth Town Councillors loved this idea and a draft booklet and social media banner was designed.

Essex Police PCSOs and British Transport Police visited us in one of our regular meetings regarding the youth safety information to include. During the process of making the documents we also worked with Fearless, Basildon Council's Community Safety Team and Immobilise to help with adding details specific to their organisation.

Saturday 23rd March 2024 was our launch event for the project at the Chantry Centre when the booklet and social media banner was unveiled. Many members of the public came long to watch the presentation and received crime prevention and safety advice from the Police and Fire Service.

This year we have also had visits from other Town and Parish Councils about starting their own Youth Councils. They asked us questions about how the Billericay Youth Town Council runs and best ways to recruit young people. Our recent recruitment drives in secondary schools have worked extremely well for replenishing our own members. ■

BILLERICAY YOUTH SAFETY PROJECT LAUNCH EVENT – SUCCESS

ON SATURDAY 23rd March 2024 the Billericay Youth Safety Project booklet and social media banner were launched, live at the Chantry Centre. Many members of the public came along to get a copy of the booklet for themselves. Also in attendance were Essex Police Community Support Officer Kat, Roy from Essex Fire and Rescue Service and Lisa from Basildon Borough Council Community Safety Team. All three ran stalls and gave away freebies to enhance citizen safety in the Basildon Borough. At 12pm the founder of the Billericay Youth Safety Project, George Wood, delivered a presentation about the creation of the publication, whilst also unveiling the illustration competition winners. Quite a few young people and parents from the town visited during the day. Thank you to all those who came along.

The project does not end here though. Secondary and year 6 students in schools across Billericay will start to receive a copy of the booklet for themselves from local police officers. We are also compiling a similar booklet and social media banner for the rest of Essex.

During school holidays the Billericay Youth Town Council have put on,

and will continue to put on, many events for young people regarding safety, where they can get advice and freebies. Recent pop ups include Billericay Train Station with British Transport Police and outside Billericay Poundland with Essex Police.

For more information on upcoming events please see our Instagram @ [billericayyouthsafetyproject](https://www.instagram.com/billericayyouthsafetyproject)



Billericay Youth Safety Project Pop up at Billericay Train Station

FOCUS ON CHANTRY HIRER

ONCE A MONTH the Chantry Centre hosts an NHS hearing aid support service. Hearing aids need cleaning and re-tubing every 4 to 6 months, so if you have hearing aids issued by a local NHS audiology service, their friendly trained volunteers will be able to provide this necessary maintenance.

The service is FREE to attend but appointments must be booked in advance, either via their website or by telephone/text. They are in the Chantry Centre on the following dates between now and the end of the year – 13th June, 11th July, 8th August, 12th September, 10th October, 14th November, 12th December. Appointment times are between 2pm and 4pm. Website – www.hearinghelpessex.org.uk Phone: 01245 496347 Text: 07950 406173



CIVIC SERVICE – NEW DATE

PLEASE NOTE THAT the rescheduled Civic Service is now being held at 3pm on Sunday 29th September 2024 at Emmanuel Church, Laundon Road. The theme is "Celebrating Young People" so members of various youth groups and organisations will be taking part in what should be a joyous and enjoyable event. Everyone is very welcome to attend and tea and cake will be served afterwards.



GET MORE THAN BOOKS FROM BILLERICAY LIBRARY

DID YOU KNOW that various organisations hold regular drop in sessions at Billericay Library? Basildon Council hold drop in sessions there on the last THURSDAY of the month between 09:30 and 12:00. They cover: Council tax enquiries (arrears, disregards & exemptions), council tax reduction/support applications, housing benefit and universal credit applications and enquiries, DHP and EHP enquiries and applications, housing and homelessness applications and enquiries, finding out what you are entitled to, signposting

to other agencies for mental health, help with finding work and debt and money advice Further information available online at: <https://www.basildon.gov.uk/article/9810/where-to-find-help>

Basildon MIND also hold monthly sessions in the library on TUESDAYS – where you can drop in and access help and support for mental health issues.

The dates for 2024 are 11th June, 16th July, 13th August, 17th September, 15th October, 12th November, 17th December. Their helpline telephone number is 01268 284130 and the website is www.basmind.org.

IF YOU GO DOWN TO THE WOODS TODAY – IT MAY NOT BE THERE



WHEN IN EARLY 2022 a large area of ancient woodland in a private garden, which effectively formed part of

Norsey Wood, was felled it took the Forestry Commission one and a half years to conclude it was not illegal but was environmentally damaging.

There had been no consultation with the Norsey Wood Society who have successfully managed the wood as a flagship nature reserve with Site of Special Scientific Interest status and as a recreational amenity in partnership with Basildon Borough Council since the mid-seventies. Gap site developers recognise that properties built on the periphery of the wood command high prices but invariably fail to respect and give back to the environment. When the Billericay Tree Wardens

were on site, prior to the felling, they were assured that the ancient woodland in the garden would remain. The trees were felled soon afterwards and the stumps ground out. Basildon Borough Council were not inclined to grant the Planning Application until a reparation exercise was carried out to replace the felled trees. To reinforce the seriousness Basildon Borough Council have placed Tree Protection Orders on the trees in six adjacent gardens with overall three acres of intact Ancient Woodland which will future proof the trees.

The plentiful tree stock in Billericay acts as a green lung by exchanging air pollution with oxygen and reduces the risk of residents suffering respiratory problems. Additionally, it provides an opportunity for wildlife to thrive and our streets to be visually pleasant. **The Billericay Tree Wardens are a subgroup of the Billericay Town Council.**

TREE PLANTING AT WOODVALLEY VINEYARD



HAVING BEEN GIVEN the "grand tour" by

proprietor Keeley Harris and her team of the Woodvalley organic vineyard back in 2023, Billericay Tree Warden Nathan offered to supply 150 native trees from the Norsey Wood tree nursery to help supplement the biodiversity and wildness of the vineyard area. On the 9th March he and BTW volunteers met up on site to carry out the planting.

The vineyard project combines viticulture with improving the local area for wildlife and biodiversity. Expansion, over time, will lead to

eventually to providing local employment.

In the attached photograph, Wood Valley Proprietor Keeley Harris, is pictured 3rd from the left alongside colleagues Kevin, Jay and Alison. Also pictured are BTC Cllr Chris May and ecologist Nathan Hume in Hi-Viz yellow.

It's a big thank you to all the experienced tree planting volunteers as it truly is a case of many hands make light work. A novel thought springs to mind that perhaps if we were to have less new build development building sites in the immediate area and a few more vineyards, many would drink to that!

THE FRIENDS OF LAKE MEADOWS PARK USER SURVEY

WEEK COMMENCING JUNE 10TH

If you would like to take part contact a team member at the park, go to the Information Hut or use the QR code on our noticeboards to take part online.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

JUNE 2024

Tuesday 11 Planning
Thursday 13 Full Council
Tuesday 25 Planning

JULY 2024

Tuesday 2 Health, Wellbeing & Env
Tuesday 9 Planning
Thursday 11 Finance & General Purposes
Tuesday 23 Planning
Thursday 25 Full Council

AUGUST 2024

Tuesday 6 Planning
Tuesday 20 Planning
Tuesday 27 Health, Wellbeing & Env

SEPTEMBER 2024

Tuesday 3 Planning
Thursday 5 Finance & General Purposes
Thursday 12 Full Council
Tuesday 17 Planning

All meetings are open to the public and press and are held at The Chantry Centre, Chantry Way, unless otherwise stated and start at 7.00pm.

BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCILLORS

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Cllr R Clark	1 Wick Glen CM12 0HS	07802 425842	richard.clark@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
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Cllr M Dear	12 Redwing Drive CM11 2PG	01277 622499	marie.dear@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
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Cllr Chris May	5 Devereux Way CM12 0YS	01277 627005	chris.may@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
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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	jim.tutton@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
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