



# Billericay Town Council Annual Report



## ANNUAL REPORT 2008/2009

I am pleased to introduce the Billericay Town Council Annual Report for the Municipal financial year 2008/2009. It contains details of our activities in the current year and our plans for 2009/2010.

We were a newly elected Council in May 2008 for a four year tenure and although a number of Councillors changed we have continued to be a strong and effective group doing what we can to improve the town for all residents. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those members who stood down, including Captain Beverley Beale our past Chairman, for all the good work they did on behalf of the Town Council when they held office.

This current fiscal year has seen steady progress made by the Town Council and the main highlights are:

- ▶ No increase in the precept over the previous year;
- ▶ 261 planning applications reviewed;
- ▶ Delivered Teen Play area in Lake Meadows;
- ▶ Successful Billericay in Bloom Competition;
- ▶ 'Big Litter Pick';
- ▶ Switching-on ceremony of the new Christmas Lights;
- ▶ Stakeholders in the Billericay Health Steering Group Review;
- ▶ BBC Radio 4 "Any Questions" held in Billericay;
- ▶ Billericay Walk signage and a new Circular Walks brochure;
- ▶ Application for Town Green status being pursued;
- ▶ New Billericay Youth Town Council.

The precept for 2008/2009 was set with a nil increase over the previous year. The Finance Committee have been very prudent in managing our financial business including taking action to avoid risk in the banking system. So far we have avoided difficulties. We continue to seek outside funding to support our projects and this year has

seen much success in securing funds.

The Christmas Lights were completely changed this year with the introduction of a new contractor and we received a number of compliments from the local residents which were very welcome. We thank all those organisations and retailers who made donations and shared in its success.

The best dressed Christmas shop window was won by Thermaseal for its very seasonal theme; they donated their cheque prize to the local charity Hamelin Trust.

The newly elected Billericay Youth Town Council members convened their first meeting in October and are proving to be a very energetic group. We welcome their new ideas and activities going forward.

will do everything possible to keep costs down but at the same time keep delivering good value and coming up with new ideas for the future.

We are actively seeking to retain Sun Corner as a Town Green in perpetuity. An application has been submitted to Essex County Council and we hope to have a successful outcome early in the new fiscal year.

We continue to work closely and in partnership with Basildon District Council and other organisations to enhance areas within the Town. Lake Meadows is of special interest to us and with the Katherine Jenkins concert scheduled for July this will raise the profile of the town enormously.

We continue to support The Billericay Design Statement Association as it continues with its



*Cllrs J Devlin and P Bowditch after being appointed Vice-Chairman and Chairman.*

very valuable consultation with the residents and also with the planners in Basildon; the Association are due to deliver their report in May.

I would like to thank all those people and groups who have helped us continue to serve you, our residents, during the past year and all my fellow Councillors who have worked extremely hard to support the Council's activities.

Special thanks go to our Town Clerk, Mrs Helen Philpott and our

Administrative Assistant, Mrs Madeline Gapes for the dedication, professionalism and hard work in enabling this Council to run as smoothly as it does.

I have enjoyed my first year as Chairman, which has allowed me to attend on behalf of the Town Council a number of functions both in and outside the town, outreaching more into the community, developing relationships and partnerships which can help us to continue to serve the people who live in our really wonderful town.

*Cllr Peter Bowditch  
Chairman Billericay Town Council*

For further information and general enquiries contact:

Town Clerk • Billericay Town Council • The Loft • Crown Yard • High Street • Billericay CM12 9BX  
www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk **Office Opening times:** 9.30am – 2.30pm  
**T:** 01277 625732 **F:** 01277 634784 **E:** townclerk@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk

# FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE [F&GPC]

Chairman: Cllr. Edgar Guest

## FINANCIAL REPORT APRIL 2008 TO MARCH 2009

The Finance & General Purposes Committee's primary task is to make best use of Billericay taxpayers' money by obtaining maximum value and providing optimum service at the lowest possible cost to Billericay residents. The precept [Billericay Town Council Tax] for 2008/2009 was set at £17.37 for a Band D property, the same as for the previous year. In spite of this nil tax increase all planned projects and actions have been fully funded and the required prudent operational reserves secured. In the light of the general banking crisis during 2008, and because the Town Council's cash deposits are not protected by the Government, we divided our cash reserves [deposit accounts] between three Banks thus minimising the risk of any potential loss due to default. Following the series of drastic reductions in interest rates by the Bank of England, all savers, including your Town Council, faced reduced interest income from deposits. Nevertheless, we still earned £11,000 bank interest compared with £18,000 in the previous year. Due to a large extent to the efforts of our Town Clerk we received £75,000 outside funding towards the cost of our projects.

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

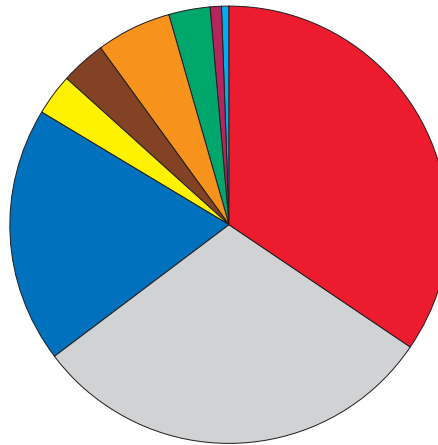
INCOME			
07/08 £'000	SOURCE	08/09 £'000	%
212	Precept	214	68.2
18	Interest earned	11	3.5
6	Local sponsorship	13	4.1
26	Outside funding	75	23.9
2	Other income	1	0.3
<b>264</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>100.0</b>

EXPENDITURE AND RESERVES			
07/08 £'000	DESCRIPTION	08/09 £'000	%
81	Admin & Council	109	34.7
0	Rec Facilities	95	30.2
0	Public Toilets	59	18.8
24	Christmas Lights	10	3.2
0	Crime Prevention	10	3.2
15	Other Projects	18	5.7
13	Publications	9	2.9
28	Youth Town Council	3	1.0
103	Reserves	1	0.3
<b>264</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Note: Due to the early publication of this year's Annual Report some of the 2008/09 expenditure figures shown are year-end estimates.

## PLANS FOR 2009/2010

Recognising the downturn in the general economic situation affecting everybody in Billericay, the Town Council has decided to set the 2009/2010 precept for a Band D property at £16.20, a reduction of 6.7% compared with 2008/2009.



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

## WORKING PARTIES

The F&GPC has supervisory responsibilities for a number of Working Parties and for the Billericay Youth Town Council.

The **Town Crier Working Party** chaired by **Cllr. Marion Wilson** is responsible for the Town Crier which provides news of what the Town Council and Youth Town Council are doing and, where there is space information about other local organisations.

The **Town Guide Working Party** chaired by **Cllr. Marion Wilson**. Members of the Working Party have already started preparing the next edition of the Town Guide which will be launched on 30th October 2009.

The **IT [Information Technology] Working Party** chaired by **Cllr. David Knight**. The website ([www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk)) continued to be developed and maintained to reflect new and changing information. The IT infrastructure has been updated to cater for new products and for essential safeguards' such as anti-virus software and the Disaster Plan. The new Omega Financial Package was purchased and implemented successfully and ran parallel with the existing system during the fourth quarter of the municipal year 2008-2009 to enable full running for the new financial year.

The **Noticeboard Working Party** chaired by **Cllr. Peter Bowditch** instigated the installation of a new sponsored noticeboard at the High Street/Western Road junction.

The **Youth Town Council Working Party** chaired by Cllr. Colin Dyer. The main task of this

group is to monitor and advise the members of the Billericay Youth Town Council. The Youth Council consists of 20 elected young people who live or attend schools within Billericay. During the course of the year we have contacted the various youth organisations and clubs within the town with a view to setting up a Youth Facility Register.

## PLANNING COMMITTEE

Chairman: Cllr. John Buchanan

It is the role of the Council's Planning Committee to look at every planning application, and every highways related proposal affecting Billericay, and to respond appropriately to Basildon District Council, as the planning authority, or Essex County Council, as the highways authority. The Committee met every two weeks in order to keep up with the work and to ensure that our views are sent to the relevant authority to meet their deadlines. On average, the Committee dealt with 10 planning applications at every meeting.



The **Pedestrian & Cycle Routes Working Party** chaired by **Cllr. John Buchanan**. Following the erection of signs on the routes from Greens Farm Lane to Sun Corner and the Railway Station to Queens Park Country Park, approval was received for signs on the routes from the High Street to Perry Street, and from Greens Farm Lane to the Railway Station. Three new projects were commenced during the year:

- ▶ a leaflet with a map of the circular walks - previously only available as a booklet without a map (available from the Town Council Office);
- ▶ programme of town trail guided walks for tourists which will take place in the summer;
- ▶ a leaflet of 'Healthy Shortcuts in Billericay'.

The **Sun Corner Project Group** chaired by **Cllr. John Buchanan**. We have continued to obtain evidence to support our application for Sun Corner to be formally registered as a Town Green.



# ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE *Chairman: Cllr. David Knight*

## REPORT FOR THE YEAR APRIL 2008 TO MARCH 2009

The Environment Committee's main responsibility is to provide the focal point for the initiation, support, financial control and completion of all environmental projects that will help to provide additional facilities and, hopefully, an improved quality of life for our residents. I would like to thank all Councillors as well as those members of the public asked to help with particular projects.

The highlights for the year can be summarised as:

- ▶ New Teen Play area installed in Lake Meadows;
- ▶ The eleventh annual Billericay in Bloom competition;
- ▶ Improved Christmas Lights along our High Street;
- ▶ The fourth 'Celebration of Christmas Lights';
- ▶ The third Christmas Shop Window competition;
- ▶ Official opening of the new Public Convenience;
- ▶ Hosting of Radio 4s' Any Questions programme;
- ▶ Cleaning of the War Memorial;
- ▶ Additional CCTV cameras installed at the railway station and Lake Meadows;
- ▶ A further publicly-supported 'Litter Pick'.

The details for each project area are described below:



The **Billericay in Bloom Working Party chaired by Cllr. Moira Moore**. We had Ken Crowther of BBC Essex to present the prizes to the winners at our prizegiving event held at the Canon Roche Centre in Laindon Road. Our thanks go to all our sponsors and to our long-standing professional judges who continued to be impressed with the quality of the entries from our community.

The **Christmas Lights Working Party chaired by Cllr. David Knight**. Many new Christmas Lights were erected this year ably supplied,

erected and maintained by our new contractors. Billericay Town Council received congratulations this year on the Christmas Lights. The fourth Celebration of Christmas Lights was held on 28th November when, despite the cold, over 500 people came to see Santa Claus switch on our new decorations. The occasion was complemented by the Salvation Army Band and Billericay School choir, the Billericay Youth Town Council, Billericay Lions, Police and staff from the Chequers Public House. Thermaseal won the best decorated shop window and received their prize of £100 which they donated to a local charity, Hamelin Trust. Thank you for all those who decorated their windows and sponsored the Christmas Lights.



The **Recreation Working Party chaired by Cllr. Peter Bowditch**. The Town Council are working together with Basildon District Council on a programme to improve the facilities in Lake Meadows for our residents and expect an agreement in place for the new fiscal year. With the agreement of Basildon District Council we installed new play equipment at Lake Meadows Park at a cost of £86,000 of which £63,000 came from Essex County Council Community Initiatives Fund, Veolia Cleanaway Pitsea Marshes Trust and Awards for All Lottery Funding; we thank them for their support for this project.

The **Crime Prevention/CCTV Working Party chaired by Cllr. Colin Dyer**. In addition to the CCTV cameras installed in the High Street, additional cameras have been sited at the railway station and in Lake Meadows. All the cameras are now operational.

**War Memorial** – Town Councillors, with representatives of the Royal British Legion, Youth Town Council, Billericay Society and Billericay Archaeological & Historical Society, carried out a general cleaning of the memorials prior to the November Remembrance Day Parade.

Professional cleaning was undertaken to enhance the inscriptions of the World War II memorial making them easier to read. To avoid causing damage to the memorial, extensive trials were undertaken to ensure that the correct cleaning process was used.



The **Litter Working Party chaired by Cllr. John Buchanan**. Another successful "Big Litter Pick" was held in October 2008 with over 100 bags of rubbish collected from several different sites in the town. The Working Party installed three new litter bins (two in Stock Road and one at the Station) and supported Basildon District Council's campaign to reduce smoking related litter by distributing "butt boxes" to several businesses in the town.

The **Any Questions Working Party chaired by Cllr. David Knight**. Billericay Town Council hosted BBC Radio 4s' Any Questions programme on 22nd August 2008 at the Emmanuel Church, Laindon Road. Over 200 Billericay residents experienced a lively evening of audience questions answered by Carol Gould, James Delingpole, Professor Frank Furedi and Bob Crow and chaired by Jonathan Dimbleby.

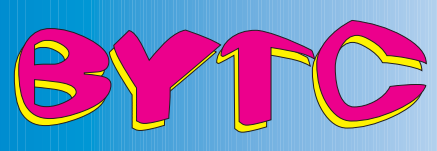


**Bus Shelters** – The Town Council have installed two new bus shelters – one in Rosebay Avenue and the other in Arlington Way.

To view the Annual Report and further details of Town Council activities look on the Town Council's website:

[www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk)





Chairwoman: Sophie Harrison

A new term of Billericay Youth Town Council has arrived and in November we received a new group of Councillors from Billericay and Mayflower High School. We also have two members who live in Billericay but attend schools at Chelmsford and Southend.

The appointment of positions on the Council were agreed at our first meeting when I was appointed as Chairwoman, Starr Mumford Vice-Chairwoman, Lauren Brown Treasurer and Bethan Cousins Secretary.

Since November we have been working on various projects including: MUSA (Multi User Sports Area), Talent Show, provision of activities for the Summer Holidays, etc. Recently we have even acknowledged the latest technology by having MSN meetings (these are meetings which are instant over the internet).

Furthermore, we are so anxious to learn and improve that we have been to several other Council functions where we have learnt various new ways of communication and team working skills.

Since the Annual General Meeting, we have had various members of the community attend our twice monthly meetings including representatives of the Library Service, Essex



County Council Youth Service, Police and Officers of Basildon District Council. It is very much hoped that we will be able to assist these organisations by participating in events and

schemes they have planned.

We are also hoping that it may be possible to install a MUSA within Lake Meadows Park for which we will have to obtain support from Basildon District Council prior to seeking grant funding. We had also, at the request of the District Council, been considering a use for the Third Tennis Court, Lake Meadows but due to the overhanging trees and the amount of debris these cause we have not been able to reach a satisfactory conclusion.

The Youth Council also assisted members of the Town Council in choosing the playground equipment installed at Lake Meadows Park by visiting a number of play areas within Basildon District and other parts of the County and then discussing the requirements with various contractors. We are pleased to note that the equipment installed is proving very popular.

One of my first functions as Chairwoman was to lay a wreath on behalf of the BYTC at the Remembrance Day Parade and I was also able to present the cheque to the winner of the Town Council Best Christmas Shop Window Competition during December.

## Facts

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

## Did You Know

The Town Council's Coach House meeting room in Crown Yard is available to hire at reasonable cost; a comfortably furnished room which can accommodate up to 40 people seated. For details of hire contact the Town Clerk.

The Annual Report can be made available in large print. To obtain a copy in alternative format please contact the Town Council.

The Town Council has supplies of the Pink recycling sacks, free of charge, and White Garden waste sacks, £1.40. Bus Pass application forms can also be obtained from the Offices.

Members of the Public are welcome to attend Council and Committee meetings and are given the opportunity to ask questions – dates of meetings and agendas are available on the Council's website.

### MEETING ATTENDANCE FROM MAY 2008 – 12 MARCH 2009

	Council	Planning	F & G Purposes	Env
<b>Total Mtngs</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Councillor</b>				
P Arnold *+	7	14	6	
T Arnold *+	7	14		
P Bowditch	7	15	5	7
J Buchanan	8	19		6
J Devlin	7	18	4	5
M Dunn	8	16	5	
C Dyer	6		4	5
T Gandy	6			3**
E Guest	7		5	5
D Knight	7		6	8
K Mesnard	5			
M Moore *+	7	11	5	6
R Rapley	4	14		
J Shrubbs *+	5	14	3	
D Spencer	5	16		4
T Stansfield	2	9	2	
A Ud-Din	4			
H Ud-Din	4			
P Went	5			7
M Wilson	5		3	4

F & G Purposes = Finance & General Purposes • Env = Environment  
 \* Councillors From June 2008 + From July 2008 for Planning Committee  
 J Shrubbs, M Moore, P Arnold J Shrubbs, M Moore, P Arnold, T Arnold  
 T Arnold, A Ud-Din, H Ud-Din  
 \*\* On Committee until Nov. 2008

## BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCILLORS

Councillor	Address	Telephone	E-Mail	Ward
Paul Arnold	c/o Billericay Town Council	01277 625732	CllrPArnold@aol.com	E
Tina Arnold	c/o Billericay Town Council	01277 625732	CllrTArnold@aol.com	E
Peter Bowditch	18 Cranmer Close, Billericay CM12 0YQ	01277 659530	peter.bowditch@tiscali.co.uk	W
John Buchanan	72 Meadows Rise, Billericay CM11 2EF	01277 656715	cldr.buchanan@tiscali.co.uk	E
Jim Devlin	231 Perry Street, Billericay CM12 0NZ	01277 656937		W
Jack Dunn	78 Perry Street, Billericay CM12 0ND	01277 654539	morse-morse@hotmail.co.uk	W
Colin Dyer	6 Montpelier Close, Billericay CM12 0UH	01277 625156		W
Terence Gandy	Mille Fleurs, 32 Norsey View Drive, CM12 0QR	01277 624309		W
Edgar Guest	c/o Billericay Town Council	01277 625732		SW
David Knight	15 Larch Close, Steeple View, SS15 4DY	01268 545945		E
Kevin Mesnard	21 Cromwell Avenue, Billericay CM12 0AE	01277 630373	kevinmesnard@hotmail.com	W
Moira Moore	47 Laindon Road, Billericay CM12 9LG	01277 627266		E
Rod Rapley	43 Crescent Road, Billericay CM12 0JQ	01277 622125	rod@oaktree43.freeserve.co.uk	W
James Shrubbs	c/o Billericay Town Council	01277 625732		E
Daphne Spencer	Fir Tree Lodge, 16 Back Lane, Stock CM4 9DG	01277 829750		E
Trevor Stansfield	174 Perry Street, Billericay CM12 0NX	01277 623519	tremar@aol.com	W
Ann Ud-Din	203 Church Street, Great Burstead CM11 2TP	01277 625732		SW
Dr Hameed Ud-Din	203 Church Street, Great Burstead CM11 2TP	01277 625732		SW
Pamela Went	4 The Mullions, Billericay CM12 9XG	01277 658961		W
Marion Wilson	25 Parklands, Billericay CM11 1AS	01277 626321		E