



# Billericay Town Council Annual Report 2011/2012

YOUR QUALITY COUNCIL

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I am pleased to report that for another year Billericay Town Council has delivered a fantastic range of services to the people of the town, all for £19.80 per year, if you live in a Band D property.

I could not have believed a year ago that the long running dialogue which we have had with Essex County Council about the future of Sun Corner would be resolved by their agreement to our suggestion that this marvellous open space should be dedicated as a Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Field. This really does protect it for ever as a place for you and your families to enjoy. Cllr. Knight's report on the achievements of the Environment Committee and its several Working Parties speaks volumes, but of particular significance is the agreement we have reached with Basildon Council to take over the management of the Festival Gardens. I hope you will soon be able see a tangible improvement in the management of this special place.

We had a wonderful response to the request for articles and information for the seventh edition of the Billericay Town Guide, and I think this edition was the best yet. It was delivered free of charge to every household in the town. You have also received our quarterly newsletter "Town Crier" through your letterboxes, bringing you news of the council's activities, and community events as well. Our Litter Pick was officially the best "Love Where You Live" project in Essex.

This report also marks the end of the four year term of office for your current team of councillors; my thanks to each of them for their varied contribution to the council's achievements, as shown in the table overleaf. On Thursday 3rd May you have the opportunity to choose the new team to take the town forward into the next four years. The Localism Act is coming into effect this year, and gives town councils like yours much greater flexibility to deliver whatever the people of Billericay consider to be important, to say what forms of development should be provided in the town, and even to challenge what other bodies may be trying to impose on the town. Please participate in the elections; it is your chance to choose the people you want to run the town.

**Cllr. John Buchanan**

**Chairman Billericay Town Council**

## FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

**Chairman:**  
Cllr. Jim Devlin

The Finance & General Purposes Committee has the responsibility to scrutinize the financial performance of the Council and to ensure that the Council remains within budgetary constraints.

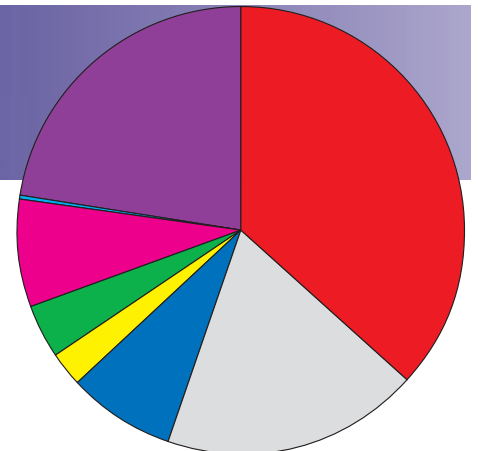
During the year 2011/2012 we are pleased to report that all expenditure has remained within budget and that the Council remains in a healthy financial state. This has not affected our ability to continue to provide resources for projects within Billericay as evidenced by further investment in Lake Meadows and continued funding of Billericay in Bloom, the Christmas Lights and many other projects.

Again this year, through careful management of our finances, we are pleased to be able to announce that the precept charged by Billericay Town Council for the year 2012/2013 will remain unchanged.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE		
2010/11	INCOME	2011/12
£'000	SOURCE	£'000
245	Precept	246
3	Interest earned	5
8	Local sponsorship	2
1	Outside funding	6
6	From General Reserve	0
<b>263</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>259</b>

EXPENDITURE AND RESERVES		
2010/11	EXPENDITURE	2011/12
£'000	DESCRIPTION	£'000
99	Admin & Council Members	91
50	Recreational Facilities	46
19	Public Toilets	19
7	Christmas Lights	7
4	Design Statement	0
17	Other Projects	10
11	Publications	20
1	Youth Town Council	1
20	Earmarked Reserves*	55
0	To General Reserve	10
<b>263</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>259</b>

\*Earmarked Reserves are for Christmas Lights £5,000, Allotments £10,000, Planning £10,000, Building Fund £30,000.



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

As the Annual Report had to be produced early because of the pending elections it has only been possible to include the figures up to the end of February 2012.

## PLANNING COMMITTEE

**Chairman:**  
Cllr. Jim Shrubbs

As usual the Planning Committee has met every two weeks all through the year. There is simply no let up in the continuous flow of planning applications for new houses, conservatories and extensions etc. The committee considers every application in the town. We have also considered applications for new uses of premises, such as restaurant instead of a shop, or a shop instead of a bar. We made representations regarding licensing applications when local residents asked us to. An important initiative during the year was to ensure all our roadside grit bins were well stocked, and we also distributed 2 tonnes of road grit in 50kg bags to local residents. This effort proved to have been worthwhile when the snow arrived in February. By publishing and launching our Leisure Cycle Route with the help of the Essex Roads Cycling Club we completed our pedestrian and cycle routes project. We have been less than fully successful in getting unauthorised signs removed from the High Street Conservation area, but there has been some compliance. We have started a project to tidy up the clutter of signs and posts in the High Street, and this will continue into the next municipal year.



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

T: 01277 625732 F: 01277 634784 E: [townclerk@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@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

## ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE Chairman: Cllr. David Knight

Once again the Environment Committee has had a successful year in delivering its projects and supporting other community initiatives. I think these provide benefit and enhance our town's quality of life. These could not be achieved without the support from my colleagues and the town clerk and help from many members from our community. Thank you to everyone. Highlights are:

- ▶ the official opening in July of the Lake Meadows Skateboard Park by the Chairman of the Youth Town Council and the Mayor of Basildon followed by an afternoon of competition and fun for our younger citizens;
- ▶ continued partnership with Basildon Borough Council in enhancing Lake Meadows – major developments include the new and refurbished children's' playground, redeveloped toilets and further footpath maintenance;
- ▶ financially supporting 'Basildon, Billericay and Wickford Council for Voluntary Services' for playground equipment at five sites in Queens Park – these were officially opened in February;
- ▶ assuming responsibility for Festival Gardens from Basildon Borough Council and appointing contractors to provide improved maintenance;
- ▶ new High Street lamp-post hanging baskets implemented and planting of these and the town's other floral decorations;
- ▶ continuing maintenance of the War Memorial including summer and winter planting schemes;
- ▶ the fourteenth annual Billericay in Bloom competition;
- ▶ the seventh year of High Street Christmas Lights and the increasingly popular 'Celebration of Christmas Lights';
- ▶ the sixth 'Christmas Shop Window' competition – winner 'Sugarcane';
- ▶ two Plant-a-shrub sessions at Child in the Park and Festival Gardens;

- ▶ two 'big litter picks' – for the event in October we were awarded a prize from Essex County Council's 'Love Where You Live' campaign;

- ▶ summer 'town trail walks' where nearly 100 people learnt about Billericay's fascinating history and architecture;
- ▶ continuing provision of the automated public conveniences in Iceland car park;
- ▶ new Union and St.George's flags.

Great progress has also been achieved in:

- ▶ providing 'HM The Queen Jubilee Beacon' at Sun Corner for lighting on the occasion of the national celebrations for the Jubilee;
- ▶ planting 105 woodland trees around Sun Corner as part of the National Jubilee Woods project – trees are supplied free by the Woodlands Trust;
- ▶ implementing planting schemes at the entrances to our town.



### COUNCILLORS ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS MAY 2011 – 21 FEBRUARY 2012

NO. OF MEETINGS	19	6	7	8	NO. WORKING/ PROJECT MEETINGS	TOTAL ATTENDED
COUNCILLOR	PLAN	F&GP	ENV	COUNCIL		
T Arnold			1	2	1	4
A Baggott from Jan 12				1		1
P Bowditch	11	5	6	7	12	41
J Buchanan	16	3	6	8	38	71
B Chapman	5 Res 16/9		6	6	11	28
J Devlin	12	5		6	16	39
I Davie	15			6	7	28
C Dyer		4	4	4	1	13
T Gandy				4		4
E Guest		5		5	4	14
D Knight		6	6	8	37	57
S McCaffery	17		7	8	10	42
K Mesnard				3	3	6
M Moore		4	5	7	11	27
R Rapley		5		5	1	11
J Shrubb	17			5	10	32
D Spencer	13		5	6	6	30
T Stansfield		4		4		8
H Ud-Din Resigned Oct 11						
P Went			7	6	13	26
M Wilson		5	6	7	14	32

PLAN = Planning

F&GP = Finance & General Purposes

ENV = Environment

## BYTC

Chairman: Cllr.  
Tayler Cronly-Dillon

Looking back over the past year the Youth Town Council were involved with a few events being held in Billericay. In July 2011 the Council got involved with the installation and opening of the Skate Park in Lake Meadows. A group of skaters came to the council wanting to know if there was any way we could help renew the ramps. A sub-group of the Council was then set up helping the skaters and went to a workshop where they could decide what materials would be most suited. This project was very successful and is now a very popular place for skaters as they find it a safe place to skate as well as having new equipment. During the Christmas period the Youth Town Council participated in the turning on of the Christmas lights. The Youth Councillors dressed up in fancy dress costumes and walked up and down the High Street giving out balloons to children who passed by. It is a great way to get involved within our town.

This year the Youth Town Council have many events being planned. During February we held a Cake Bake Sale, raising money for residential homes within Billericay. With the money raised, £470, we are hopefully going to buy new leisure games such as playing cards and dominos. As a Council we felt that we wanted to give something back to the older generations and help them as much as we possibly can and this is just the start. In March we have planned an Easter Egg Hunt at Lake Meadows park for under 8s. This event will consist of face painting, Easter egg hunting and a special visit from the Easter Bunny himself! We wanted to create this event so that we get more involved with the younger generations as we want them to get involved within Billericay and mostly have fun. For the summer months we are currently working on an event linking in with the Olympics. I can promise you, you will be hearing a lot from Billericay Youth Town Council this year as we are all willing to make it the best year yet.

