

# Bowers Bugle

We're on the web – Visit us at- [www.essex.info/bgnb-parishcouncil](http://www.essex.info/bgnb-parishcouncil)

Parish Clerk 01268 725236 (M) 07758255621 Email: [clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com)



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## Neighbourhood Plan – Kicks Off

*Your Parish Council is just embarking on developing a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish.*

Following on from previous articles in the Bowers Bugle and Bowers Gifford and North Benfleet Parish Council meetings the Parish has successfully been designated as a Neighbourhood Plan area by Basildon Council.

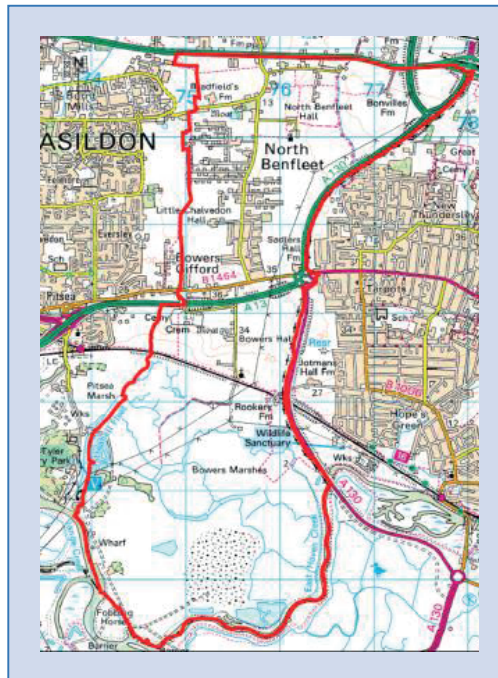
*"Your views are an important and essential part of developing a successful Plan"*

### What next?

### The hard work starts!

In the coming weeks members of the Parish Council, with the help of some volunteers, will be knocking on your door to take your views into account when preparing the Plan. This will help add to Council's draft vision statement and priorities that have been compiled from the comments received at the initial drop-in sessions and Parish Council meetings over the past two years.

Your views are an important to us and are an essential part of developing a successful Plan. *The hard work starts here but we cannot prepare the Plan without the help, involvement and engagement of you the community, both residents and businesses.*



**We need your help and support by helping us knock on doors to record the views we are given.**

**If can give just a couple of hours a week to help do this please contact the Parish Clerk, on 01268 725236 (M) 07758255621) or one of your Parish Councillors.**

*You will be able to record your comments and complete a questionnaire on the Parish Council website from 14th November*

### What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

The Localism Act 2011 introduced new powers for local people to make Neighbourhood Plans with reduced interference from government. A Neighbourhood Plan establishes general planning policies for the use and development of land in a Neighbourhood area.

The plans must however meet the needs of the wider area and the community. Where there is a Parish Council only the Parish Council can undertake developing a Neighbourhood Plan.

### Why do we need one?

The Plan enables and allows people and businesses in the community a voice. Currently there are around 1,000 communities working on their own Neighbourhood Plans we are now one of these.

A Plan cannot stop development but it can help to protect our village from **OVER** development and urban sprawl within our Green Belt.

### What makes up the Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet a Neighbourhood Area?

The existing Parish boundary is the designated area. You can view a map of the area on the Parish Council website.

[www.essex.info/bgnb-parishcouncil](http://www.essex.info/bgnb-parishcouncil)

## Fly-tipping

Over the past 24 months the Parish Council has raised the issue of illegal fly-tipping with the authorities and put pressure on Essex County Council via the Local Highways Panel to obtain agreement to reinstate barriers in Old Church Road and the underpass. In order to achieve this, there has to be a change to the Highways Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to prohibit motor vehicles.



Essex County Council is now undertaking a consultation with statutory consultees to find out if there are any objections to the proposed changes. If no objections are received Essex County Council will restrict access at either end of Old Church Road early in 2017.

The Parish Council will continue to put pressure on Essex County Council to resolve this blight on our community as quickly as possible.

If you see any vehicle fly-tipping or persons acting in a suspicious manner please notify the Police with as much information regarding the vehicle as possible and report the fly-tipped material on the Essex County Council - [www.essex.gov.uk](http://www.essex.gov.uk) or Basildon Council - [www.basildon.gov.uk](http://www.basildon.gov.uk) websites.

**Crackdown on illegal waste:** Essex County Council are intending to change the way Pitsea Tip manages waste. See the Parish Council website for more details and Parish Council comments in the minutes of the meeting on 28th September.

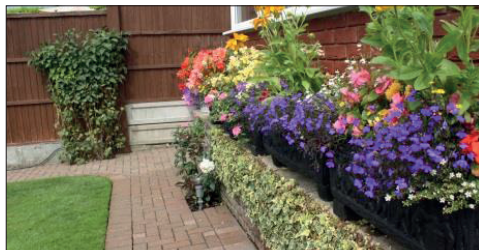
## Parish in bloom

Once again the Parish-in-Bloom competition during the Summer reflected the number of "green fingered" residents we have in our village. The judges had a very difficult task in choosing the winners as each entry showed how it was

possible to maximize the space available and the use of plants and colour.

Mrs Maureen Larkin, Lady Deputy Lieutenant of Essex judged the competition along with Councillor Foster.

The overall prize winner was Mrs Karen Watts of Highlands Road



A presentation was held on 31st August at the Parish Council meeting. Each household who entered received two packs of winter bulbs. Our picture shows some of the prize winners with judges, Mrs Maureen Larkin and Councillor Bernard Foster.



### Best Front Garden:

**Gold:** Karen Watts, Highlands Road

**Silver:** Nicola Launder, Highlands Road

### Best Back Garden:

**Gold:** Karen Watts, Highlands Road:

**Joint Silver:** Sheelagh Pegg, Elm Road: and Christine Thompson, Elm Road

### Best Hanging Basket/Container:

**Gold:** Karen Watts, Highlands Road

**Silver:** Sheelagh Pegg, Elm Road and Geoff Conner, Pound Lane

**Bronze:** Pauline Meekings, Highlands Road

**Slow down-  
It's 30mph**



Speeding through the village has increased over the past two years, as has the sheer weight of traffic along Pound Lane.

Do you want to reduce Speeding cars through the Village? Yes ..... Read on !

## Essex County Council Community Work Award

Parish and Town Councils across Essex were nominated for Essex County Council Community Work Award. At their Annual General Meeting in September the Essex Association of Local Councils and Essex County Council the Parish Council took the Runner-Up spot. In giving the award to the Council John Gili-Ross, EALC Chairman said that Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet Parish Council deserved the runners-up award this year for working (i) in partnership to arrange the Youth Bus activity for 13 – 16 year old; (ii) Forging ahead in the development of the Neighbourhood Plan and (iii) arranging the Picnic-in-the Park event to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday in addition to other community projects.

The Council was beaten into second place by Hullbridge Parish Council but were pleased to accept the award on behalf of the community of Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet.

Help your Parish Council to do this by joining with them on Community Speed Watch. **Community Speed Watch (CSW)** is a locally driven initiative where active members of the community join together with the support of the Police to monitor the speed of vehicles using Speed Detection devices. Vehicles exceeding the speed limit are referred to the Police with the aim of educating drivers to reduce their speeds. It is a proactive solution to improve the safety and quality of life for everyone in the community, increase public awareness of inappropriate speed and reduce the speed of vehicles to conform to the speed limit.

Volunteers receive appropriate training to use the equipment and record details of the speeding vehicles and are supported by the Neighbourhood Policing team (NPT) staff. **To take part and keep our roads safer contact either: Councillor Terry Potter on (M) 07867 615875 or Chris Barlow, The Parish Clerk, Tel: 01268 725236 (M) 07758255621**



## Essex BBC comes to Bowers Gifford!

The Parish Council Picnic-in-the-Park event had an unexpected visit from BBC Essex Sunday morning program "The Quest"

The second clue of the program formed part of Barry and Leanna's quest to reach their secret location before the end of the morning program.



Our picture shows Barry and Leanna with members of the Parish Council and some of the helpers before the event.

Once again the weather played a part in trying to dampen people's spirits at the Community Event in June but visitors who braved the weather and brought their picnics and sheltered under gazebos were entertained by the fabulous music by live duo "Filthy Gorgeous". Spirits were kept high and the sun eventually came out.

The Parish Council was also on hand to answer questions about the Neighbourhood Plan and the raffle was a big hit.

A commemorative coin to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday was given to each child who entered the children's draw.

A BIG THANK YOU goes to the many local businesses and stall holders who donated raffle prizes: These included: Tangled Hairdressers, Wiltons Pet Shop, The Gun Pub, Manor Koi Garden Centre: Altons Garden Centre: Tangled Hairdressers and PMS.

Thanks to the Essex youth Workers who attended with the Youth Bus and the Essex Association of Boys & Girls Clubs, whose volunteers came along and helped with some of the games and who by the end of the afternoon were well and truly soaked but thoroughly enjoyed themselves helping out.

**Next year I think we need to book the sunshine!!**

## The Crunch Service



Basildon Borough Council Mobile Tip Service will be at:

**Westlake Park - Pound Lane,  
adjacent to Wiltons Pet Shop**

**Saturday: 3rd December  
09:00 to 12:00 noon**

**The 'Crunch' will accept:** all large household waste from domestic premises such as furniture, TVs and electrical appliances, also garden waste including; wood, stones and bricks etc.

**The 'Crunch' will NOT accept:** paint, oil, liquids or hazardous materials (such as batteries or asbestos).

## Basildon Council Waste and Recycling Services

Have your say!

Basildon Council is consulting on proposed changes to some of the ways our rubbish is collected. These include fortnightly "black sack" collections and introducing a charge for the collection of garden waste during from March to October. These changes affect you! Have your say by logging on to the Basildon Council website, before the 27th November, to give your views. <http://www.basildon.gov.uk/wastechanges>

### Parish Council Contact Details

#### Councillors

Robert Smillie 07790 907113  
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Bernard Foster 07811 838115  
cllr.bernardfoster@gmail.com  
Nigel Tyler 07850 192227  
cllr.nigeltyler@gmail.com  
Sheelagh Pegg 07885 758989  
cllr.sheelaghpegg@gmail.com  
Terence Potter 07867 615875  
cllr.terrypotter@gmail.com

#### Parish Clerk

Christine Barlow (01268) 725236  
(M) 07758 255621 15 Highlands Road,  
Bowers Gifford, SS13 2HR Email:  
clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com

## New faces on the Parish Council

Sadly Matthew Phillips has stepped down as a Parish Councillor due to family and work commitments. Matt was a real asset to the Team and will be missed. However, just like buses two more residents came along over the summer and have now been co-opted on to the Council to represent you.



Welcome to: Councillor Sheelagh Pegg, from Elm Road and Councillor Terry Potter, from Highlands Road Both bring a wealth of experience from the commercial world to the role of Councillor and now retired want to channel their energies and experience back into the community.

### Councillor Vacancy

Although we have two new faces on the Parish Council we still has two vacancies. It takes just a few hours a month. If you think you could fill the role of representing the views of residents contact the Parish Clerk. No experience is necessary as training is available. You just have to care about where we all live and help to represent the views of residents. If you would like more information come along and see the Clerk or councillors at the meeting.

## Parish Council Meeting dates

Meetings are held on the last Wednesday in the month at The Benbow Club, 77 Pound Lane commencing at 7.30 p.m. (the December meeting is slightly earlier due of Christmas). The meetings are open to all and everyone is welcome to attend Time is set aside to put questions to your Councillors.

### Future dates

30th November: 15th December:  
25th January 2017: 22nd February  
2017: 29th March 2017

## Where Water Goes

Earlier this year three residents Peter Bates, Jon Spooner and John Pettitt took up the challenge to plot the location of watercourses across the Parish on a map to help Essex County Council Flood Management Team identify where the Parish drainage network is and, working with their partners, to help reduce the risk of flooding.

The trio identified watercourses from Ashlyns on the far side of Burnt Mills Road, across the fields, open spaces and plotland areas to the A127 taking into account as many ditches and culverts they could find on their way.

Their results were then sent to the ECC Flood Team who transferred the results onto an Ordinance Survey Map.

*A huge amount of thanks go to Peter, Jon and John for their time, hard work and diligence in taking part in this project.*

## Winter Salt



Winter Salt is again available **FREE** to residents in the Parish.

If you are willing to volunteer to spread the salt in your road or any road in the village, not covered by Essex County Council gritters during icy and snowy conditions and you are able bodied to carry out this task please contact Chris Barlow, the Parish Council Clerk, Tel: 01268 725236

The Salt, in 25 kilo bags, is not for personal use, but will be available for collection from: **245 Pound Lane, Bowers Gifford** from the beginning of December.

Log on to the Parish Council website for more information.

## Vandalism in the Park

Over the past two months there has been some damage to play equipment in Westlake Park.

The equipment currently in the Park has remained, apart from some graffiti, vandal free for nearly four years. **WHY NOW?**



The picture shows just some of the damage. The cost to replace this piece of equipment is £897.00 plus

If evidence can be found to identify the guilty party the Parish Council will take action to bring the individuals of this mindless damage to the attention of the Police. If you happen to see any incidents of damage in the Park don't just turn a blind eye, **report it!**

## St Margaret's School London Road, Bowers Gifford

### Christmas Fayre

Thursday 1st December  
From 3.00 p.m



**Santa's Grotto**

**Lots of stalls and creative activity.**

**A whole heap of fun for all  
The Mayor of Basildon,  
Councillor David Harrison,  
will open the Fayre**

*Do you have any memories of the School and village life over the past 80 years. Contact Gemma Smith, Head teacher, who would love hear from you.*

## Pound Lane Mission

Alternate Monday afternoons  
2.00 – 4.00 p.m.

**Card making Club**  
All sorts of different card creations and styles.

An afternoon of fun, chatting and making one or two cards maybe!

\*\*\*\*\*  
Every Tuesday morning  
11.00 - 1.00 p.m.  
**Coffee Morning**  
Drop in for a chat and coffee.  
All Welcome

\*\*\*\*\*  
Sunday Morning Service  
10.30 am

## The Youth Bus



Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet  
Parish Council working in  
partnership with Essex  
Youth Service

Alternate Thursdays  
Westlake Park - 6.00- 8.00 pm  
Ages 13 – 16 year olds  
Meet friends, chat, watch videos,  
have a coffee and lots more!  
Log-on, for next date, to Twitter  
# Bowers\_Bugle

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN WORKING  
WITH YOUNG PEOPLE?

VOLUNTEERS ARE URGENTLY  
NEEDED TO HELP SUPPORT THIS  
ACTIVITY ON A ROTA BASIS.  
CERTIFICATED TRAINING  
IS AVAILABLE - FREE

Contact the Parish Clerk on  
(M) 07758255621 OR EMAIL:  
clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com