



## BOWERS GIFFORD & NORTH BENFLEET PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 31ST JULY 2013

THE BENBOW CLUB,  
POUND LANE

COMMENCING AT 7.30PM

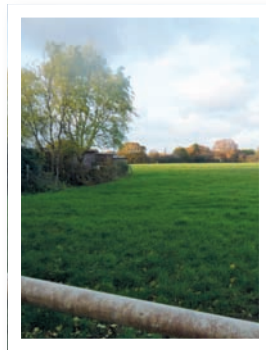
### PARISH COUNCIL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

- Residents question time •
- Little Chalvedon Hall Farm Development update •
- Superfast Broadband •
- Planning applications •

## D-DAY FOR LITTLE CHALVEDON HALL

### Say "No" to large scale building on our greenbelt.

The planning application to build homes on the Little Chalvedon Hall Farm site due to go before Basildon Borough Council Development Control and Traffic Management Committee on 13th August has been deferred to September at the earliest. The land now owned by Nottinghamshire County Council Pension Fund was purchased by them in 2011 and the



proposals would see Developers, Meridian Strategic Land, build 750 new homes, shops and a primary school on the site and would double the size of the village and open the flood gates for, possibly, a further 1300 dwellings on green belt land in Bowers Gifford.

The Parish Council is totally opposed to the development and has the support of Stephen Metcalfe, MP for East Thurrock & Basildon. Basildon Borough Council have also stated their policy is not to build on greenbelt land. The Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet Residents Association, which was set up to fight the proposals, has collected over 5000 signatures, by way of a petition signed by people against the development and has asked Councillors to reject the application stating that it is fundamentally flawed.

The Parish Council will keep residents informed of developments via Parish Council meetings, their website [www.essexinfo.net/bgn-parishcouncil](http://www.essexinfo.net/bgn-parishcouncil) or the Parish Council noticeboards.



In 2012 the Parish Council successfully applied for funding of a junior play area in Westlake Park. What next?..... See page 3

## CRIME COMMISSIONER COMES TO BOWERS GIFFORD

Nick Alston, Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex, was guest speaker at the Annual Parish Council's meeting on 29th May. Mr Alston, who comes from a Policing background and lives in Chelmsford, was elected to the role in November 2012 and became the first Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex narrowly beating his closest rival Mike Thwaites. The role of Police and Crime Commissioner replaced the old non-elected Police Authority Board.

Answering residents questions on a variety of issues, resident in return hoped the changes would see more Police on the streets and a more responsive Police service when responding to calls from the public.

At the Parish Council meeting he answered questions on his role and outlined his objectives, aims and key priorities which included making the Police more victim focused, dealing with anti-social behaviour, reducing domestic violence and improving road safety. He said an increase in the element of Council Tax which went to Essex County Council for the Police represented an extra £4.75 on an average in each bill and this increase would help reduce cuts to front – line policing.



Nick Alston, councillors and residents

## WHAT'S INSIDE

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## FUN WALK 2013

Once again your councillors took part in John Baron's Fun Walk. Councillors Robert Smillie and Councillor Bernie Foster will have raised, when all monies are collected, over £500 for the ongoing Westlake Park project.

## USE IT OR LOOSE IT !



Many of you may have heard the Radio Essex piece in May about several listeners voicing their concerns about changes to First Bus services and the response from Danny Jones, South Essex Area Transport Manager.

Essentially many of the services, in rural areas, are not viable anymore and the adage "use it or lose it" applies but for some members of the community the bus is the only available transport.

Parish Council Councillors attend area Transport Liaison meetings, organised by Essex County Council and one of the items we monitor on a regular basis is the bus service in the Parish.

The single decker No 21 service runs from Harrow Road to Basildon Bus Station. At the moment the service is split during the day between the NIBS and First bus groups. The First service is paid for by Essex County Council and covers times between 7:04am and 17:04 from Harrow Road in the week with NIBS providing the service between 9:04 and 14:04. First provide the Saturday service.

Whilst the advantage of Essex County Council support is that the schedule cannot be changed by the bus company it also means that without the support there would only be the limited timetable provided by NIBS.

In some areas investment in the bus service is continuing with Essex County Council updating the information systems which will in the future be accessible to mobile phones and First introducing 19 new Volvo buses on the 100 service - Lakeside, Basildon and Chelmsford route.

*"Some residents don't have a choice"*

Our service at present provides a good regular service to Pitsea and Basildon and we would encourage residents to use the service Essex County Council is providing.

For those of you who have internet access the travel service <http://www.traveline.info/> provides journey planning and timetables.

- Councillor Brian Wall

## RSPB BOWERS MARSH NATURE RESERVE UPDATE

Bowers Marsh has seen big transformations recently and the increase in water levels during the winter has allowed the Reserve team to gain valuable knowledge about the water movement on site.

The breeding season for birds is now coming to an end and there are plenty of Corn bunting and Skylark in song on the reserve. The Reserve team has also been managing the grasslands to achieve the best possible conditions for wildlife, especially wading birds before the reserve opens to the public in late summer. This includes species like Lapwing, Redshank and Avocet, however it is not all about the wader as there are plans to increase the habitat and food source for severely threatened species like the Turtle dove.

This brand new reserve at Bowers Marshes has already seen a large increase in overwintering bird species including thousands of Lapwing and hundreds of Shoveler, even getting close to the nationally important target of 170 individuals. The next steps towards opening the site are remedial works to the path network across the reserve to make it more robust, improve drainage and make it less prone to flooding in order to give our visitors the best possible experience and contractors have been hard at work to achieve this. We are looking forward to big things happening for wildlife on this reserve so keep your eyes peeled for the opening date at the end of the summer.

- Steven Roach - Warden, South Essex Marshes

## ELECTRICITY WORK DELAYED...



The National Grid has delayed vital work to upgrade the electricity line between Rayleigh, Coryton and Tilbury which started in the Spring, to ensure nesting birds are not disturbed and do not fly away too soon.

Twenty – two pairs of nesting Avocets, a protected species, were identified close to the A13 at a pylon near to where some work was to have taken place. Avocets are a very rare bird and after discussions with the RSPB it was decided that the best thing to do would be to postpone the work.

**Work will now recommence on the following dates:**

**Stage One: July to September 2013**

**Saturday 20 July to Saturday 14 September:** One lane closure on the A130 nearside on the Underpass Link westbound (towards London)

**Saturday 27 July to Sunday 28 July:** (Between 10pm and 5am) Closure of sections of the A13, A130 and Sadlers Farm Interchange during staggered time periods overnight.

**Saturday 7 September to Sunday 8 September:** Staggered closure of sections of the A13, A130 and Sadlers Farm Interchange. Saturday 14 September to Sunday 15 September. A130 - Underpass Link closed in both directions.

**Wednesday 14 August to Thursday 15 August A127 & 4 September to Thursday 5 September.** B1464 (Between 1am and 4am) on both occasions closed in both directions to allow for the removal of netting.

**Stage Two: work between June 2014 and October 2014 will be announced nearer the time.**

For any further enquires call 0800 319 6165 or email [nationalgrid@southessexoverheadline.com](mailto:nationalgrid@southessexoverheadline.com)

## WINTER SALT BAG SCHEME

Perhaps not the right time to think about Winter, but thinking ahead, the Parish Council is once again taking part in Essex County Council's Winter Salt Bag Scheme.

The 1 tonne of salt, in 25 kg bags, will be delivered during Autumn and will help reduce the impact of ice and heavy snow in areas not covered by Essex County Council gritters when they 'spring' into action over the winter months. **The salt is FREE to residents but is only for use on the public highway and not for personal or private use.**

If you are able bodied and would like to volunteer to pick up a bag of salt and spread it in your road or any road in the village affected by icy condition during the winter month.

Please ring or text the Parish Clerk on (M) 07758255621 or email [clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com) to register your interest on the scheme and you will be contacted in the Autumn to make arrangements for you to collect your bag of salt.

**Don't forget to register as once the salt is gone there will be no more until next year.**

If you would like this newsletter in larger print or audio or require more information on the topics mentioned please contact Chris Barlow, Parish Clerk. Email: [clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com) or Tel: 01268 725236 Mob: 07758255621

## COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH



Residents who live on Pound Lane have identified at Parish Council meetings the problem of speeding in Pound Lane.

In conjunction with the Police, a Community Speedwatch Scheme is being considered to be set up. Community Speed Watch is a traffic monitoring scheme that is co-ordinated by Essex Police but it is managed and run by volunteers in the community.

The aim of Community Speed Watch is to address the problem of either real or perceived speeding. This is done in partnership with the community in order to reduce the number of injuries from road traffic collisions.

Volunteers are trained by Essex Police to use speed guns to monitor traffic. Details of drivers found speeding are sent to the police, who will issue these drivers with a written warning.

If you would like to become a volunteer and be trained in the use of the speed devises please telephone the Parish Clerk. Details opposite . Can insert arrow to point to information. or email: [clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com).

### ANNUAL ACCOUNT SUMMARY

2012/2013	£
Balance c/f	14,961
Annual Precept	12,873
Staff costs	5,972
Other Payments	69,571
Grants/receipts	62,970
Balance c/f	15,261

Internal Auditors completed their Audit of Parish Accounts in May and was satisfied that accounting and financial processes were all in order.

The end of year accounts were then approved by Councillors at the Annual Parish meeting on 26th May 2013.

### A SNAPSHOT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL YEAR

Your Parish Councillors are volunteers and receive no payment for the work they do on behalf you , the community of Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet. Here is a snapshot of what work has been achieved over the last Parish Council year.

Parish Council successfully bid for funding to install a new play area in Westlake Park

Noticeboards installed to provide information on Parish events and activities.

A successful Fete to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee was held.

New street name plates Installed following requests by Parish Council.

Councillors meet with school to try and resolve Parking issues in Ilfracombe Avenue.

Basildon Council seeks Parish Council's view on Planning Applications.

Councillors raise their objections to Little Chalvedon Hall Farm Development.

Bowers Bugle quarterly newsletters delivered to every household in the Parish.

Councillors attended training to increase their knowledge on key issues.

New Bus stops installed at Kelly Road and Clarence Road.

Councillors bid for funding to make further improvements to Westlake Park.

Two new councillors co-opted.

Raised issue of flooding with authorities.

## YOUR COUNCILLORS AND PARISH CLERK

**Robert Smillie (Chairman)** 07790 907113  
[Cllr.robertsmillie@gmail.com](mailto:Cllr.robertsmillie@gmail.com)

**Bernie Foster (Vice Chairman)** 07811 838115  
[Cllr.bernardfoster@gmail.com](mailto:Cllr.bernardfoster@gmail.com)

**Barbara Williams** 07818 876270  
[Cllr.barbarawilliams@gmail.com](mailto:Cllr.barbarawilliams@gmail.com)

**Cllr.Nigel Tyler** 07850 192227  
[Cllr.nigeltyler@gmail.com](mailto:Cllr.nigeltyler@gmail.com)

**Cllr. Rose Griffin** 07808 041825  
[Cllr.rosegriffin@gmail.com](mailto:Cllr.rosegriffin@gmail.com)

**Cllr.Brian Wall** 07759 812852  
[cldr.brianwall@gmail.com](mailto:cldr.brianwall@gmail.com)

**Parish Clerk: Christine Barlow c/o 15 Highlands Road, Bowers Gifford, SS13 2HR**  
**Tel: 01268 725236 M: 07758 255621**  
**Email: [clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com)**

### YOUR VIEWS – THE RESULTS

In the last edition of the Bugle we asked residents to send us their views on how Westlake Park could continue to be improved for the enjoyment of the whole community. The installation of the junior play area in August 2012 has been a huge success and the Parish council wanted this success to continue.

The result of the survey was that residents wanted to see a Fitness Zone/ Outdoor Gym equipment, which could be used by all age groups, planting, some additional seating and a path around the Park. They wanted the surface on access road leading to the Park and the car park inside the Park to be improved.

Taking all comments from residents into account a bid has been submitted to Veolia Thames Trusts and ECC Communities Initiative Fund to deliver the project.

The Parish Council will continue to consult with residents throughout the project so that all views continue to be heard and will continue to update residents on the progress at Parish Council meetings.



Finley and Graham with their mum's Laura, of Pound Lane and Jen, Basildon enjoying the sunshine. When asked what they thought of the play area Laura said 'Brilliant' and Graham 3 said 'I like the slide'.

### DOGGY DOO DOO!



Be a responsible owner pick up after your pet Bag it! Bin it!

No dog fouling

Many dog owners use Westlake Park and are responsible, but there are some who are not.. Parva Virus can cause blindness



## THE BIG WILD SLEEPOUT

Saturday 10th August

Sleepout under the stars at West Canvey Marsh and discover a secret world. Activities include night walks, flashlight tag, moth trapping, pond dipping and story telling around the camp fire. Booking is essential



For more information contact :  
RSPB Visitor Centre, Wat Tyler Country Park  
Pitsea Hall Lane, Pitsea , Tel:01268 498620  
Email:southessexmarshes@rspb.org.uk  
Twitter: @RSPBESsex

## MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE



The Mobile Library Service is run by Essex county Council Library Services and visits the Parish fortnightly on a Friday morning. It is a vital service for some of our residents who would otherwise not be able to access a Library.

In some area the service has been cut ,however in the Parish, Essex Library Services have advised that the service will continue until August 2014.

The dates from August are : 2nd , 16th and 30th and thereafter fortnightly until 2014.

The Service will stop in Bowers Gifford at the following locations and times:

Clarehouse	9.20	9.50
Clifton Stores	10.00	10.30



### The Church at Gun Hill

01268 553423  
www.gunhill.org.uk

Sunday Services: 11:00am and 6:30pm

#### All Welcome

The church is also open every Wednesday from 8:30am to 4:30pm. Some regulars come every week, whilst many newcomers pop in and enjoy a warm welcome and a cup of tea or coffee and a cake.

**Come and join us**



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

## JOIN BOWERS GIFFORD U3A

Membership is open to all retired or semi-retired people men and women who want to improve their lives either socially or through learning. We have a range of Interest Groups ranging from Book Club, Local History, Creative Writing, Discovery, Gourmet Dining, Scrabble and Walking and our aim is to set up many groups in the coming months.

**Meetings are held at the Gun Public House, London Road, Bowers Gifford on the 4th Wednesday each month from 2 - 4pm and new members are welcome.** For further information contact either: Ann Horton (Secretary) 01268 473191 or Christine Lockwood (Chair) 01268 458268.

## COUNCIL MEETING CALENDER 2013

31st July	Wednesday	Full Council
28th August	Wednesday	Full Council
25th September	Wednesday	Full Council
30th October	Wednesday	Full Council
27th November	Wednesday	Full Council
11th December	Wednesday	Full Council

All meetings are held at The Benbow Club, Pound Lane and start at 7.30 p.m.

Members of the public and press are welcome.

**Council meeting are held at the Benbow Club on the last Wednesday in the month. The public and press are welcome to attend to ask questions of their Councillors during the public participation section of the meeting. Keep a watch on the website or Parish Council noticeboards for any changes to these arrangements.**

## POUND LANE MISSION COFFEE MORNING

Every Tuesday 11 a.m. All Welcome



*The Benbow Club, Pound Lane hold monthly quiz nights on the 1st Saturday in the month. Start 8.30 p.m. All residents are welcome. Watch the Club noticeboard for more activities.*

## OUT & ABOUT

### A LETTER FROM CLARE HOUSE

There's been a lot happening at St Andrew's Essex since the of our refurbishments at the beginning of the year.

Firstly we have said 'goodbye' to our Hospital Director, Alex Thurlby. She moved on in April to take over the helm at St Andrew's Birmingham and, while we were very sorry to see her go, she is looking forward to all the challenges of her new role.

I have been very pleased to take over as Hospital Director here and, after my first few months, now fully appreciate what an excellent job Alex did. I am now working very hard to continue all her good work and to deliver our latest initiatives.

We have just opened a new unit to provide supportive high quality psychiatric intensive care for women, complementing the service we already provide for men at our Northampton site. Our plans for Neuropsychiatry services here in Essex, to complement the care available at the National Brain Injury Centre, are also progressing well.

Everyone is enjoying the great weather which is providing an opportunity for our service users to enjoy the outdoor space and we are looking forward to our summer party later in the year.

Ron Gutu  
Hospital Director