



Bowers Bugle

(formerly Twitter) @bowers_bugle
 @bgnbpc
 Website: www.e-voice.org.uk/bgnb-parishcouncil
 Parish Clerk: (M) 07758 255621 | 01268 725236 | Email: clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com

Cadent Gas works update

The Parish Council has been advised by Cadent regarding ongoing gas works in the Parish. The aim is to complete the gas works between Canvey Road and Kelly Road before Christmas, barring any engineering difficulties. Over the Christmas period, from 22nd December to 2nd January, there won't be any temporary traffic lights on Pound Lane or work being undertaken. When Cadent return in the New Year they will once again be working on at the junction of Pound Lane and William Road, and then move into in Westlake Avenue again. After completion of work in Westlake Avenue they will then move back onto Pound Lane from the Garden Centre up to the A127.

Grounds Maintenance

Over the past year supported by Lottery funding. Many of you will have seen our part-time Grounds Maintenance man, Gary, pruning and cutting in various parts of the village. He only works 4 hours a week, usually on a Thursday, as this is all the funding will allow, but over the year what a difference this has made to some areas as residents will bear witness to. The Parish Council needs to find ways to keep him, as more external funding grants may not be available so we will have to find the money from the Precept.

WHAT'S IN A NAME? Parish Council or Village Council

Parish and Town Councils are the tier of local government closest to the electorate in the UK. Collectively, they are often referred to as 'local councils' and were first established by the Parish Councils Act 1894. This Act removed all non-ecclesiastical functions from the church and passed them to newly established local elected bodies, which became known as 'parish councils'. Residents often think that your Parish Council is still part of the Church, **it is not**, that connection was severed by the 1894 Act. Often smaller Parish Councils like our own rename themselves Village Council to avoid this confusion. Your Councillors, as a result of comments received at meetings from members of the public, are considering changing our name from "Parish Council" to "Village Council" but would like to hear what you think! Please give us your views (see below)



Parking Perils Don't block the footpath!



Are you one of the many who park on the pavements?

OK! we know there is not too much room on the roads to park but be aware that parking on the pavement or taking up too much space on the pavement is an offence not only that it is also dangerous for those members of the public who

have to use the pavements and have to go around your vehicle and out into the road to avoid your parked vehicle.

BE CONSIDERATE, DON'T BLOCK THE PAVEMENT.

CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

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| DECORATIONS | CANDY CANES | CHRISTMAS | MISTLETOE |
| CELEBRATE | ORNAMENT | REINDEER | COOKIES |
| LIGHTS | PRESENTS | FAMILY | ELVES |
| GIVING | DINNER | WREATH | SANTA |

HAVE YOUR SAY!

Neighbourhood Development Order (Regulation 21)

The Parish Council announce the launch of the 1st round of statutory consultations (pre-submission) of the Neighbourhood Development Order (Regulation 21) which will open for 6 weeks from 2nd January 2024 and close on 13th February 2024. [see inside for more information]

Previous publications of the BGNB Parish Council newsletters have reported on the progress of the Neighbourhood Development Order and where it will be delivered i.e. the Plotlands. Inside you will find details of how you can submit your views regarding the Regulation 21 consultation.

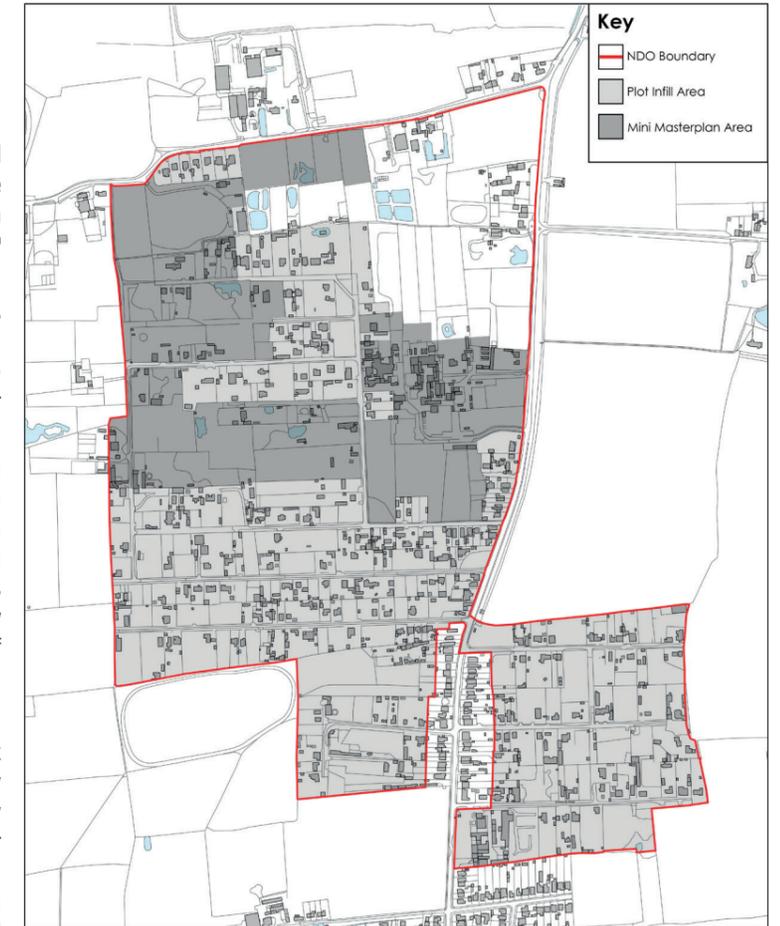
The order will grant outline planning permission in the Green Belt for two types of development (i) single dwellings on individual plots and phased development of multiple plots in North Benfleet plotlands provided they follow certain design codes. The map shows the area within the village identified as the Plotlands area. However there will be no obligation for any landowners to develop their land It will be for them to choose if and when to develop.

Background

In 2017 your Parish Council commenced preparing their first Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet Neighbourhood Plan, primarily focused on providing an alternative housing delivery strategy for Bowers Gifford and North Benfleet and to prevent over development of the Village. However, in 2022 Basildon Council withdrew its Emerging Local Plan and at this stage the Parish Council decided to put their Neighbourhood Plan on hold because it felt it could take it no further until Basildon Council's new Local Plan was adopted. This left the Plotlands in a planning limbo with any change limited by its Green Belt setting and suffering the ongoing problems of unregulated development and enforcement until a new Basildon Local Plan could be adopted.

What happened next?

The potential for using an NDO to address the issues relating to the North Benfleet Plotlands was first considered during the work carried out by the Parish Council and its consultants preparing the Neighbourhood Plan. This work identified potential for redeveloping vacant plots and undeveloped areas within the Plotlands (the map identifies the plotland area) and addressing infrastructure issues and in 2021 the Parish Council applied for and were successful in secured funding of £96,500 from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) through the Neighbourhood Planning Support Programme administered by Locality, to pursuing a Neighbourhood Development Order (NDO) for the North Benfleet Plotlands and for the same purpose proposed in the BGNB Neighbourhood Plan.



Your views matter!!

In order to progress our proposals to improve the Plotland areas for everyone in the village we want to hear from you. Your feedback will be used to inform the final version of the Neighbourhood Development Order and a referendum will take place with the residents of Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet deciding if it should be approved. **READ ON...**

TURN TO THE INSIDE PAGES ON HOW YOU CAN GIVE US YOUR VIEWS!



BOWERS GIFFORD & NORTH BENFLEET PARISH COUNCIL CONSULTATION

WHATS IN A NAME?

(Please send your comment by 21st January 2024)

Comments:

Return form by email to: clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com

By post/hand deliver to 15 Highlands Road, Bowers Gifford, SS13 2HR Text: (M) 07758255621



REMEMBRANCE DAY

Left We Forget



Remembrance Sunday is a day to honour and remember the sacrifices made by the armed forces in the line of duty. On Sunday 12th November members of the Parish Council joined the parade at St Gabriel's Church lead by Standard Bearers and walked over to Howard's Park War Memorial in Rectory Road, Pitsea to lay a Remembrance Poppy wreath. The Rector of St. Gabriels Church Rev. Simon read the lesson and at 11am, the last post was played, and a two-minute silence was held. The event was well supported by members of the public, Pitsea Ward Councillors and politicians, representatives from veterans, the Police and other organisations and also featured young people from the area's youth groups, beavers, squirrels, cadets, brownies, guides and scouts.

The Steering Group – How it evolved

When the Parish Council first realised in 2016 that the village had become a prime target for developers to swamp it with thousands of houses it looked to develop a Neighbourhood Plan (NP).

To ensure ideas to protect the village were not only those of the Parish Councillors but also the wider community, a request was made for residents to become involved as a vetting group - The Steering Group.

The task of the Steering Group was and still is, to review the project - then the Neighbourhood Plan now the Neighbourhood Development Order (NDO) identify potential problems and make suggestions to either resolve issues or to enhance and grow its suitability for the community.

Over the years this has meant copious amounts of reading as well as meetings, often at short notice and this has resulted in a knowledgeable support group ensuring residents are always the main point of focus. There have been several changes of Parish Councillors over the years, but The Steering Group have remained constant, and stuck together working quietly in the background, unseen but an essential focus link as the final stages of this project start to advance. A vote of thanks go to this group of people.

WINTER ROCK SALT

Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet Parish Council is once again taking part in Essex County Council's Winter Salt Collection Scheme.

25kg bags of Rock Salt are now available to residents of Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet and collection is from:

The Green Barn Shop, just off the A 130 between Sadlers Farm and Fairglen roundabout

The Rock salt is free to all residents in Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet. The maximum number of bags that can be collected at any one time is **TWO**.

You will be asked to provide your name, address and post code when collecting the salt.

The salt is not for personal use, but for areas not covered by Essex County Council gritters. Please make sure you are able bodied to carry out this task please.

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT ORDER STATUTORY CONSULTATION (PRE-SUBMISSION) (REGULATION 21)

YOUR VIEWS ARE IMPORTANT:

The Parish Council Neighbourhood Development Order Statutory Consultation (pre-submission) (Regulation 21) will open on 2nd January 2024 and close on 13th February 2024.

Please take a few minutes of your time to provide us with your comments on the proposals. What you say will affect the future of the village for years to come and if our NDO is successful provide regulated planning in the Plotlands for years to come.

Why are we doing this?

The Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet Neighbourhood Plan (BGNBNP) strategy included housing development on the Plotlands as a better alternative to the then emerging proposals by Basildon Council to release a significant area of Green Belt land on the edge of the parish for housing development which would have had a significant urbanising effect on the rural character of the parish. It was clear, from consultations undertaken, and comments received the majority of the local community preferred the BGNBNP strategy.

To comment on the Neighbourhood Development Order proposals go to the Parish Council website: www.e-voice.org.uk/bgnb-parishcouncil to view all documents and reports:

Respond with your comments:

- Via Survey Monkey, see Parish Council website: www.e-voice.org.uk/bgnb-parishcouncil
- Email: clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com
- Write to the Parish Clerk: Christine Barlow, Parish Clerk, 15 Highlands Road, Bowers Gifford, Essex SS13 2HR.

A Drop-in session will be held for residents to ask questions and view the proposals on:

Saturday 13th January 2024 and Saturday 20th January 2024 from 10am – 2pm at the Pound Lane Mission, 255 Pound Lane, Bowers Gifford SS13 2LJ

Your feedback is essential and will be used to inform the final version of the Neighbourhood Development Order after which it will be examined, and a referendum will take place with the residents of North Benfleet and Bowers Gifford deciding if it should be approved.



Message from Christine Lockwood – Benbow U3A



The Benbow U3A raised a phenomenal £1,500.45 for Macmillan Cancer Support during the summer. This was collected by holding a lunch party at the Benbow Club for sixty people, a raffle and a fun Coffee Morning. **A BIG THANK YOU** goes to those who made it possible through their effort and/or contributions.

Coffee Morning at the Benbow

Every Friday from 10am-12pm with much more than tea and coffee on offer, come and see for yourselves, you'll be pleasantly surprised and made very welcome, we look forward to seeing you.

See the Benbow Facebook page for forthcoming events, Christmas, New Year and Afternoon Tea in January to name but a few.

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR 2024 – January to April

January 31st, February 28th, March 28th, April 25th

All residents are welcome to attend, and time is set aside to ask questions.

YOUR COUNCILLORS

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|----------------------|--|
| Sheelagh Pegg | 07885 758989 cllr.sheelaghpegg@gmail.com |
| Colin Morris | 07860 634022 cllr.colinmorris@gmail.com |
| Susan Moore | 07740 781301 cllr.susanmoore@gmail.com |
| Terry Potter | 07867 615875 cllr.terrypotter@gmail.com |

PARISH CLERK

| | |
|--|--|
| Christine Barlow (BA Hons/CILCA) | 07758 255621 clerkbgnparishcouncil@gmail.com |
| Address | 15 Highlands Road, Bowers Gifford, Basildon, Essex SS13 2HR |

Parish Councillor vacancy More Councillors are needed

Since 2010 when formed your Parish Council has raised the profile of the Parish and are seen to be a force to be reckoned, with but it needs more Parish Councillors to make its voice louder.

Could you represent the views of your neighbours and the community? No special skills are needed.

See leaflet delivered with this newsletter for more information and how to apply to become a Parish Councillor.

Parish Council Budget 2023-2024

Over the past 12 months the Parish Council have employed a second staff member to carry out Grounds Maintenance work. This post as with the previous post of Handy person was grant funded. The funding runs out in March 2024 and in order for the post to continue there is no guarantee that the Parish Council will not be able fund from existing budgets.

The Precept [the money households pay over and above their Council Tax each year] is currently £30.61 per annum - less than 70p per week. Over the years the Parish Council has been successful in securing grants for many of our projects without the need to increase the Precept too much but because external grants are becoming less available and the criteria to meet more stringent we will find that we may be unable to continue with community activities and projects which benefit everyone e.g. Picnic-in-the-Park and employing a Grounds Maintenance member of staff to help keep the Parish areas clear of unwanted vegetation growth not covered by any other contract from Basildon Council or Essex County Council.

The Parish Council will need to increase the Precept for 2024/25 marginally to cover these overheads. It is anticipated the increase will be around 50p per month for the majority of households in a Band D property. Without the increase the Parish Council may not be able to fund all the extra things we currently do on your behalf.

Christmas recycling and rubbish collection



Basildon's new waste and recycling collection services has now commenced. Please put your new containers out on Friday's collection day by 7.30am (not the day before).

The next collection day for Bowers Gifford and North Benfleet, after Christmas, will be Tuesday 2nd January 2024 (collection change due to the Christmas catch up).

Garden waste collections will stop for a 6-week period, with no collections now until **after** 12 January. They will

restart on Monday 15 January. Real Christmas trees will be collected from Monday 15 January. **(Do not put out before this date)** Place alongside your other waste collection containers. You do not need to have a garden waste subscription to use this tree collection service.

To check your collection dates download the "Our Streets App": www.basildon.gov.uk/ourstreets

Black bins will be collected fortnightly on the same day as glass collections: Place non-recyclable items into your black bin. The continued use of sacks or household bin liners, placed in your bin is encouraged, but waste can also be placed in the black bins loose. Please make sure the bin is not overflowing as unless the bin lid is closed, it will not be able to be emptied. **All waste must be contained in the bin - Additional waste placed out alongside your wheeled bin will NOT be collected.**

Recycling sacks will be collected weekly. Additional free sacks can be requested if you regularly have more material to recycle by contacting Basildon Council.

More information on the rubbish & recycling service can be found on the Basildon Council website www.basildon.gov.uk/Rubbish

