

Bowers Bugle

We're on the web – Visit us at- www.essex.info/bgnb-parishcouncil

Summer 2017 Issue 17

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You can follow us on Twitter #bowers_bugle

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - MOVING ON

From previous issues of the Bugle you will have seen that the Parish Council is preparing a Neighbourhood Plan to cover the whole of our Parish of Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet.

The plan will contain planning policies to guide and manage planning applications in our area until 2034. Basildon Council is preparing a Local Plan to cover the whole district for the same period.

Last year, Basildon Council's Draft Local Plan proposed to build 2,000 home on the land between Bowers Gifford and Pitsea and a new business park between the A127 and Burnt Mills Road. In both cases, this land would be taken out of the Green Belt to be developed.

Also proposed is some infill in the plotlands area, although the plotlands will stay in the Green Belt Basildon Council are intending to make the plotlands smaller by excluding the number of properties that are currently in it.

There have been many objections to all or some of these proposals

In January Basildon Council as part of its Draft Local Plan consulted on alternative sites, including land in North Benfleet at North Benfleet Hall Road, on land between the London Road and the A13 and a proposal to use the land off Burnt Mills Road for housing instead of employment.

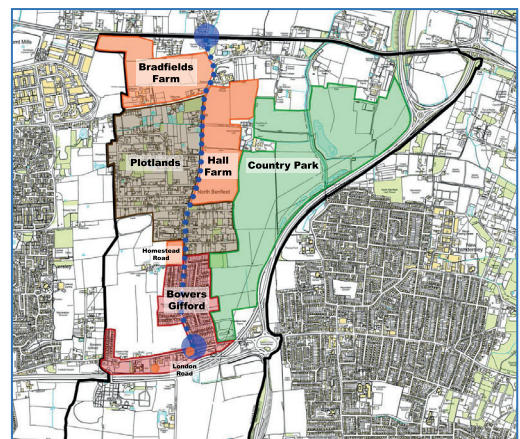
The Parish Council, and many local people, have objected strongly to the use of the Green Belt commonly called H13, the land which includes Little Chalvedon Hall Farm, as it will result in our village joining with Pitsea and losing its separate identity in the Green Belt.

In order to demonstrate that this is not the right solution we, as a community, have to show there is a better way of growing our village with new homes and facilities that will contribute along with other proposals to develop land in the borough to meet the district's housing need.

Saying 'NO' to all housing developments simply won't work and is not an option.

This is where a Neighbourhood Plan is important and this is where your views on our vision for the village are vital.

Your views are essential for the future plans for our village



Some alternative proposals

Dates for the Neighbourhood Plan Drop-In Event
Saturday 1st July – The Benbow Club 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.
Wednesday 5th July - Pound Lane Mission 6.00 p.m. – 9.00 p.m.
Thursday 13th July – Pound Lane Mission 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.

TO SUCCEED WE NEED YOUR HELP...

Drop-in sessions and Parish Council meetings held in 2016 provided the Parish Council with your views and the information gathered has been put together as a vision for the future of the village

We are preparing our vision for the future of the village and need to present our alternative proposals to Basildon Council using our Neighbourhood Plan before the end of the year.

To succeed, we must show that our alternative is better than Policy H13 in technical terms and carries the strong support of the local community.

If we can't achieve one or both of these aims, then Policy H13 is a likely to happen.

A working group of local residents and Parish Councillors has been formed to look at how we take the next steps to achieve our objective.

To help us do this the Parish Council has also engaged a consultant with a great deal of experience in this field and has obtained a grant of £9,000 to cover the cost of this expert help.

A series of drop in sessions and exhibitions are being arranged to inform you about our proposals and we are asking you to come along and compare our alternatives with those in Basildon Council's Draft Plan and answer some questions on our proposals. We also need to know what part of the Parish that you live or work, so we can judge how that may shape your views.

You can also find more details of the drop-in sessions on the enclosed survey which we would like you to complete to help us deliver a successful Neighbourhood Plan.

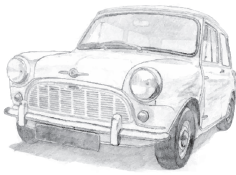
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



REDUCE SPEEDING IN OUR VILLAGE

As mentioned in the last issue of the Bugle we need volunteers to help form a **Community Speed Watch Team**, we as the Parish Council cannot do this alone.....

Speeding through the village is becoming more of a concern with the



cut through of commuter traffic in the morning and late afternoon. At least 12 volunteers are needed to help reduce speeding as part of the Speed Watch Scheme. Training and equipment will be supplied by Basildon's Neighbourhood Policing team.

To take part and keep our roads safe contact: Councillor Terry Potter on 07867 615875 or Chris Barlow, The Parish Clerk, on 07758 255621

CHANGES TO LOCALITY ADDRESSES

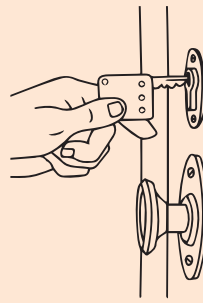
It was brought to the attention of the Parish Council some months ago that some postal addresses in the Parish were incorrectly stated as being in Pitsea instead of Bowers Gifford or North Benfleet. This issue was brought to the attention of the Royal Mail and Basildon Council. As we go to press the Parish Council is still having ongoing discussions with Basildon Council but it is hoped that we will have some positive response to our request in the not too distant future.

It will then be the responsibility of Royal Mail to consult further with residents on the detail of the respective changes.



KEEP SAFE

Before turning in for the night check that your side and rear gates are closed and locked.



In the house look behind curtains to ensure that windows and doors have been shut and secured.

Remember with PVCu doors lift the handle AND turn the key or thumb lock: remove the key from the lock and place out of sight but readily available in case of fire.

Ensure any ladders are not left insecure.

Leave lights on or use a timer if out during hours of darkness



BEWARE BOGUS CALLERS

Individuals have recently been involved in committing distraction burglaries in the Basildon, Brentwood and Thurrock areas by posing as Police Officers. They have fake, but very convincing, Police Identity cards and use these to trick and scam their way into vulnerable people's homes with the intent to steal cash and valuables.

If anyone calls at your property posing as a police officer please do not let them in without first checking their identity. Ring Essex Police by dialing 101 to verify that the person at your door is a bona-fide officer.

Other types of bogus caller also pretend to be from utility companies or similar organisations but the above advice applies in all cases.



STOP



CHAIN



CHECK

BAG IT! BIN IT!

If you are a dog owner please read on

Complaints have been received from residents regarding dog owners/walkers using Westlake Park and not cleaning up after their dogs.



Inconsiderate dog owners give other owners a bad name. Be a responsibly owner and pick up dog faeces and dispose of it in the bins provided in the Park.

Failure to clean-up after your dog is an offence which carries a maximum fine of £1000

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



Following a recent Parish Council meeting and a request on the Facebook Crime and Information page the village has now managed to recruit a Neighbourhood Watch coordinator.

Rita Kettle lives in Pound Lane but she needs more like minded people to help get the information out to residents.

WHAT IS NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH?

Neighbourhood Watch is about local people coming together to create friendlier and safer communities where crime and anti-social behaviour can be less likely to happen. It is **NOT** about curtain twitching.

Neighbourhood Watch is about working in partnership with Essex Police, Basildon Council and Basildon Community Partnership and other voluntary organisations such as Crime stoppers but more importantly residents who want to make their neighbourhoods nice places to live.

It doesn't take up a lot of your time and you will receive information to pass via email. You can then either take this information to your neighbours or email members of the Watch.

If you are interested in taking part in the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme please contact the Parish Clerk (details on the back page) in the first instance.

TALKING BENCH

Do you know how Bowers Gifford got its name or what plotlands housing was like in bygone days?

As part of the Basildon Heritage Group's ongoing efforts to preserve local heritage for the benefit of future generations, the Parish Council and the Group worked together with the Essex Records Office to bring the "talking" bench or to give its correct name Sonic bench, to Westlake Park. The new bench, one of only 18 across the country, was installed in March as part of the Essex Records Office "You are Hear Project

The oak bench is driven by solar power and visitors to the park can sit and listen to audio recordings of the history of the village from the earliest settlements onwards, as well as personal memories of people who grew up in the village. There are a total of six clips from three current residents and two former residents.



Stephen Metcalf MP, Councillor David Harrison Mayor, Ken Porter, Basildon Heritage, Parish Councillors and residents at the ceremony.

In addition to the installation of the bench a maple tree has been planted towards the rear of the Park in honour of a local man, William Gallant, who lost his life at the Battle of the Somme and who lived in the village.

Why not go and sit and listen to the stories and sounds of the past.

COME AND JOIN US!

CRITICAL DRAINAGE AREA

The Parish Council have been working to try and find solutions to reduce the flooding experienced by many residents, especially in the plotland areas and around the village and to get the authorities to recognise we have a problem Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet

Over the past nine months meetings have been held with Essex County Council, The Environment Agency and Anglian Water to try and resolve our problems. A portfolio was compiled and sent to Essex County Council logging the history of flooding in the village and resident's experiences together with the action taken by the Parish Council to help install flood defences in some properties in the plotlands. In addition Essex County Council's "Where Water Goes Project" was carried out by local volunteers to plot the location of watercourses and help identify the potential problems of flooding in the village.

As a result of the agencies working together, Essex County Council have now completed their surveys for the Essex Management Plan and have acknowledged the fact that there is critical surface water flooding in some parts of the village and has identified parts of Bowers Gifford and North Benfleet as a Critical Drainage Area.

Some ditches have already been cleared and non-operational water pumps in the plotlands replaced together with other mechanical shredding devices and the Parish Council will continue to meet with all agencies to reduce flooding in the village.

If you have experienced flooding to any part of your property the Parish Council would like to hear from you. Please contact the Parish Clerk or Councillor Sheelagh Pegg with any details and photographs.

Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet
Parish Council



*Picnic in the Park
Sunday 3rd September*

**A family afternoon of fun
12.00 - 4.00 p.m.**

Westlake Park, Pound Lane

Do you know someone who is a singer or in a band and would like to play at the event. Contact the Parish Council Clerk on:

Email: clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com

Tel: 01268 725236

Mob: 07758255621

For more information on how you can take part.

If you would like to have a stall at the event or help on the day please contact the Parish Clerk or one of the Parish Councillors.



Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet Parish Council

Parish in Bloom Competition Show off your Green Fingers Enter

To enter either complete the entry form opposite and send to Chris Barlow, Parish Clerk, 15 Highlands Road, Bowers Gifford

or Email with your details to: clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com or tel: 01268 725236 (M) 07758255621

Categories

- Best Front Garden
- Best Back Garden
- Best Container / Basket

You can enter more than one category.

Closing date is 23rd July

Judging will take place 1st week in August. Entrants will be advised of the judges visit. Every entry will receive some winter bulbs.

Beside the above put entry from below:

Parish in Bloom 2017

Name.....

Address.....

Email.....

Tel.....

Please tick category you wish to enter

- Front Garden
- Back Garden
- Container / Hanging Basket

Closing date 23rd July 2017

OUT AND ABOUT

Parish Council Contact details

Councillors

Robert Smillie 07790 907113
cllr.robertsmillie@gmail.com
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 15 Highlands Road,
Bowers Gifford, SS13 2HR

Email:

clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com
(01268) 725236 (M) 07758 255621

Councillor Vacancies

Have you ever said I could be a
Councillor, why not apply?

The Parish Council has two Councillor
Vacancies.

No experience is necessary all you
need is a willingness to represent the
views of our residents and want to
make a difference. You can give as little
or as much of your time as you wish.
Your Parish Council is non - political
and its decisions can improve the
environment and quality of life for all
who live in Bowers Gifford & North
Benfleet.

If you are over 18, are registered on the
electoral role, or have lived in the village
for 12 months or more or live within 3
miles of the Parish and interested in
finding out more contact the Parish
Clerk (details in the panel above)

Parish Council Meeting dates 2017

Council meetings are held the last
Wednesday of the month, unless
otherwise stated and commence at
7.30 p.m. in the Benbow Club, Pound
Lane unless otherwise stated.

28th June: 26th July: 30th August:
*20th September: 25th October: 29th
November: *13th December:
* Change of date.



Open Garden Day!

In aid of NGS –
Gardens open for Charity

At 14 Una Road,
Bowers Gifford
SS13 2HU

On Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th
July 11am – 5pm

Come along and see the beautiful
garden and help us raise money
for the NGS charities!

Teas and refreshments available
on both days



Suggested admission donation
£3.50

St Margaret's School

Congratulations to St Margaret's School for
achieving the longest Paper Chain to seal
their place in the Guinness Book of Records.

St Margaret's School Fete 5th July
3 – 5 p.m.

London Road , Bowers Gifford

An afternoon of family fun stalls, donkey rides
and more including an **Olly Murs Tribute**.

GET FIT

Healthy Living Solutions, located in Wat Tyler Country
Park, have been commissioned by Basildon Council to
develop the **Great Outdoors** project in Pitsea, Basildon.

Basildon Council are encouraging people to explore the Great Outdoors this
summer with a range of activities including Yoga, Tai Chi, Wellbeing Walks, Fun
family activities and beginners jogging sessions and a Weight Management
Support group in partnership with ACE, My Weight Matters. The activities are
being held in Wat Tyler Country Park, Northlands Park and the green spaces near
Eversley Leisure Centre. These sessions are **FREE** to try and then just £2 to attend.
If you bring a friend, you can both attend for free. For the full timetable visit our
website www.healthylivingsolutions.org.uk

Booking is required for all sessions and places are offered on a first come first
served basis. **To book or keep up to date with activities log onto:**
www.healthylivingsolutions.org.uk

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, chat and
creating one or two cards maybe!

Coffee Morning - Every Tuesday
11.00 - 13.00

Drop in for a chat and tea/coffee.
All Welcome

Sunday Morning Service
10.30 am

INFORMATION DATABASE

The Parish Council is intending
to build up an email database
to help keep residents better
informed. The information will
not be shared with any other
third party or organisation.
If you are happy for us to
communicate with you in this
way please email the Parish Clerk
at [clerkbgnbparishcouncil@
gmail.com](mailto:clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com) and just say "I am
happy to receive information"

HEALTHY
LIVING
SOLUTIONS