
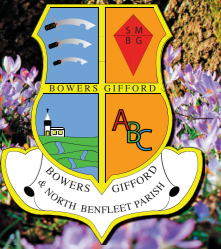


Bowers Bugle

We're on the web – www.essexinfo.net/bgnb-parishcouncil
 Parish Clerk 01268 725236 (M) 07758255621 Email: clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com

 You can follow us on Twitter @bowers_bugle

 See information on Facebook: www.facebook.com/bgnbpc



OUT AND ABOUT

St Margaret's Church Easter Services

Maundy - Thursday 18th April
7.30 pm Holy Communion.

Good Friday 19th April
12.00 noon - 3.00pm Good
Friday Vigil.

Holy Saturday 20th April
6.00 pm Service of New Light.

Easter Sunday 21st April
9 am Holy Communion.

POUND LANE MISSION, POUND LANE

EASTER SERVICES

Good Friday 10.30 am
Easter Sunday 10.30

CARD MAKING

Every Monday 1.30 - 4.00 pm
Have a chat, a coffee and have fun
Just come along, all welcome



2019/2020 PRECEPT

There has been a small increase in the Annual Parish Precept payment for 2019/20.

The Precept, per household, is based on the Tax base for a Band D property and has increased from £20.88 to £22.32 per annum although higher Band properties will be slightly higher and lower Bands less.

In real terms the amount received to work on your behalf has increased from £15,107.10 to £16,042.28.

This is due to an increase in running costs which the Parish Council will incur over the next 12 months.

BASILDON COUNCIL

"CRUNCH" MOBILE TIP SERVICE DON'T DUMP IT - USE THIS FREE SERVICE

**Saturday 22nd June 2019
from 9am to 12 noon
Westlake Park , Pound Lane, Bowers Gifford
Household Waste only**

The 'Crunch' is a mobile tip for household and garden waste. It moves to a different location each time it goes out into the borough. The 'Crunch' will accept all large household and garden 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).

Please use it or we might lose it!
www.basildon.gov.uk/Crunch-Mobile-Tip-Calendar

EASTER EGG HUNT

SUNDAY 21ST APRIL
3.00 PM

THE BENBOW CLUB,
POUND LANE

AN AFTERNOON OF FUN
FOR ALL THE FAMILY



St Margaret's Church, Church Road, Bowers Gifford ST MARGARET'S CHURCH SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

**Saturday 27th April 2019
18:30**

**The Gun Pub, London Road
Bowers Gifford, SS13 2DU**

FOOD - £10.00 per head

RAFFLE- £1 per strip

Any questions please call Nikki on 07896 501113



CHAIRMAN'S LETTER - COUNCILLOR ROB SMILLIE

Welcome everyone to our Spring Newsletter.

As we start a new Parish Council year we look back over the past year and once again we have been busy, especially at Borough Council level.

The main focus of the year has been the Neighbourhood Plan which we hope will allow us to influence Local Plan decisions that will affect all of us.



At first we were pretty much ignored by the administration but in 2018 the May elections saw a change at Basildon Council. The Conservative administration have, within the current Basildon Local Plan, given the Parish the ability to decide for ourselves where development will take place, previously we were not given this opportunity.

To progress, we have held meetings, drop-in sessions, delivered newsletters and fliers and sent letters out to make sure that you all know what's going on and have the opportunity to put forward your ideas and thoughts for where development should go and letting us know where you have sites to develop.

Obviously we can't please everybody but we are trying to get the best options for all of us and hope to reconult with you on the proposed outcomes at the end of Summer/early Autumn.

Unfortunately, we said goodbye (at least as a Councillor) to Sheelagh Pegg who did so much for us particularly consulting with Anglian Water in order to reduce flooding in the Parish. I addition Councillor Bernard Foster made a welcome return to the Parish Council in October having stood down last May.

There is still much to do and we are always looking for more volunteers who want to get involved as Parish Councillors.

We again held a successful Parish-in-Bloom in the Summer and in September held our Picnic-in-the-Park Event which was again enjoyed by all, See the inside for information on this years event.

In October we installed CCTV Cameras in Westlake Park. and hope that in future the Park will be safer for everyone to enjoy.

Last but not least, we would like to welcome you along to Parish Council meetings to raise any issues and look forward to meeting you at our events throughout the year.

**Basildon Council Elections on 2nd May 2019
DON'T FORGET TO VOTE Your vote is important**

MOVING SWIFTLY ON! NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

On 18th October Basildon Council agreed to give the Parish Council this opportunity and find land for homes where the community want them.

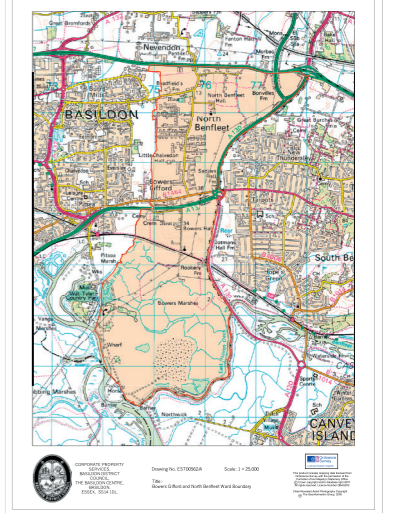
Call for Sites

In November a public meeting was held at St Margaret's School to inform on how the Parish Council intended to revise its then current Neighbourhood Plan and in December, as a result of the decision to allow the Parish Council to find land for 1,350, Parish Council carried out a "Call for Sites" exercise by contacting landowners and residents who had land they wished to develop.

Many landowners responded to the Bowers Bugle newsletter and letters which were sent. The Parish Council have now engaged the resources of Urban Vision, via Locality, a government funded Neighbourhood Plan organization to help the Parish Council carryout Site Assessments of the land put forward.

Once the Assessments have been completed the Parish Council will consult further with residents and the community for their views on these locations.

To date the cost of preparing the Neighbourhood Plan has been approximately £35,000 on engaging a consultant to assist with the preparations but £31,750 has been obtained via grant funding with the remainder, mainly publicity, coming from the Parish Precept. However, this year further funding will have to be found to complete the last stages of the Neighbourhood Plan.



**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
WEDNESDAY 24th APRIL 2019 7.30 - 8.15 pm
THE BENBOW CLUB, POUND LANE**

This is an open meeting for electors to ask questions of their Parish Councillors without the formality of a Council meeting.

**THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
will follow at 8.15 pm**

UP FOR THE FIGHT

Basildon Council Planning Enforcement in Basildon is about to change.

A new team headed by Christine Lyons, Head of Planning and Growth, are looking to put an end to the "build and be damned" era that has plagued the area for so long.

Christine Lyons is not new to the area having worked for Basildon Council for many years before fine tuning her skills as Head of Planning and Economic Development at Hertsmeare Borough Council.

She has admitted it is a big job with more than 500 cases currently being processed but with the team now consisting of five officers they are already making good progress but it will take time. The team have the full backing of Basildon Council which makes a real difference when working on difficult cases and there are many such cases.

With so much development identified in the Local Plan over the coming years their work will certainly be cut out. For information and contact email: planningpolicy@basildon.org.uk

BASILDON'S LOCAL PLAN SURGES FORWARD

Basildon's Local Plan was sent for examination to Communities & Local Government (CLG) on 28th March 2019, two days before the deadline set by Government.

It was understood that a shortage of Examiners would not see any progress for the Local Plan until the end of the year but in fact an Examiner has already been allocated to consider the Plan proposals and it is anticipated that the Examiner could be in a position to start work on judging the Plan towards the end of the Summer period.

The Parish Council have been advised that this particular Examiner has experience of assessing Local Plans which have had the added complication of Green Belt areas and is reported to encourage community engagement, both of which, would appear to bode well for the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan.

The assessment process is quite protracted with volumes of documents to be read and representatives of each area given the opportunity to put their case for and against the Plan. All of which must be proceeded over by the Examiner.

Once completed and any issues ironed out the Local Plan should be adopted. It will then be the first Plan to be sanctioned since 1998.

OLD CHURCH ROAD - UNDERPASS

As this newsletter goes to print the Parish Council is pressing Essex County Council to carry out repairs to the underpass at

Old Church Road and to get it reinstated to as it was before it was closed. The more complaints logged on the ECC

Highways Complaints website, working together with the Parish Council, to pressure to take action.

www.essex.gov.uk/complaints

Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet Parish Council Community Event

Picnic-in-the-Park

Sunday 1st September 2019

12.00 noon - 4.00 pm

Westlake Park, Pound Lane

Free Fun and entertainment for all the family just bring your picnic. Once again we have a live band but we would like you our residents to join us too and make this event even better.

If you are a member of a band or a singer and would like to take part on the day please call us. If you are local resident or business who would like a stall at the event we would love to hear from you too. Call the Parish Clerk, Chris Barlow, on: 01268 725236 (M) 07758255621 or Email: clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com



Parish Councillors with Pitsea South East Ward Councillor Craig Rimmer



Our volunteers have a lovely day



Balloon Magic and Entertainment from Trevor Cline



Supporting small business

PARKING PERILS

Are you one of many that park on the pavements? Do you know this is illegal!

We know there is not too much room on the roads to park, but please be aware that taking up too much space on the footpath is not only illegal, it is also very dangerous for those members of the public who have to use the pavements and have to go around your vehicle.

Although it's still illegal if you have to park on the pavement leave enough room for a person with a pram, buggy or mobility scooter to pass.

Park sensibly.

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

All Parish Council meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month, unless previously notified. Members of the public and press are very welcome to attend and time is set aside to raise issues and ask questions of your Councillors.

MEETING DATES ARE

24 th April	Annual Parish Meeting	7:30 pm
24 th April	Parish Council Meeting	8:15 pm
29 th May	Parish Council Meeting	7:30 pm
26 th June	Parish Council Meeting	7:30 pm
25 th July	Parish Council Meeting	7:30 pm
28 th August	Parish Council Meeting	7:30 pm

PARISH COUNCIL COUNCILLORS CONTACT DETAILS

Robert Smillie	07790 907113	cllr.robertsmillie@gmail.com
Bernard Foster	07811 838115	cllr.bernardfoster@gmail.com
Terry Potter	07867 615875	cllr.terrypotter@gmail.com
David Martin	07484 155150	cllr.davidmartin@gmail.com

PARISH CLERK

Mrs Christine Barlow
15 Highlands Road, Bowers Gifford SS13 2HR
(01268) 725236 (M) 07758 255621

PICK IT UP, BIN IT! DOGGY DO! DO!

Inconsiderate dog owners give other owners a bad name. If you are a dog owner we hope you are one of the many who act responsibly and pick up after your pet but a minority do not especially those owners who exercise their pets in Westlake Park.

Dog Bins are provided in Westlake Park, for this purpose, so please use them and clean up after your dog. Don't leave it to others to do it for you!

Comment from a resident "We have a lovely park with something for everyone, why should some mindless people abused it?"

Sadlers Bridge - Stop Press

There will be no closure of Sadlers Bridge over the Easter as at first anticipated earlier in the year.

Closure may be at the end of July but more will be confirmed nearer the time.



Image: Fencing works on A13/A130, January 2019

COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Do you have what it takes to make a difference? Do you think you could be a Parish Councillor? Are you passionate about where you live?

The Parish Council has vacancies to co-opt three Parish Councillors to act as the voice of the community on issues that affect you.

If you think you can fill one of these vacancies the Parish Council would love to hear from you!

You can give as little or as much of your time but you need to be able to attend monthly Parish Council meetings held on a Wednesday evenings.

The only criteria you need to meet is that you are on the Electoral Register, have lived or work within three miles of the Parish for at least 12 months and are over 18 years old you.

If you say YES to all the above you are looking for?

No experience is necessary.

If you feel you could represent the interests of the community, help improve the local environment and influence the decision makers we would like to hear from you! Contact the Parish Clerk by email: clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com or call 012968 725236 (M) 07758 255621

TOP TIPS FOR AVOIDING SCAMS

- Don't open emails or attachments from someone you don't know.
- Your bank will never call you and ask for your PIN number or for you to give your card to a courier.
- With doorstep callers remember:
 - Lock, Stop, Chain, Check
- Avoid pension scams by getting independent advice before making decisions.
- Don't believe letters claiming you have won a fortune. If you haven't entered a lottery or prize draw, you can't have won it.
- Don't be embarrassed to hang up, say no, or ask someone to leave.

Who to contact for further help:

Action Fraud - to report a scam: 0300 123 2040
Citizens Advice consumer service: 03454 04 05 06
Ref: ageuk.org.uk