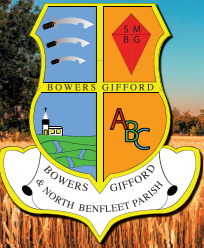


# Bowers Bugle



We're on the web: <https://e-voice.org.uk/bgnb-parishcouncil>  
 Parish Clerk 01268 725236 (M) 07758 255621 Email: [clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com)

You can follow us on Twitter @bowers\_bugle See information on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/bgnbpc](http://www.facebook.com/bgnbpc)

## The nightmare of Flooding in the Parish

The Parish Council has been trying to deal with the issue of flooding for some years, but it cannot resolve the problem on its own it has to be in partnership with the Environment Agency, Anglian Water, Essex County Council and you as a resident and landowner. Landowners, as Riparian owners, have a responsibility to keep water courses and ditches clear. Many ditches have been filled in and therefore the water cannot flow away easily and this adds to the flooding issue.

In 2014, as part of a government initiative, flood prevention was installed in some properties in Osborne Road in consultation with residents.

In 2016, in partnership with Essex County Council, three resident volunteers helped the Parish Council on a project called "Where Water Goes" and plotted the locations of watercourses across the Parish to enable Essex County Council Flood Management Team to identify on a map where the Parish drainage network is with the aim of reducing flooding in various parts of the Parish. The results were then transferred by ECC onto an Ordinance Survey Map and in 2017 the Parish Council met with Anglian Water and the Environment Agency and as a result in 2018 a pumping station was installed in Elm Road and Burnt Mills Road to help reduce localised flooding.



However, as a result of heavy rain earlier in the year which caused flash flooding Councillor Foster, Parish Council Chair, Pitsea South-East Ward Councillor Craig Rimmer and Stephen Metcalf, MP for Basildon and East Thurrock, met with the various agencies in April, virtually via Zoom, to once again discuss the flooding in Pound Lane and Burnt Mills Road.

The Environment Agency is now looking at the problem and gathering information as part of their evidence base and another meeting is planned as soon as investigations are completed.

As part of the review and evidence gathering it is the intention of the Parish Council to hold a meeting with the Burnt Mills Road residents to get some history and photos of the area and how it used to be to see what can feasibly be done to solve the problem and we will be doing this as soon as possible.



**Message from PC Rachel Newman**  
 Community Safety and Engagement Officer

Restrictions are relaxing across the UK and normal life is slowly resuming for many people, we are now enjoying meeting up with friends and family we haven't seen for many months. Bars and restaurants are open including nonessential shops and more importantly "hairdressers". However, we still need to adhere to the Governments Roadmap out of Lockdown so we can stay on track for the final step. For more information about the Government's roadmap please go to [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).

The vaccination programme continues to be rolled out across the county, your continued efforts really do make a difference, helping to reduce the spread of the virus, Essex Police thank you for your support.

Pitsea has maintained a low report rate of Anti-social behaviour; however, as we get warmer weather and the start of school holidays this may start to climb. I want to reassure Pitsea communities that our dedicated community policing team will continue to carry out high visibility patrols to maintain this level, responding to your community concerns and deterring and preventing antisocial behaviour as the warmer weather approaches.

It's really important that you keep talking to us and telling us about the things that are causing you concern in the community, so that we can take action. You can now report non-emergency crime and antisocial behaviour via our website [www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk) making easier and more convenient for you to get in contact with us. For more information about our online services including 'Live Chat' which allows you to send and receive real-time messages with our digital 101 operators, visit [www.essex.police.uk/digital101](http://www.essex.police.uk/digital101).



## Basildon launch consultation on the separation of food and garden waste

A consultation has been launched by Basildon Council to seek views on proposals for separate food and garden waste collections. The forthcoming Environment Bill states that food and garden waste must be collected separately from homes and businesses from 2023. Because of this there will be fewer places which will be able to accept mixed food and garden waste in the future. Over a third of what goes into our black sacks is food waste. One of the options is to make green waste collections fortnightly or charge for weekly collections. **YOUR VIEWS ON THIS ARE VERY IMPORTANT.** Don't delay log-on to the Basildon Council website to complete the questionnaire. The consultation runs until midnight on Sunday 22 August. The link to complete is: [www.basildon.gov.uk/article/8648/In-the-news-Consultation-launched-on-separation-of-food-and-garden-waste](http://www.basildon.gov.uk/article/8648/In-the-news-Consultation-launched-on-separation-of-food-and-garden-waste)

## Welcome to our newest Parish Councillors

In May 2020 Colin Morris joined the Parish Council and as with all our Councillors brought a different dimension to discussions. In June the Parish Council were very pleased to welcome back Sheelagh Pegg whose knowledge of the plotlands and flooding is very beneficial. Sadly, Councillor Claire Morgan, has had to step down due to a change in her circumstances and as a result we still have two Councillor vacancies.

Instead of making comments on Facebook about what you think the Parish Council should be doing or doesn't do, see what the Council actually does on your behalf and become a Parish Councillor. You don't have to give up hours of your time, you can give as little or as much as you have to spare. Could you make a worthwhile contribution to resolving issues on behalf of the Community? If the answer to is **YES** we would like to hear from you!

Contact Christine Barlow, Parish Council Clerk by email: [clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com) or call 07758 255 621 or (01268) 725236

## Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet Parish Council

### Picnic in the Park

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2021  
 12.00 noon - 4.00 pm

#### Westlake Park, Pound Lane

(Behind Wiltons Pet Shop Pound Lane, Bowers Gifford)

Live Entertainment and fun for all. Magician, Balloon Crafting, BBQ, stalls

If you are a small business in the community and would like a stall at the event, would like to volunteer to help on the day or have unused items that you do not want which can be used for the tombola, we would love to hear from you.

Contact: Chris Barlow, Parish Council Clerk,  
 By telephone: (M) 07758 255621 or  
 Email: [clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com)

## Parish Council Councillors Contact Details

<b>Bernard Foster</b> (chair)	07811 838115 <a href="mailto:cllr.bernardfoster@gmail.com">cllr.bernardfoster@gmail.com</a>
<b>Robert Smillie</b>	07790 907113 <a href="mailto:cllr.robertsmillie@gmail.com">cllr.robertsmillie@gmail.com</a>
<b>Terence Potter</b>	07867 615875 <a href="mailto:cllr.terrypotter@gmail.com">cllr.terrypotter@gmail.com</a>
<b>Colin Morris</b>	07860 634022 <a href="mailto:cllr.colinmorris@gmail.com">cllr.colinmorris@gmail.com</a>
<b>Sheelagh Pegg</b>	07885 758989 <a href="mailto:cllr.sheelaghpegg@gmail.com">cllr.sheelaghpegg@gmail.com</a>

### Parish Clerk

Mrs Christine Barlow

Call: (01268) 725236 (M) 07758 255621  
 Email: [clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com)  
 Website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/bgnb-parishcouncil>

Parish Council meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month at 7.30 p.m. in The Benbow Club 77, Pound Lane. All residents are welcome to attend to ask questions of their Councillors.

The dates of meetings are on the Parish Council website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/bgnb-parishcouncil>

## PARISH IN BLOOM COMPETITION

### Categories

- Best Front Garden • Best Back Garden • Best Basket or Container • Tallest Sunflower (under14)

To enter complete the form inside or call The Parish Clerk on (M) 07758 255621 or you can email [clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com)

The **CLOSING DATE** for entries is 4<sup>th</sup> August.

**SEE INSIDE FOR YOUR ENTRY FORM**

## The Parish Council Year

The National lockdown in 2020 and Covid - 19 saw lifestyle changes in a way that nobody ever thought of and the Parish Council has tried to provide a "business as usual approach" during this period regardless of the issues brought on by the pandemic.

The past year has been remarkably busy, face to face meetings were not possible but with the assistance of technology, via Zoom and Microsoft Teams, the Parish Council have been able to successfully achieve many of its planned goals.

April 2020 started with the delivery of the Bugle newsletter and letters to the over 76 members of the community with an offer of help with shopping, collecting prescription and anything else needed by our older and most vulnerable residents.

Shopping and prescriptions were collected, transport for doctor visits arranged in the early days and new friendships forged with people we had never or had any contact with before and some even continue to this day.

The Parish Council was successful in applying for grant funding to provide for (i) a handyman/woman service (which we hope to shortly recruit to) (ii) to develop part of the Neighbourhood Plan policy (iii) planters to prevent continuous damage to the verge on the London Road, at Ilfracombe Avenue. Having managed to obtain £3950 for four planters, we are now applying for further funding to complete the project.

The Parish Council is now apply for funding for two defibrillators, equipment for operating the handyman service and to develop a Circular Walk pathway around parts of the village to open up our Public Rights of Way and enable people to enjoy walking and cycling around the village countryside.

The Parish-in-Bloom Event last July was cancelled but each entry received a voucher from Alton Garden Centre. The event is going ahead this year and entry details are in this newsletter.

## Improving Play in Westlake Park

As part of Basildon Council's Play Review programme it has been recognised that there are more opportunities to improve play facilities in Westlake Park.

At the Leisure and Environment Committee meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021, chaired by Pitsea South-East Ward Councillor Craig Rimmer, £35,000 was pledged towards enhancing the play facilities in Westlake Park.

The Parish Council met with Basildon Council Officers and Councillor Rimmer on 19<sup>th</sup> July and some ideas were put forward. We would however like to know the views of you our residents and our young people and we are going to consult with you on your ideas from 30<sup>th</sup> July until 21<sup>st</sup> August to find out what you think. Please log-on to the Parish Council website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/bgnb-parishcouncil> to take part by completing a questionnaire.

As always, the Parish Council has been reviewing and commenting on Planning Applications within the Parish and making their views known to Basildon Council Planning Officers in order for the Planning Committee to make the decision.

The BGNB Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group continue to meet to move forward with the Neighbourhood Plan. The residents who have been involved throughout the process deserve **A BIG THANK YOU** for their support in helping the Parish Council develop a Neighbourhood Plan that is acceptable to the community.

In November we carried out a mini consultation to obtain views of residents on the Plan so far and its proposals and the results can be seen on the Parish Council website with the majority of residents who commented giving it the green light.

Neil Homer, our Neighbourhood Plan consultant, after over four years, continues to provide the support to the Parish Council to deliver a successful Plan which will benefit the Parish Council's "One Village" approach and ensure that the changes which have been brought in by the National Planning Policy Framework benefit the community in future years.

Since March progress has been slow due to Basildon Council's Local Plan Examination, to be held last September, being delayed. As it stands the Neighbourhood Plan cannot move forward until the Local Plan has been accepted. The Local Plan Examiner has written to Basildon Council for more information on a number of points. The Borough Council has also recently re-consulted on its Town Centre development plans. The outcome may result in further delays in respect of the Examination.

## The Great British Clean Up

Well done to our residents and Parish Councillors who took part in the Nationwide Great British Clean Up on 13<sup>th</sup> June and collected over 10 black sacks of rubbish. It's hoped to repeat the exercise again before the end of summer.

If you would like to become a Bowers Gifford "Womble" and volunteer to help contact the Parish Clerk by email: [clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com)



## Planters replace cars!

Parking at St Margaret's School is not directly in the hands of the Parish Council but after the trying through dialogue to stop the indiscriminate and dangerous parking on the verge on the London Road beside Ilfracombe Avenue it decided to act.

With the help of Councillor Craig Rimmer, Ward Councillor and Essex County Council it has been able to take small steps to resolve the problem by installing planters on the verge.

Once the project is completed driving over the footpath in front of pedestrians to get off the verge, damaging the verge and underground utilities will not be able to be accomplished. Funding was secured for four planters and an application has been made for another four to complete the project. The planters also give a focal point on the approach to Bowers Gifford.



**A BIG THANK YOU** goes to Manor Garden Centre, Pound Lane for providing the plants and compost for the planters and to Balfour Beatty and Basildon Council for supplying the aggregate and soil to fill the planters.

## PARISH-IN-BLOOM 2021

Show off your Green Fingers!

It doesn't matter if you have a large or small garden, patio pots or just containers everyone can enter. Every household that enters wins a prize. Entry is **FREE** and judging will take place the second week in August and all entries will be notified prior to the judge's visit. Every house that enters will receive a pack of winter bulbs.

To enter complete the form below:

### PARISH IN BLOOM 2021

Please tick the category you wish to enter

The categories are:

1. Best front garden
2. Best back garden
3. Best hanging basket/container
4. Tallest Sunflower (under 14)

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

Tel: .....

Email: .....

Post or drop to The Parish Clerk, 15 Highlands Road, Bowers Gifford, SS13 2HR

or email [clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com)

Closing date is 4<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Information is also on the Parish Council website:

<https://e-voice.org.uk/bgnb-parishcouncil>

## REDUCE SPEED!

### Join the Parish Council Community Speed Watch Team

Community Speed Watch is a scheme to help reduce speeding traffic through their community. The scheme enables volunteers to work together to raise awareness of the dangers of speeding and to help control the problem locally.

Prior to lockdown residents came forward to volunteer and undertook some training but during lockdown the scheme was suspended. It is hoped to start up again in September when another training session with Essex County Fire and Rescue, who manage the scheme. The volunteers training will then put into practice and they will be able to alert Police to drivers who do not respect the speed limit through Pound Lane and Burnt Mills Road. However, we still need more volunteers to help so that time spent on the scheme can be spread and rotated.



If you would like to take part in this project, contact either: Councillor Terry Potter Tel: (M) 07867 615875 or Chris Barlow, Parish Council Clerk, Tel: 01268 725236 (M) 07758 255621

## John Cole Memorial Stone

A memorial stone at All Saints Church in North Benfleet to commemorate John Cole, a foot soldier who served in the Grenadier Guards during the Napoleonic Wars was vandalised in May.

M & J Memorials offered to replace the stone free of charge and the Parish Council is co-ordinating this with Martin Rees of M & J Memorials, John & Robert Lyons and Father Jakob, the Greek Orthodox Parish Priest of All Saints Church,

The new stone will be made of granite and is currently being shipped from overseas and should arrive at the beginning of August. The stone will replicate the wording of the original and when the work has been completed arrangements will then be made to ceremonially replace the new stone at All Saints Church.

## Old Church Road

Early in the year Old Church Road flooded due to contractors blocking a pipe in the ditches alongside the road at the Junction of the London Road. Negotiations took place with Essex & Suffolk Water and contractors came back and cleared the ditch and managed to expose the outlet pipe which should resolve the issue.

In addition promising discussions are ongoing with ECC Structural Engineers which will hopefully see the Old Church road underpass refurbished at last.