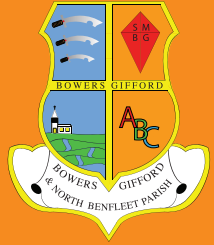


Bowers Bugle



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

NORTH BENFLEET NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT ORDER

A **neighbourhood development order (NDO)** is a tool that allows local communities to grant planning permission for certain types of development in their area without the need for a planning application. The NDO has to be subject to an **examination** by an independent examiner to ensure that it meets certain legal requirements and also a referendum within the community.

You may remember from previous editions that the Parish Council obtained a grant of £96,500 from Locality, a Central Government funding provider, to produce a Feasibility Study that will ensure development in the Parish that will in future years benefits everyone living here.

With the withdrawal of the emerging Local Plan in 2021 by Basildon Council, the Parish Council set aside its Neighbourhood Plan until a new Local Plan is agreed. We then had to put actions in place to protect our Green Belt becoming over developed in the new Local Plan, to do nothing was not an option as the village will be targeted or development whatever we say.

Together with our consultants, Oneill Homer, and residents on the Steering Group we have been working hard over the past 18 months to produce a Neighbourhood Development Order that improves the plotlands areas in North Ben leet and bene its the whole village.

Read the inside pages to see what the Parish Council's intentions are with your agreement as a resident living in the Parish.

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR 2023

September 27th, October 25th,
November 29th and December 13th

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

YOUR COUNCILLORS ARE:

- Cllr Bernard Foster ▪ Cllr Colin Morris
- Cllr Sheelagh Pegg ▪ Cllr Susan Moore
- Cllr Terry Potter

YOUR PARISH CLERK IS:

Christine Barlow

Contact:

Email: clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com
[M] 07758 255621

PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

In 2010 when Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet Parish Council was formed it meant we had a voice to successfully raise issues on behalf of the community and make a difference to our village, Since 2010 we have done just that in many ways and the Parish Council has gone from strength to strength, from have a voice on planning issues to obtaining funding for many project which cannot be funded form the Precept, but we need YOUR to help us continue to raise the profile of the Parish

Could you give up a few hours of your time to discuss and raise issues on behalf of the community and become a Parish Councillor?

Your Parish council is non-political and no experience is necessary as support is provided to all Parish Councillors.

If the answer is YES, turn to the inside pages for an insight into what your Parish Council does on behalf of the community.

DEDICATION OF JOHN COLE MEMORIAL STONE

The Parish Council along with the Grenadier Guards East Essex Regiment on Foot enactment group, held a ceremony to dedicate a new memorial stone to John Cole. John Cole

was a foot soldier who served his country at the Battle of Waterloo and lived in the village. The original head stone was vandalised beyond repair in 2020 and the new stone, worked by M & J Memorials of Highlands Road, is made of granite. The ceremony took place in the church yard of the Church of All Saints, North Benfleet Hall Road, where the new stone has been reinstated. The ceremony was well attended and was conducted by Serjeant-Major Steven Hars, Regimental Nr. 20 44th East Essex Regiment on Foot One of Wellington's Finest.



NORTH BENFLEET NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT ORDER

A draft of the North Benfleet Neighbourhood Development Order (the Order) is being prepared for submission in November for statutory consultation 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.

THE DESIGN CODE

The Order will grant outline planning permission in the Green Belt for the development of new homes on the plotlands and a Design Code will be used, setting out rules for the layout, density, materials and types of new homes, which will be chalet bungalows, to ensure the development fits in with the rural setting and character of the plotlands.

LOCAL CENTRE

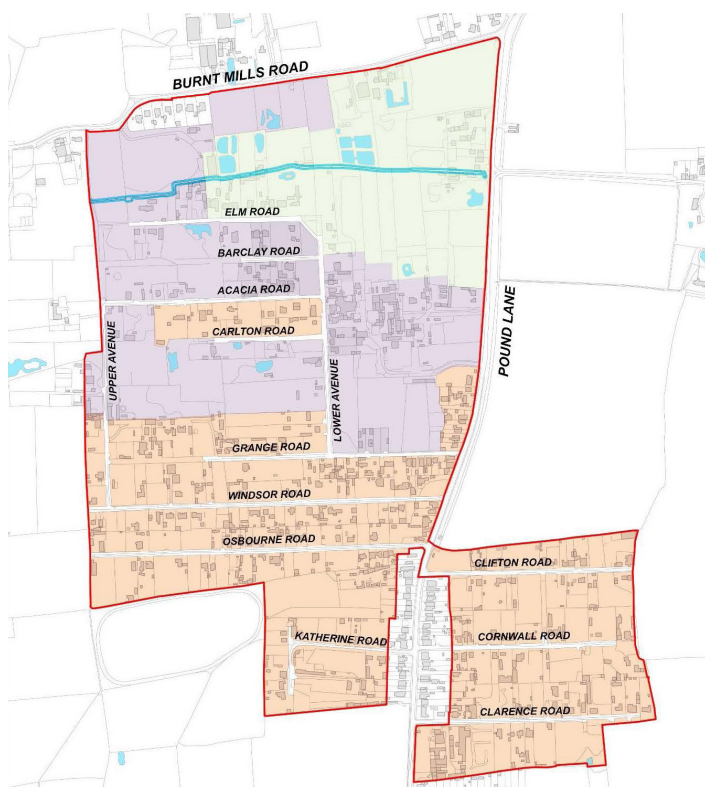
The Order will also make provision for a Local Centre to improve facilities for residents. It is anticipated the centre will include a convenience store and space for community activities and groups.

PLANNING PERMISSION

The Order will grant outline planning permission for two types of development as shown on the plan:

Single dwellings on individual plots in the orange areas. The phased development of multiple plots including a new loop road in the purple areas.

If the Order is approved there will be no obligation for any landowners to develop their land. Landowners don't have to! It will be for them to choose if, and when they want to develop.



SUPPORTING THE ORDER

The Order is the best opportunity for improving the plotlands by using derelict land and vacant plots for new homes. The only other options are for standalone planning applications which are likely to be refused because of the Green Belt setting, or to wait for Basildon's new local plan which is some years of being completed and unlikely to support what the Order proposes.

If you believe the Order will benefit North Benfleet, please support it at the referendum.

WELCOME BACK

The Parish Council is very pleased to welcome back Terry Potter as a Parish Councillor.

Councillor Potter was co-opted back onto the Parish Council for a second term in September.

After serving for four years on the Parish Council, Councillor Potter decided not to stand again for re-election in 2022 but continued to help as a volunteer at both the Parish Council's two Picnic-in-the-Park events in 2022 & 2023.

Terry is particularly interested in the views of the community and feeding these comments back to the Council for consideration. His aim whilst a Councillor is to ensure the Parish remains a rural area without any unnecessary expansion of housing in our green belt and wants to protect the friendly village atmosphere and help to keep the village a nice place for everyone to live.



THE LIFE OF A PARISH COUNCILLOR

Councillor Susan Moore joined the Parish Council in July 2022 after seeing an advert at the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Picnic-in-the-Park Event'. At the time she had recently retired from her full-time job in London. Since being co-opted to the Parish Councillor Moore has proved a real asset to the Parish Council.



Councillor Moore says "I can honestly say that having been a Parish Councillor for just over a year I have found the role to be really interesting. There is so much the Parish Council (PC) does that goes unnoticed, most people know about the monthly public meetings and the Annual Picnic-in-the-Park event but there is a lot more that goes on behind the scenes that residents do not see.

It has been challenging at times, but my Council colleagues have been very helpful and supportive, and I am looking forward to continuing in my role and supporting the Parish with many different issues. Why not join us and find out for yourself"

Councillor Susan Moore

A SPLASH OF COLOUR

We hope the planters on the London Road opposite The Gun Public House over the summer have given pleasure to everyone either walking, running, or driving.

As the new school term begins at St. Margarets School, parents are still parking on the highway verge alongside the planters. This is not only an offence and subject to a penalty fine, but also dangerous for pedestrians and children using the footpath and damages the grass highway verge. In addition, it is also an offence to park fully on the footpaths within the Parish. The Community Policing Team have been made aware of all these issues and will be carrying out spot checks and as a result may issue penalty notices.



SPEEDING

Speeding through the village is becoming more of an issue. Over several years the Parish Council has been lobbying for the Vehicle Activation Sign (VAS) in Pound Lane, to be repaired and persistence has prevailed.

With the help of Pitsea South-East and Essex County Councillor and Basildon Mayor, Councillor Luke Mackenzie, funding was secured from Essex County Council to repair the flashing activation speed sign.

It is now working once again to alert drivers to slow down.

This is just a small advance, and we hope there will be more improvements to help reduce the speed in Pound Lane due to pressure from both the Parish Council, Ward and County Councillors.

Chris Barlow, The Parish Clerk, met with Collette Jackson, ECC Local Highways Officer, on 31st August on behalf of the Parish Council with a view to her making a recommendation to ECC Local Highways Panel Members to carry out a Speed Survey in Pound Lane and enable a Feasibility Study to be undertaken to access the need for action to be taken in order to reduce speeding in Pound Lane and taking other measures to be implemented to make our roads through the village safer.

KING CHARLES II CORONATION EVENT

The sun shone for the day on 8th May at King Charles II Coronation Event.

There was entertainment from Filthy Gorgeous, Trevor Cline, Magician & Balloon Magic Man, Infinity Circus, once again bringing their circus skills along for everyone of all ages to try and enjoy Members of the South Eastern Vintage and Classic Car Club with their vintage and classic cars.

A big thank you goes to the residents who donated gifts to the tombola, to Smilers Farm for their cheque donation, to the businesses who donated prizes for the raffle - Cineworld for family Cinema Tickets, Alton Garden Centre - Gift Vouchers, The Gun Public House - bottles of wine, and for Carter Remy for publicising the whole event on their Estate Agents boards - free of charge. St Johns Ambulance Officers for providing essential First Aid cover. Finally but not least thank you goes to all the stall holders who supported us and to all the residents and visitors who came along to support the event and hopefully had an enjoyable afternoon.

Here's looking forward to next years' event.

If you have any suggestions for next year's event, please let us know. Contact the Parish Clerk by email: clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com we would like to hear from you.

GROUND MAINTENANCE PROJECT

In January the Parish Council funding for our Handyman service ran out but in March the Parish Council were able to transfer the skills of our Handyman to the role of Grounds Maintenance Operative (GMO) after a successful application for funding was made to Awards-for-All a lottery-based organisation which funded this new post. The purpose of the role is to tidy up areas of landscaping within the Parish not covered by Basildon Council or Essex County Council contracts. The funding only covers employing a member of staff for 4 hours per week, but it is surprising what can be done during this time with the right person.

In addition, we have also helped some residents when they had been unable to cut some shrubs which were over hanging footpaths. The funding however will only last until March 2024.

The Parish Council will need to then increase the precept marginally to cover this expense or stop the Ground Maintenance Project altogether.

LET US KNOW YOUR VIEWS

You can send your emails to the Parish Clerk at: clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com



MACMILLAN COFFEE AFTERNOON

Monday 25th September

POUND LANE MISSION

2pm – 4pm

Come along for a cup of Coffee, Tea and Cake.

All money raised will be sent to the Macmillan Trust to help support for patients with Cancer related illnesses.

CRAFT CLUB

Monday afternoon 2pm – 4pm

PAGE WOODS QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 30th September

7.00pm for 7.30 start

Table of up to 5 people - £4.00 per person

Bottle of wine for each member of the winning team plus a number of spot prizes.

Please text Rose Griffin to reserve your table.

[M] 07808 041825 or email: rg.pagewoodstrust@gmail.com

LADIES OVER 60'S WALKING GROUP

Come and join a new Ladies walking group for a leisurely stroll around the village on Thursday mornings - 10.00 to 12.00

Nothing too strenuous.

For more information contact:

Karen Watts [M] 07790 107 334 or log on to Bowers Gifford Community and Crime page.

All over 60's welcome

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL WINTER SALT BAG PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

Winter salt collection point

Once again, The Parish Council has signed up to Essex County Council's Winter Salt Bag Scheme this winter. Residents will be able to pick up one or two 25kgs bag of salt at the Green Barn Farm Shop, on the A130, to spread on areas not covered by Basildon Council Gritters. The Salt will be FREE to residents who live in the village on production of proof of address and ID.

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

With the news that Essex County Council are discussing carrying out a speed survey in Pound Lane the Parish Council is hoping, to restart the Community Speed Watch Scheme which first earmarked as a project before Covid struck in 2020, but this cannot be achieved without the help of you, the residents of the Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet. Volunteers are needed once again to support this project.

CAN YOU HELP? It will take only a few hours a month of your time and training to use the equipment will be given.

If you are interested in volunteering in supporting the above project contact Christine Barlow, the Parish Council Clerk by email: clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com or Tel: [M] 07758 255261.

CADENT GAS REPAIRS – UPDATE

The Parish Council has been advised that works to replace existing steel gas piping with PE (polyethylene) i.e. plastic piping, will continue until late 2024 due to the entire length of Pound Lane, from the London Road to A127 having reached the score threshold and must be replaced with the new PE system.

When Cadent get to the junction of Canvey Road/Pound Lane. Canvey Road will be closed to avoid multi-way signals and allow or 2-way lights and a nudge head in William Road. [A nudge head is a traffic light head which will stay on red and only activate through a cycle if its sensors detect a vehicle].

Cadent advised that these measures are part of the Health and Safety Executives (HSE) enforcement policy for the Iron Mains Risk Reduction Program (IMRRP) which addresses the failure of "at risk" iron gas mains and the consequent risk of injuries, fatalities and damage to building.

Due to the nature of the work involved, the location of Cadent apparatus and most importantly keeping the public safe while the works are being carried out, each phase will require multi-way signal.

Cadent apologises for any inconvenience that this might cause but request that whilst works are ongoing residents allow for extra travelling time for journeys.

BASILDON COUNCIL'S NEW WASTE AND RECYCLING SERVICE

From Monday 27th November 2023, Basildon Council will be introducing black wheeled bins and reusable sacks for all households in Basildon. The new bin and sacks will be delivered from September to November.

FOR NON-RECYCLABLE WASTE:

A **fortnightly** 180 litre wheeled bin will be replacing your weekly black sack collection services.

FOR RECYCLABLE WASTE:

A **weekly separated** recycling service will be provided with **two** reusable sacks being provided to each household, one blue and one white, replacing the pink sacks currently used.

You will need to separate your recyclable materials into the appropriate reusable sack by placing:

- Paper and card materials in your **blue** reusable sack.
- Plastics and cans in your **white** reusable sack

Then put both blue and white reusable sacks out weekly on your usual collection day. Crews will empty these and return them empty for you to use again.

For more information of the changes go to the Basildon Council website: www.basildon.gov.uk/rubbish

