

Bowers Bugle



We're on the web – Visit us at- www.essex.info/bgnb-parishcouncil
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 You can follow us on Twitter #bowers_bugle

A New Vision for Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet

Following on from previous publications of the Parish newsletter you will be aware that Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet Parish Council is preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for the whole of the Parish area. The purpose of the Plan is to make proposals for how we can create a new village of Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet that remains separated from Basildon by the Green Belt. Our proposals are being made as an alternative to Basildon Borough Council's Local Plan, which proposes the merger of our communities with Basildon and Pitsea.

Following many consultations with local people over the past 30 months, it seems clear that our communities want to come together as one village of existing and new residents. This still means building 1,200 new homes on Green Belt land at Benfleet Hall Farm, (one of the sites provided by Basildon Council in their original plan in 2016) and on vacant plots in North Benfleet, but our new village should remain separate from, and not become a part of, Basildon and Pitsea.

Having reached a crucial stage of developing the Neighbourhood Plan - The Pre-Submission Stage - we are now consulting with local people and other organisations on a draft version of our Plan and our vision of "One Village" We think it is as simple as that!

We have put together a Neighbourhood Plan Pre- submission document and are now carrying out a six week consultation to see if, we have correctly interpreted the wishes of you, our community.

The Parish Council, working together with the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, have arranged four consultation drop-in sessions to discuss our vision with you and invite you to come along to these on the following dates:

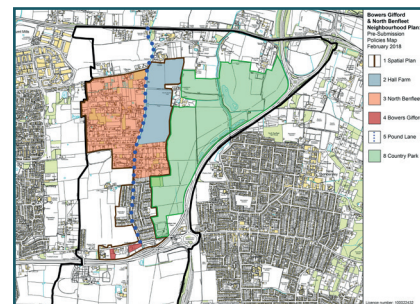
- Saturday 24th February - The Benbow Club, Pound Lane 10.00 - 14.00
- Thursday 1st March - Pound Lane Mission, Osborne Road 18.00 - 20.00
- Saturday 4th March - Pound Lane Mission, Osborne Road 10.00 - 14.00
- Wednesday 7th March - The Benbow Club, Pound Lane 10.00 - 14.00

You will have received a leaflet through your letter box (if you have one) over the last few days informing you of the above dates and the reason for the consultation.

Please take the time to come along to the drop-in sessions. We hope the sessions will answer some of the questions we know you will have about our proposals.

New Councillor joins the Parish Council

Welcome to Councillor David Martin who was co-opted onto the Parish Council in November 2017 until the May elections. He brings a wealth of experience to the role having worked in planning and the construction industry for over thirty years and has an office in Pitsea. Councillor Martin will shortly be moving into Bowers Gifford and feels strongly that the community should have a say in the future of the Parish, either through design, the environment or sustainability. His special interest is in the care of the elderly.



Our Plan has 5 overall objectives:

- ✓ To bring together Bowers Gifford, North Benfleet and new land at Hall Farm to create a single, sustainable settlement surrounded by the Green Belt
- ✓ To designate land for new homes for all the community
- ✓ To make sure we protect our existing facilities and that we get a new primary school, new health services and a new Country Park where we want them
- ✓ To protect our Green Belt and important green spaces so we keep our rural character
- ✓ To improve Pound Lane for walking, cycling and new bus services in the village and support the creation of a new junction with the A127

During January the Parish Council also consulted with Plotland owners to obtain their views on proposals to form a representative group to develop a Neighbourhood Development Order alongside the Neighbourhood Plan and to work towards removing the Plotlands out of Green Belt. You will find the results of this consultation on page two of this newsletter.

It must be noted however that it is only the Borough Council who can currently remove Green Belt and discussions will have to take place once the Local Plan has been adopted.

PLOTLAND OWNERS CONSULTATION – RESULTS OF SURVEY

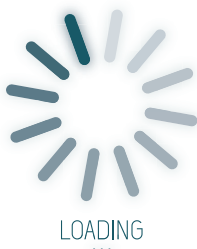
Following the public meeting with plotland owners at the Parish Council meeting on 13th December 2017 a consultation was undertaken in January with owners and the Parish Council received 42 responses to the survey,

Of those owners who replied:

- 80% said they would support it being easier to get planning permission for new residential development by removing the plotlands from Green Belt.
- Nearly 90% said they would support the uses of a design guide to control quality and type of new residential development in the plotland.
- 80% said they would support upgrading existing roads and infrastructure in the plotlands using financial contributions from new development.
- 95% said they would support a group being formed to represent the interests of resident in the Plotlands.
- Sixteen residents said they would be willing to be part of a group to represent the views of resident.

SLOW SPEEDS DOWN IN OUR VILLAGE?

Traffic speeding though our village is on the increase. Last year the Parish Council asked for volunteers to help them reduce the speed and 14 residents came forward. Unfortunately now that we are about to begin with the project not enough are able to commit to take on the Speed Watch Project. We need more people to volunteer or the project cannot go ahead.



The purpose of the Community Speed Watch is to alert the Police to drivers who do not respect the speed limits. It will only take a few hours a month to make a difference.

Please help to reduce speed though our Village and support those residents who are able to continue with the project and who have already volunteered.

To take part in the project contact either:

Councillor Terry Potter Tel: (M) 07867615875 or Chris Barlow, Parish Council Clerk Tel: 01268 725236 (M 07758255621)

Training will be carried out in conjunction with the Essex Fire & Rescue Service who manages the Scheme.

SUMMER EVENT 2nd SEPTEMBER 2018

The Parish Council will once again be holding its Picnic in-the-Park event in the Summer.

The date is Sunday 2nd September from 12.00 – 16.00 and it will again be held in Westlake Park, Pound Lane.

Plans are already underway but more is to be done to make the event a success So this is where you the community can help!



Are you a member of a local band or group, have aspirations as a singer and would like to take part or know of anyone who would like to take part at the event we want to hear from you?

In addition, if you are a local business and would like a stall at the event to promote a cottage industry we want to hear from you also.

if you have any suggestions for the programme of events we would like to hear from you. The event is a fun afternoon out for all the family and the Parish.

Please contact Chris Barlow, Parish Council Clerk, to take part or make suggestion for the programme Tel: 01268 725236 (M) 07758255621 or Email:clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com

Superfast Broadband

Superfast Essex is the county's broadband improvement programme coordinated by Essex County Council and part of the Government's national Superfast Britain programme. The Essex programme has so far connected 100,000 homes and business across the county and is working to increase this by ensuring that as many homes and businesses, can access an improved broadband service by 2020. Thanks to Superfast Essex, working with Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK), and a funding contribution from Basildon Council, more of Basildon



will be connected in Phase 4 of the programme. All of the remaining properties in Basildon District not yet able to access superfast broadband or in plans are eligible to be upgraded, but Superfast Essex might not be able to reach everyone. We need you to register your demand to receive the service to help highlight where superfast broadband is wanted most, if you don't you might lose out. **IT'S IN YOUR HANDS!**

Go to www.superfastessex.org/interactive-maps to see if you are in the plans of the Superfast Essex programme and commercial broadband network operator. If your property does not have a service available (indicated with a pink dot) or is not in the programme's plans (indicated with a green dot), register your demand for faster broadband by completing the "Make the Connection" survey at www.superfastessex.org/registerdemand

Your Parish Council
Parish Council Meetings 2018

28th February: 28th March:
25th April: 30th May

The Annual Parish Meeting will also take place on 25th April prior to the monthly Parish Council Meeting. All are welcome to attend these meetings or any Parish Council meeting and time is set aside for the public to ask questions of their Parish Councillors.

Parish Council contact details

Councillors

Robert Smillie	07790 907113 crr.robertsmillie@gmail.com
Bernard Foster	07811 838115 crr.bernardfoster@gmail.com
Nigel Tyler	07850 192227 crr.nigeltyler@gmail.com
Sheelagh Pegg	07885 758989 crr.sheelaghpegg@gmail.com
Terence Potter	07867 615875 crr.terrypotter@gmail.com
David Martin	07484 155150 crr.davidmartin@gmail.com

Parish Clerk - Christine Barlow
15 Highlands Road, Bowers Gifford, SS13 2HR
Email: clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com
(01268) 725236 (M) 07758 255621

2018 IS PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION YEAR

It is now 4 years since the last Parish Council Elections. New Parish Council Elections will take place on Thursday 3rd May, alongside the Basildon Borough Council Elections.

Over the past four years and since its inception in 2010 your Parish Council have been working hard to represent you, the community, to improve the Parish by raising its profile at local and County level. Parish Councils are the 3rd tier of local government and when decisions are being made Parish Councillors are there to put the views of residents across to external bodies and organisations to help them make the right decision. Councillors represent the whole community, not just their own views and the Parish Council is non-political.

Could you be a Councillor? Being a Councillor does not have to be time consuming, it depends on how much you want to get involved. No experience is needed to become a Councillor as training is available if required.

Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet Parish Council currently has 6 Councillors and one vacancy. If you would like more information about being a Councillor and when and how to apply, contact the Parish Council Clerk for more details or keep an eye on the Parish Council website for more information.

CCTV Cameras for Westlake Park

The Parish Council have been successful in obtaining £16,495.00 in funding, via Essex County Council's community Initiative Fund, to install CCTV cameras in Westlake Park in order to help prevent the kind of anti-social behavior which blighted the park last summer. Play equipment and the "talking" bench were damaged by mindless individuals who sought to spoil the enjoyment of the Park for all who use it. Once the cameras are installed the audio panel on the talking bench will be replaced. However, the basket swing in the junior play area which was replaced after being damaged last year and has been damaged again may take longer to be replaced, if at all.



Please report any person you see damaging equipment in the Park to the Police by dialing 101 and send a note of the incident to the Parish Council for reference.

Flooding Improvements

Though the intervention of the Parish Council and the work undertaken in consultation with Anglian Water and the Environment Agency, a new pumping station has been installed in Elm Road and ditches cleared in Pound Lane to help improve the flow of water and prevent flooding.

Anglian Water is planning to invest in excess of £1M over the next 3 months to improve the flow of both sewage and surface water within the Plotlands. A new pumping station has already been installed in Elm Road and works well under normal conditions. An additional sewer/ pipeline is planned along Elm Road to come into use when the current sewer gets under pressure. The excess water will then divert to the new piping thus preventing localised flooding. A further pumping station is to be installed in Burnt Mills Road to move the sewage via a new pipeline to the plant at Basildon.

Landowners, as Riparian owners, can help by taking responsibility to keep water courses and ditches on their land clear and free of debris to prevent flooding.

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and if you have suggestions for future editions please contact the Parish Clerk

Keep Safe

Remember to lift the door handle, lock the door and remove the key from the lock of doors to deter the burglar. If you have a UPVC door double lock it. Your UPVC door will be vulnerable if it is just shut and not double locked.

What's in a name? Here the story goes!

A Short story written by Elsie Norman, Osborne Road

In the late 1800 the owner of a circus thought it opportune to come to England to try to fill the theatrical void. At an unknown venue, a desperate theatre manager thought an animal show might fill some seats. Mr. Dainz's show had very large and clever dogs and goats which later caused terror in the Pound Lane area of North Benfleet, when little girls skipping in the Lane were terrified by a very large dog that joined them in the whirling ropes.

The first show to be put on by Mr. Dainz was advertised and was ready to start when an attendant noticed a rumple in the stage carpet. He went on stage carefully facing the audience and bent forward to pull the carpet into place. For the waiting goats it was too great a temptation, one hustled forward and butted him from behind, sending the poor attendant head long into the orchestra pit. The applause was thunderous and the theatre was packed for a week waiting for the goats to perform again but of course they didn't but Dainz Circus had arrived.

The star of the show was a very clever donkey called "Smiler". At the end of the season Mr. Dainz counted up his takings and needing somewhere to keep his performers during the off season looked around for a small farm for hire or sale.

In the Parish of North Benfleet there was a farm for sale called Coblows or Cold Blows. Mr. Dainz bought it and since the donkey had been the principle draw to the shows renamed it "**Smilers Farm**". Some of it at least remains today but a large section in the southernmost fields flooded during the winter and early spring. The story goes that Mr. Dainz sold off the two most flooded fields as building plots. Being of foreign origin he had a fascination with the English royalty of the time and as indicated on the sale map at the time named the two roads between the plots as Osborne Road and Windsor Road (holiday areas fit for Royalty).

Old Church Road

Perhaps by the time the spring edition of our newsletter is published residents may, at last, be able to use Old Church Road again. Following site meetings with Councillor Foster, the Parish Clerk, Essex County Council and Basildon Borough Council Officers which have taken place since the barriers installed, as part of this project, were stolen in October 2017, even before the cement was dry. It is now proposed to install lockable bollards at the London Road end of Old Church Road and the underpass at the Church Road end is to be repaired and the Local Highways Panel has set aside £5,500 towards this work, with a further £5,000 for work on the underpass.



CCTV cameras are also to be installed to help prevent the fly-tipping which has plagued the Parish over many months and cost thousands of pounds to be removed.

Another addition to Westlake Park

Have you and your dog visited Westlake Park recently? There are a lot of dog walkers in the village and following discussions with dog owners last year Councillor Kevin Blake, Cabinet Member for Leisure Services, recommended that a Dog Agility Course would be the answer for an additional attraction and it was installed in January courtesy of Basildon Council. The course is currently only the second such Agility Course to be installed in the Borough.



Pound Lane Street Lights

You will have noticed that there are many street lights unlit or damaged in Pound Lane. The Council having made enquiries of Essex County Council have been informed that new LED lights are to be installed this month and this is the reason repairs haven't been carried out. The Parish Council will be keeping an eye on events and if the work is not carried out will be raising the issue with Essex Highways, but we need residents to do the same and keep complaining to Essex County Council regarding the street lights not working. You can do this by contacting Essex County Council on 0345 603 7631

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH COULD YOU BE A STREET COORDINATOR?

Neighbourhood Watch is about local people coming together to create friendlier and safer communities where crime and anti-social behaviour activities can be less likely to happen.



It is not about curtain twitching!

Neighbourhood Watch need street coordinators to help spread the information about keeping our Parish safe.

It does not take up a lot of time and information is sent via email or if you don't have email in note form.

If you are interested in getting involved in Neighbourhood Watch and want to know more about volunteering contact the Parish Clerk in the first instance on: Tel: 01268 25236 (M) 07758255621.

Pound Lane Mission

Craft Club 13.30 - 16.00
Coffee Morning: Tuesday 11.00 - 12.00
Sunday Service 10.30 am

Easter Service

All Welcome
St Margaret's Church
Sunday 1st April - Eucharist 9.00 - 10.30 am

Pound Lane Mission

Good Friday 10.30 am
Easter Sunday 10.30 - 11.30 am

