

The Little Burstead Times



Your Parish Council News

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Your Parish Council News

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The Parish Council

Little Burstead Parish Council is the local governing body for the parish of Little Burstead. Parish Councils are the smallest units of local government in England and typically focus on issues affecting their specific local community. Below is an overview of who we are and what we do.

The Council is composed of elected representatives from the local community. These representatives, known as councillors, are typically elected every four years by residents of the Parish. The Council is led by a Chairperson who is elected by the Council members. The Chairperson presides over meetings and represents the Council in official functions.

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Parish Clerk—Christine Barlow

E: littlebursteadpc@gmail.com



All the Parish Councillors live in Little Burstead.

If you have an issue with which you would appreciate the Parish Council's help, please email it in the first instance to the Parish Clerk who will distribute to all councillors for their attention.

Remember that Parish Councillors are unpaid and give their time and energy freely to help the community so please, if you can, help them to look after the Parish.

Parish Councils have a range of duties and responsibilities aimed at improving the quality of life for their local communities. The key duties typically carried out by a Parish Council are varied but focussed almost entirely on the Parish of Little Burstead alone.

Overall, Parish Councils play a vital role in grassroots governance, directly addressing the needs and concerns of their local communities and enhancing the quality of life for their residents.

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Planning and Development

The Parish Council is consulted on every planning application that is made to Basildon Borough Council within the parish of Little Burstead and asked to comment.

As a Council we recommend that you, or your Agent, attend the Parish Council meeting ahead of your planning application to gain the Council's feedback and support.

Members of the Parish Council do not want to hinder your enjoyment of your property and understand fully that a house designed in the past, may well need remodelling to suit modern and future use.

However, the Parish Council would like to ensure that your proposed development is respectful of neighbouring properties in terms of scale, design and material choice and that the development, if permitted, will not cause unreasonable nuisance to your neighbours.

Please make the effort to come to a Parish Council meeting and explain your proposal to us, it will almost certainly be of benefit to your application to have our support.

Improving the Village

If you have any ideas that might make Little Burstead a better place for us all to live in, please don't be shy - share them with us, we welcome all (or perhaps almost all) suggestions – please don't be backward in coming forward!



The Tractor Shed

Fancy some rustic food served on an English Farm?

We have cakes, coffees, tea, burgers, bacon, sausage and egg rolls, breakfast rolls and much more with hearty soup and coming soon, festive treats!

Why not pop in for anything from a mince pie to a full farmers breakfast.

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We are open:

Friday 10:00 to 16:00

Saturday 10:00 to 16:00

Sunday 10:00 to 16:00

We are easy to find on Noak Hil Road, just south of the junction with Laindon Common Road at:

*Tractor Shed
White Post Farm
Noak Hill Road
CM12 9SY*

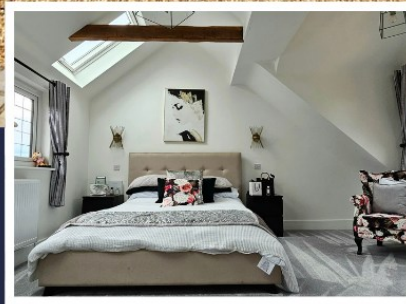


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Chat from the Chair

Dear Villagers,

Welcome to the third edition of The Little Burstead Times. We hope you are enjoying the magazine and finding it both helpful and interesting.

Since the last edition there have been changes of personnel within the Parish Council; James Loton resigned due to family and business commitments. However I am pleased to be able to introduce our new councillor, Tony James who joined us in September. Tony and his wife Juliette, moved to Little Burstead in October 2024 and attended parish council meetings prior to him deciding to join the Council.

Our Parish Clerk also resigned in August but I am delighted to announce that Chris Barlow, who has previously served as Little Burstead's Parish Clerk, has recently agreed to take over the position again. Welcome back Chris! We are therefore back to a full complement.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a project which the Parish Council in conjunction with the Village Hall Committee are planning for early next year. On the grass verge on the left hand side of Clock House Road we are planning to plant an avenue of cherry trees. If residents, past or present would like to dedicate one of these trees to a loved one or to a specific cause this could be done for a donation of £25. A commemorative plaque could also be created for an additional fee. Additional information and all enquiries to any parish councillor.

The next village event will be the Remembrance Day Service at the War Memorial on Sunday 9 th November with a Memorial Service starting in the Old School House at 10.30am. Following the service there will be refreshments provided in the Village Hall. We look forward to seeing you at the service , but if you cannot make it you are very welcome to join us at any (or all) of our future Parish Council meetings which all start at 7.30pm in the Village Hall on the following dates:

- Tuesday 18th November 2025
- Tuesday 20th January 2026
- Tuesday 17th March 2026
- Tuesday 19th May 2026
- Tuesday 21st July 2026
- Tuesday 15th September 2026
- Tuesday 17th November 2026

David

Chairperson of Little Burstead Parish Council

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What your Parish Council has done for our village recently

Your Councillors not only give their time freely for the Council meeting every second month, but they are in continuous contact dealing with minor matters arising as and when they can around their other private commitments. Over and above this, the Councillors meet contractors to arrange for works to be undertaken and also undertake minor works themselves, again giving their time freely.

As Councillors, we often feel that many residents are not aware of our hard work simply because, if it looks right, why would you notice it? So, in a flagrant display of blowing our own trumpets, we will in future report our works in The Times for all to see what we have achieved. So here goes.....

We hate litter and do our best to collect and dispose of litter from the streets around our home, but we also report larger fly tipping events to Basildon Council to expedite its removal. To give you an idea of how serious this issue has become, one of our councillors clears litter from the length of Hatches Farm Road every week and every week fills a bin bag with newly discarded waste comprised mainly of beer or cider tins and bottles, fast food wrappers and vaping paraphernalia.

You would think that repairing damaged road signs is the responsibility of Essex County Council Highways wouldn't you? That's what we think as well but, and this is a very big but, although we have often reported matters on the Highways' website, no action is taking and we rarely if ever receive any kind of response.....unless it is to say "no".

Take for example the speed detection and display warning signs by the Village Hall and The Duke's Head—neither of these work and we have repeatedly reported this matter but to no avail The expression "talk to the hand 'cos the face ain't listening" springs to the fore.

So we have resorted to putting matter rights ourselves.

You may have noticed that the give way sign at the War memorial was driven over by a very large vehicle and that vehicles generally war clipping the corners so your Councillors excavated and reset the Give Way sign and planted boulders on the corners to dissuade motorists from denigrating this charming village memorial asset.



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As you can see, the boulders aren't visually intrusive and have, since their installation, been 100% successful in stopping motorists from hitting not just the road signs, but also the post and chain fencing. This is clearly evidenced in the photograph to the right where you can see that fresh green grass is now happily growing again over the corners which had become muddy ruts.

And, while we are on the subject of the War Memorial, did you notice that the seat has been rotated by 180°? At last year's Remembrance Day cele-



bration, it was realised that the frailer people attending would have liked to sit down but the seat faced away from the Memorial so we have remedied this and in addition, with the help of a public spirited local resident, we have removed the old base surrounding the memorial, and replaced it with a new base.

Carrying on with our boulder theme, we have also rescued the traffic island at the end of Hatches Farm Road where lorries and off roaders had taken to simply driving right over the grass leaving very deep muddy ruts. A few chunky boulders later, and the grass is thriving again! We have also planted daffodils in this island to extend the Spring Daffodil theme from the village centre to the village extremities.

As you can see, there are two street names clearly visible for Hatches Farm Road at this junction which makes us wonder why, when the Hatches Farm Road street name at the Botney Hill Road end was knocked over by an errant motorist, it was replanted at this end of the road! We have therefore excavated the third street name and replaced it in its correct position.



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While we're thinking about this end of the village, we guess that many of you don't realise that this end of the village is home to Little Burstead Common nor even realise that the Common has a pond. It's not surprising really because the Common, pond



and surrounding woodland had become completely impenetrable being covered and in a dense morass of bramble. We have undertaken a program of remediation to improve this village facility and the woodland now boasts a canopy of proud English Oaks with open space under for people to move and for biodiversity to thrive as the bramble remains controlled.

Please take the time to walk through this woodland, perhaps when following the Little Burstead Circular Walk. Spring should hopefully be a pleasant walk since we have planted English Bluebells sourced from a Bluebell mead-

ow planted by Capability Brown for Lady Willmott's sister, Rose Berkely, in the grounds of her "Cottage" in Great Warley.

We have reported before that we have planted fruit trees on this Common and we will probably plant a few more but again, we are pleased to report again that, thanks to the efforts of your local Councillors and 2 rather snazzy red watering cans, all the trees have survived the driest Summer on record!



The Public Bridleway running through the Common and down through the woods to Botney Hill Road was so overgrown with brambles that only those armed with a machete and armour could follow its course. This is



no longer the case since we have reclaimed the Bridleway and it now makes a pleasant stroll for its entire length.

Let's move over to Rectory Road now. Did you notice that there is far less litter here? One of your Councillors managed to persuade Basildon Council to send some troops over for a mammoth day of clearing up. Yes, it's covered in litter again, but we do try. However, at least we were able to make a longer lasting improvement by rescuing the footpath sign from the ditch where it lay and replanting it.

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At the end of Laindon Common Road where it meets Noak Hill Road, both the Give Way sign and street name plate were pushed over in what must have been a rather spectacular piece of vehicular stupidity and as usual, Essex County Council Highways were very keen to ignore our requests for this to be remedied. We are pleased to say that we were able to coax both signs into being almost upright, at least they no longer an embarrassment to our village gate way.



What about the Village Pond? The good people of Little Burstead have often forayed into the waters to clear the waters and improve this charming village feature but did you notice that the tree standing between the pond and the road had died? Since these dead boughs overhung the road, this presented a clear danger and so your Parish Council arranged for the removal of the dead tree. This has opened the pond to the village and will hopefully improve the quality of this asset.



Some of you may have noticed that the street light to the south of the pond is completely hidden by the unpleasant row of Leylandii situated in the Highway verge. What is the point of a street lamp if it doesn't illuminate the street beneath it? Again, we have reported this matter to Essex County Council Highways and well, this may shock you, but they have done nothing about it.

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In early September, Laindon Common Road was blocked by a fallen tree and Essex County Council Highways were there in the blink of an eyelid to clear the debris...or perhaps not. No yet again, it was your local Councillors who sprang to action and chainsaw in hand, cleared the offending timber aided by the police whose vehicle was very usefully equipped with a broom!

We've mentioned the verges a few times so far and perhaps you noticed they were a little tidier this year than in previous years?

This is because the Parish Council has invested in a Strimmer and we have put this to good use strimming the verges for you.



Christmas Trees at the The Tractor Shed

Buy your Christmas trees locally!

Fresh Christmas Trees will be available from late November, you will see our notice outside the gates with the Christmas lights.

All sizes available, once you have chosen your tree it will be netted to fit in your car. The Tractor Shed is normally open at the same time so while you choose your tree you will also be able to get a nice warm drink or festive treat.

We are open:

*Friday 10:00 to 16:00
Saturday 10:00 to 16:00
Sunday 10:00 to 16:00*

We are easy to find on Noak Hil Road, just south of the junction with Laindon Common Road at:

*Tractor Shed
White Post Farm
Noak Hill Road
CM12 9SY*



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What is the Greater Essex Devolution Proposal

First, some context

- The UK government, via a consultation held from 17 February to 13 April 2025, sought views on forming a Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA) covering Essex County Council, Thurrock, and Southend-on-Sea.
- The proposal is part of wider plans under the English Devolution White Paper to shift more decision-making, funding, and power from central government to local regions.
- After the consultation, the government confirmed that Greater Essex “passed the legal tests” so the devolution work can proceed.

Key features of the proposal include

- A directly elected Mayor for the combined area.
- A 30-year investment fund to drive economic growth, local infrastructure, skills, transport, etc.
- Powers devolved would include adult skills funding, transport (including roads, Key Route Networks, potentially bus franchising), planning, environmental strategy, public service delivery, health improvement, etc.
- Governance arrangements are under scrutiny; one key concern raised in responses was fair representation and ensuring decision-making reflects local needs, not just the larger more urban parts.

Potential Implications for Little Burstead

- Local Representation & Decision-Making:

The new Combined Authority could give more strategic influence over transport, infrastructure, skills, where decisions are more tailored to local needs. Rural communities like Little Burstead might benefit if funding is accessible. Local Parish Councils may have better opportunity to feed into county-level strategies. However Little Burstead is relatively small and there is great risk that priorities are set by larger towns or urban areas while rural or small parishes have lower priority. Decision making may feel more distant if authority is more centralised.

- Transport & Connectivity:

A cohesive improved transport strategy could help with road maintenance, traffic calming, possibly improved public transport / bus services. Better coordination across wider areas might reduce congestion and offer better connections. Unless specific interventions are made, rural areas might lag in getting improved transport; costs of extending services to less dense areas are high. Also there is a risk of “one size fits all” policies that don’t suit small roads or village constraints.

- Planning, Housing & Infrastructure:

Devolution could lead to more coherent planning, perhaps more funds to manage housing pressures, ensure infrastructure keeps up (roads, broadband, utilities). Little Burstead might secure investment for preserving its character, supporting small growth that aligns with conservation but pressure for development will probably increase, especially if the combined authority pursues housing targets. Little Burstead’s conservation area status and rural character may be under stress if larger scale housing or infrastructure is promoted and there is also risk that changes to planning rules will reduce local control.

Skills, Economic Growth & Services:

Access to devolved skills funding may offer more educational/training opportunities for residents, possibly closer to home. There is potential for economic grants for rural businesses, community services, environmental projects. Also, pooled resources might bring better services (health, social care, etc.). Small communities sometimes struggle to compete for funding or grants and there’s also risk that priorities go to areas with higher population or more visible need, leaving small Parishes with less especially since transition costs could mean some local services might be restructured.

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- Environment & Rural Identity:

A combined authority could take a more strategic approach to environmental issues—conservation, green space, flood risk, nature recovery etc.—which might benefit smaller, rural places with ecological value. Little Burstead has conservation status, historic assets, woodland etc., so might benefit from environmental protection and support but if growth is prioritised over preservation, the rural identity could be compromised. There might be tension between environmental goals and housing/infrastructure pressures. Also, local ecological knowledge might be sidelined if decisions are made at a broader level without sufficient local input.

Specific Questions and Local Factors for Little Burstead to consider

To assess how Little Burstead might fare, several specific factors will matter:

1. How the representation in the new structure is distributed.

If voting power in the MCCA is skewed toward more urban/densely populated areas, Little Burstead may have limited influence. Ensuring that Parish Councils have meaningful input into decision making will be key.

2. How funding is allocated (both in the investment fund and devolved services).

Whether rural parishes can access that money or if it's channelled mostly into bigger town centres or infrastructure hubs.

3. Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) interactions.

Devolution is happening in parallel with possible local government reforms (unitary councils replacing two-tier county/district systems). If Basildon district / Essex county structure changes, that may affect how local services for Little Burstead are administered.

4. Planning control and conservation protections.

Little Burstead has a conservation area and listed buildings. The combined authority's strategy will need to respect these. Local neighbourhood plans or conservation area appraisals will matter.

5. Community engagement.

The capacity of the Parish Council and residents to engage with the MCCA, to make their voice heard, will affect how well Little Burstead's needs are factored in.

In Summary

The Greater Essex devolution has the potential to bring both opportunities and challenges for Little Burstead. If done thoughtfully, it could mean:

- more responsive investment in infrastructure, better transport options, possibly more say in how growth and housing are managed,
- greater access to devolved funds for local services and environmental protection, and a chance to preserve and bolster the Parish's rural character through strategic planning.

But:

- there's a risk of being overshadowed by larger, more populous areas in terms of priority and funding,
- possible pressures to accept housing or infrastructure projects that may conflict with conservation and rural character,
- more layers of governance which may feel remote unless structured with real local accountability.

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The New Pylon on the Horizon

What the Norwich to Tilbury power line means for Little Burstead — and where permission stands

Little Burstead has quietly found itself on the map of one of the UK's biggest grid upgrades. National Grid's Norwich-to-Tilbury project; a proposed 180 km, 400 kV transmission connection to carry East Anglia wind power into the south includes route options that would move or replace existing 132 kV lines and introduce new infrastructure across parts of Essex. This has important local consequences for Little Burstead's landscape, homes and ecology, and it has also moved into the formal stages of the national planning process.

What's being proposed near Little Burstead

The wider Norwich-to-Tilbury scheme aims to connect new offshore wind and other generation across East Anglia into the network; its proposals mix overhead lines, underground cable sections and new substations. In Essex, the project documents and local authority responses show proposals to re-align existing lines and to move sections of pylons — including a localized change that would affect the corridor close to Little Burstead and Havering's Grove. Those route tweaks are part of several design iterations National Grid carried out after consultations.

Local impacts for Little Burstead — the likely effects

Although detailed engineering designs may vary the route ultimately approved, the common local impacts that residents and planners are considering include:

Landscape and visual change - New or re-sited pylons and overhead lines change sightlines in otherwise rural areas. For a small settlement like Little Burstead, even a short section of new overhead line can be a significant and create visible change to the village's character.

Noise, construction and access disruption - Building new pylons, installing underground cable sections, or constructing temporary compounds brings heavy machinery, temporary roads and prolonged work periods. Local roads and farmland access can be affected during construction.

Biodiversity and environmental risk — and mitigation opportunities - National Grid's environmental assessments identify habitats and protected species along routes; the company has proposed mitigation planting, habitat measures and some undergrounding at sensitive locations elsewhere on the scheme. How well that works in practice for oak hedgerows, grassland, bats and farmland hedges around Little Burstead will depend on detailed plans and conditions attached to any consent.

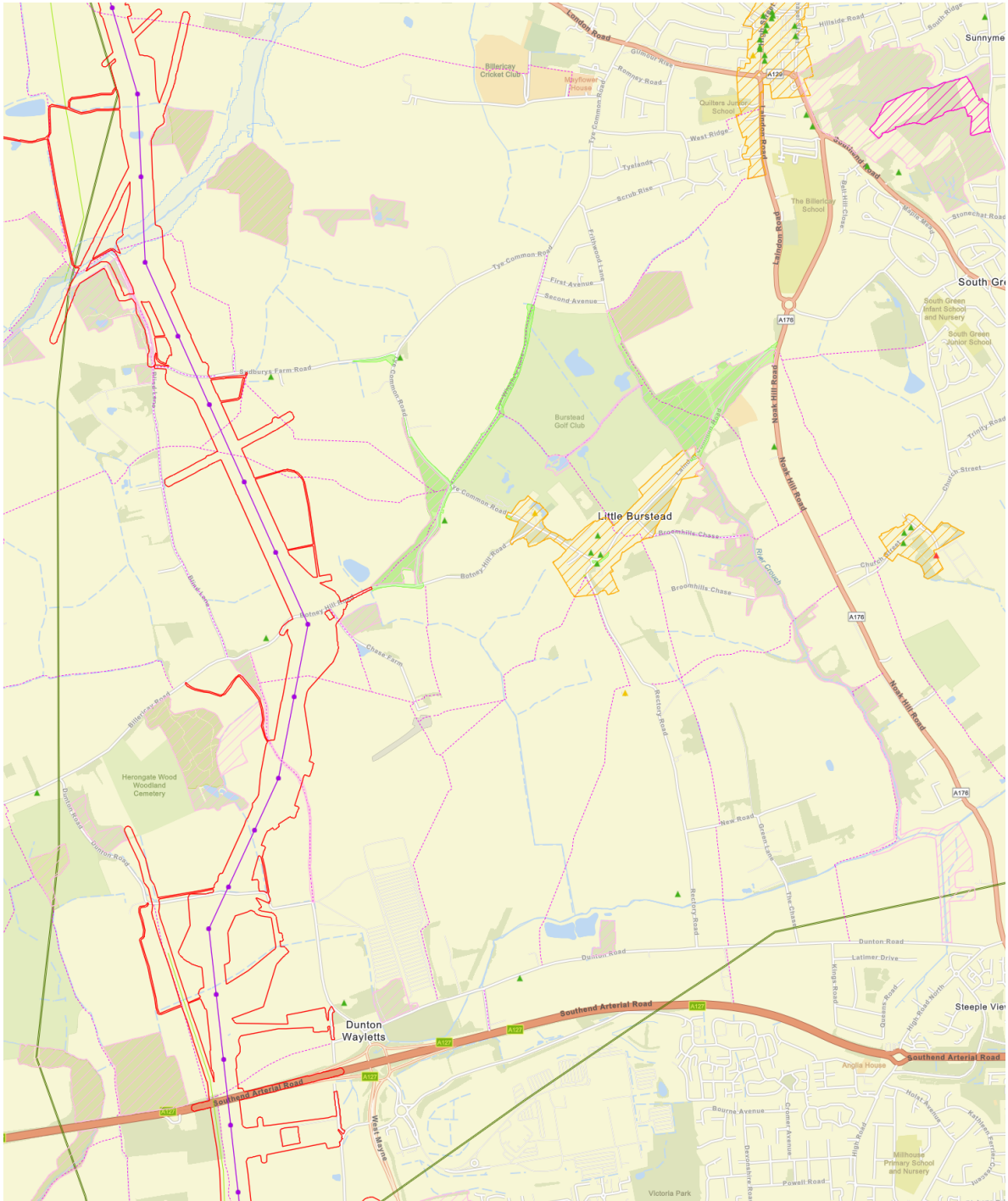
Property values and community sentiment - Visual intrusion and the prospect of pylons close to homes commonly raise concerns about property values and quality of life; that has been a central theme of community objections in Essex and neighbouring districts. Local MPs and parish groups have publicly opposed or pressed for alternatives in parts of the route corridor.

Potential benefits and compensation - National Grid and government guidance note that strategic transmission projects can deliver community funds, biodiversity net-gain measures and local mitigation; but the scale, timing and eligibility for local communities depend on the final scheme and any conditions attached by the planning authority. Parliamentary and government reviews have also discussed "community benefit" models for transmission infrastructure.

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Plan showing the route of the proposed power line

The new power line route and pylons are depicted in purple and the green lines represent the existing power lines.



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Where planning permission stands right now (October 2025)

The Norwich-to-Tilbury project is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project and so requires a Development Consent Order (DCO) decided by the Planning Inspectorate and ultimately the Secretary of State — not a normal local planning application. National Grid submitted its DCO application in late August 2025; the Planning Inspectorate accepted the application for examination in late September 2025. That acceptance moves the scheme into the pre-examination and then formal examination phases, during which local authorities, residents and other stakeholders can register as Interested Parties, submit representations, and take part in hearings. In short: the developer has applied, the application has been accepted for examination, but no final consent has yet been granted.

What that timeline means for Little Burstead residents

Opportunity to engage - Because the DCO is now in the Inspectorate process, affected residents and councils can register, submit written representations and ask to speak at hearings. This is the main route to influence mitigation, route adjustments, or requirements attached to any consent. National Grid and the Planning Inspectorate publish guidance on how to take part.

Examination, then decision - The Inspectorate's examination typically runs for several months; after examination it issues a report and recommendation to the Secretary of State, who then makes the final decision. That means the project's form and conditions (including any commitments affecting Little Burstead) will be shaped over the coming examination and decision stages.

What residents and the parish might focus on now

Registering and submitting evidence - Register as an Interested Party with the Planning Inspectorate and submit detailed, evidence-based concerns (visual impact, ecological surveys, heritage impacts, traffic management during works). Generic objections are heard but evidence-backed submissions carry more weight.

Push for targeted mitigation - If overhead lines are unavoidable in a particular corridor, press for screening, adjusted tower positions, or local undergrounding where feasible — and for clear construction traffic plans and compensation arrangements.

Work with the council and MPs - Basildon Borough, Essex County Council and local MPs are already involved; coordinated local representations (parish council, residents' groups, MP) are more effective than isolated objections. Several nearby councils have already made formal objections or sought changes.

Ask for independent assessments - If possible, commission or request independent visual impact and property-value assessments to buttress representations at examination. Detailed local surveys often influence conditions or additional mitigation.

Bottom line

Little Burstead is near a corridor that National Grid has proposed to adjust or re-site as part of the Norwich-to-Tilbury upgrade. The project is in a national planning process: the developer submitted a DCO application in August 2025 and the Planning Inspectorate accepted it for examination in September 2025. That means the technical scrutiny and public examination that determine the project's design and the protections or obligations affecting Little Burstead are now underway — but the final legal permission has not yet been given. Residents who want to influence outcomes should register with the Planning Inspectorate, coordinate with local councils and press early for specific mitigation measures and clear construction controls.

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Sadly Missed.....John Frank Ellis

On 9th September 2025 a tremor ran through the emotions of Little Burstead when news spread that after ten years of illness, John Ellis had died peacefully, surrounded by his loving and much-loved family.

John grew up in Hornchurch as one of three children, Roger and the twins, Jen and John who was the youngest and John's mum, Peg, said she knew he would be talented when as a toddler, he sat on their doorstep and drew a picture with white dog poo! Even in later life he could take the simplest of items, spaces, ideas or food and by applying his natural creative talent he transformed them from basic to brilliant. Whether making walking sticks, carving wood, proudly cooking his infamous "man soups" or creating the yet to be patented "Lick'n Sniff" game, John loved a project and has a legacy of art and objects gathered, found and foraged, things built both shared and gifted, including his magical oil paintings.



John was a bright boy who hated formal education and often recalled being called a "gutter snipe" by a teacher at his Grammar school. Later, his parents convinced him to go to art college which he agreed to attend College on condition that he could work on his friend's family's fruit and veg stall at Romford Market if he didn't like the course. Years later, when he was running his own advertising agency in an office in Covent Garden, his family said he had finally made it, he now had his wish and was working in the best fruit and veg market in the country. But John learnt both intuitively and by reading books and was always educating himself on his journey through life with an extraordinary desire to grab life and its experiences and to enjoy and learn from it.

John met Jan at 17 when he walked her home from Youth Club to win a bet with a friend. This rapidly developed into true friendship which then forged a formidable partnership culminating in a shared history spanning 56 very successful years of marriage. In 1984, John and Jan moved to Little Burstead and made Frith Cottage their home. John loved Frith Cottage which became his beloved family home for over 45 years.

John and Jan were blessed with children Katie, Jules and Daniel, their eight grandchildren, extended family and friends. Their home and their love are a legacy shared through family gatherings and feasts, activities and adventures. As children, should Katie, Jules and Daniel complain that they were bored, John would remind them that "there's no such thing as boredom.....only boring people get bored!"

John always instilled a "just go for it" attitude in his children and grandchildren, insisting they be confident and believe in both themselves and their ideas. This advice reflected his John's approach to his own life and he applied them though College, his early design roles and on to the launch of his own pharmaceutical advertising agency in the early 1980s.

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John was always a “people person” with a gift for rallying his troops and a talent for making bold decisions. This even included rounding up random people from other offices in the building to make it look as though his was a thriving business when prospective clients came to visit. The press ganged staff would happily sit around his office looking busy as a favour to John—he was that special kind of man.

John was highly successful in his field and was loved by many in his industry and working with John was as much about the in-house entertainment as it was about the work itself.

“Play hard, work hard” was another of John’s mantras. John worked long hours and often at weekends to the extent that he was once humorously introduced to his children with “Children, this is your father!”

John loved to travel but was not one to sit by a pool. Always keen to go off-grid, if a sign said “no entry”, John ignored it, if a track wasn’t on the map, that was John’s route and if it was a luxury hotel, he checked out to explore the jungle or take a boat to another island. John’s family have many tales of the infamous “Ellis walks” where the word “lost” features predominantly in their memories. Whether abroad or at home, John sought adventure; from travels through Alaska, Asia, and Africa to a simple picnic in the lounge with his grandchildren, all events were suffused with John’s buccaneering spirit. There can’t be many grandfathers who would abseil from the upstairs landing or a go for a night time ramble wearing night sight goggles through a field of cows.....and a very large bull!

John immersed himself in village life and settled in to the heart of Little Burstead’s social events where his creative spirit and ability to bring people together led to lifelong friendships and countless entertaining memories. He was an “ideas” man and instigated many legendary village events; the great pancake race around the village, the village fetes featuring “The Beast of Burstead”, “Adopt a Frog” or “Jack the Stripper” (a man in budgie smugglers, stripping wallpaper) and not forgetting the pop-up restaurant and night club “Salmonella’s” in the village hall!

John and Jan liked to have fun and threw parties that were meticulously planned to ensure guests were truly entertained! In John’s eyes the party needed a theme such as “The Opening of the Chicken run” complete with guests inside the run and an egg smashed on a ribbon to declare it open or “The Beach Party” when several yards of sand were delivered to create a beach or even “The Film Festival” when their guests entered via a classic limousine, posed on the casting couch and attended an Oscars ceremony.

There were also pranks aplenty; from adding a sign to a builder friend’s van saying “Bodge Brothers” to erecting a “Gas leak” sign in the middle of a villager’s flower bed just before the “Open Gardens Day”.

John’s love and appreciation of nature encouraged many others to appreciate the simple things such as a long walk in the countryside whilst birdwatching and this love of nature also drew together like-minded souls who formed a dedicated team spending fifteen years working on Laidon Common with the aim of gaining Nature Reserve status which is now believed to be attainable, a legacy of which John would have been pleased.

John was always ready to support the underdog or anyone willing to have a try. He only gave praise when it was truly deserved and a “well done” to a family member was one of life’s greatest rewards.

John had standards, he preferred a cup and saucer to a mug and was determined to achieve his aims, even if it meant extending the shed to build a canoe!

John was a gentleman, a loving husband, father, grandfather and friend, he had wit, warmth, wisdom and charm. John was true to his friends and true to his family and above all, he was true to himself; ultimately, there is no better way to end this sad report than with John’s own words to his grandchildren: “Remember kids, I am still the Boss!”

The Little Burstead Times



Your Parish Council News

The Farming Year

Little Burstead nestles amidst many traditional Essex farms who put food on our plates and act as dedicated custodians of our countryside. Here, courtesy of Tom Buckenham, is what to watch for as you pass the fields around our village.

Quality - not quantity - was the underlying tone of this year's harvest.

The rain, that the crops desperately craved during their main growing months of April and May, never materialised in great volumes. The lack of rain meant that the cereal crops and the hay did not grow on to their full potential, as stressed crops raced through their growth stages.



Although crop yields suffered due the dry period, there were some positives: firstly, the lack of moisture and humidity helped reduce disease pressure. Also plenty of sunshine hours meant the wheat plants - that did make it to harvest - could utilise the sunlight to fill grains and convert nitrogen to protein.

Hay making was relatively straight forward: thinner crops dried easily and there was no rain to spoil any cut hay as it dried. This led to high quality hay.

The wheat harvest soon followed the hay making, two weeks earlier than usual. Wheat was brought into below maximum allowed moisture content of 15% and this meant that no drying was required.

With the crops harvest, focus then turned to cultivating the ground for the next crop to be harvested. The dry soil gave the machinery a real challenge, wearing metal parts at a punishing pace.

Fortunately, towards the end of August, we received enough rain to soften the ground - and to make the job a lot easier!

Now, at the end of September, planting of next year's Harvest has begun. By mid-October, all-being-well, this should be completed.

We hope that next season's weather is kinder than what was experienced this year!



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The Little Burstead Times



Your Parish Council News

Gordon's War World 2 Memories

Gordon Scott has lived in Little Burstead for most of his life. Now in his 90's but still sprightly, Gordon's experience of village life extends back far beyond what most of us know. Given that we commemorated the 80th anniversary of VE/VJ Day this year, I took the opportunity to sit down with Gordon to recall those memories and record some of them here for public record. To the right is a recent photograph of Gordon, one of the villagers most senior residents with Luke, one of it the youngest residents!

Gordon's experiences of the Second World War not only paint a picture of life in London and Little Burstead during those tumultuous years but also provide a window into the resilience and adaptability of those who lived through the conflict. It won't surprise those who know Gordon that his memories of the time when the world was at war remain vivid.

Gordon was just six years old when the war broke out. He remembers the moment vividly: his father, glued to the radio, urged silence as the news of war filled the air. Gordon lived in Finsbury Park, 65 Ashfield Road to be precise, an address etched into his memory. The county, like many others, was suddenly thrust into the harsh realities of war.

Before long, preparations were underway. Gordon recalls the arrival of air raid shelters, transported down the road on lorries. His father and uncle worked tirelessly, digging a hole in the garden to install their shelter, fortifying it with concrete. It became a nightly ritual to seek refuge in their Anderson shelter, with bunk beds for Gordon and his sister, Audrey, while their parents sat in chairs, as he recalls, "ever watchful and protective".

Life at the time was punctuated by the sounds of war. Gordon recalls that Finsbury Park was home to anti-aircraft guns, barrage balloons and searchlights. Gordon recounts standing outside with his father, watching as searchlights scanned the skies and guns fired at enemy planes. His father, a vigilant protector, stood guard outside the shelter, ensuring the safety of his family. One night stands out in Gordon's memory: a parachute descending with a landmine intended for the nearby railway line. The family was lucky; the landmine landed on the other side of the railway, sparing their home. But the close call prompted his father to make a difficult decision: Gordon and Audrey were to be evacuated.

The evacuation took Gordon and his sister to Spaldwick in Huntingdonshire, Cambridgeshire. A kind woman took them in, despite already having four children of her own. Life in Spaldwick was a stark contrast to London they had left behind. Gordon recalls sharing a double bed with five other children and peering through gaps in the floorboards to the kitchen below.

Despite the hardships, the host family's warmth provided a sense of stability amidst the chaos. They slept with heated bricks wrapped in tea towels to keep warm at night – a makeshift hot water bottle - creating a sense of comfort in their temporary home.



The Little Burstead Times



Your Parish Council News

Gordon's father, ever resourceful, purchased a caravan which they parked in Spaldwick behind the school. The family adapted to their new circumstances, living in the caravan for about a year before moving to a partially ruined mill nearby. The war continued, but life carried on, with children playing amidst the rubble and families finding solace in routine.

Eventually, Gordon's family returned closer to home, settling in Potters Bar. The war was still ongoing, and air raid shelters remained a necessity. Gordon remembers a makeshift shelter in their house, a large table with wire mesh that doubled as a stage for Audrey's tap-dancing.

While out riding their bikes one day, sadly, both Gordon and Audrey witnessed a horrific incident involving a "doodlebug bomb" (a German weapon known for its distinctive "buzzing" sound, officially called a V-1 Flying Bomb). They observed a doodlebug flying over a nearby field, hitting a tree, exploding and reportedly killing 21 people attending a 21st Birthday party.

These early, unmanned, jet-powered missiles were launched at Allied targets, primarily London, from ground sites in France and the Netherlands. The bomb was designed to terrorize civilians, and its engine cutting out before impact created a terrifying silence for those on the ground. Gordon remembers this sequence of events all too vividly.

Shortly afterwards, Gordon and the rest of the family moved to Little Burstead, in what is now Sudbury Farm Bungalow on Tye Common Road. Gordon remembers his mother 'digging for victory', with a garden that provided for the family and others throughout wartime. He also recalls prisoners of war, mainly Italians, being used to dig farm ditches and tracks around Little Burstead, supervised by British military personnel. They would require coffee before they started work, Gordon remembers, as they used to share a taste of their coffee with locals when permitted.



Gordon's story is a testament to the strength and resilience of those who lived through the Second World War. His experiences, though personal, reflect the shared struggles of countless families who faced the uncertainties of conflict. For those who have never lived through such times, Gordon's memories offer a glimpse into the courage and determination required to endure and adapt.

As I listened Gordon's story, I was reminded of the importance of preserving these memories, not just for their historical value but for the lessons they impart about humanity, community and the enduring spirit of those who lived through one of history's most challenging periods.

Gordon's more 'recent history', that of being the village's resident blacksmith at the Forge on Laindon Common Road, is more well known. However, may also make for an interesting article in the next edition of The Times...

JS

The Little Burstead Times

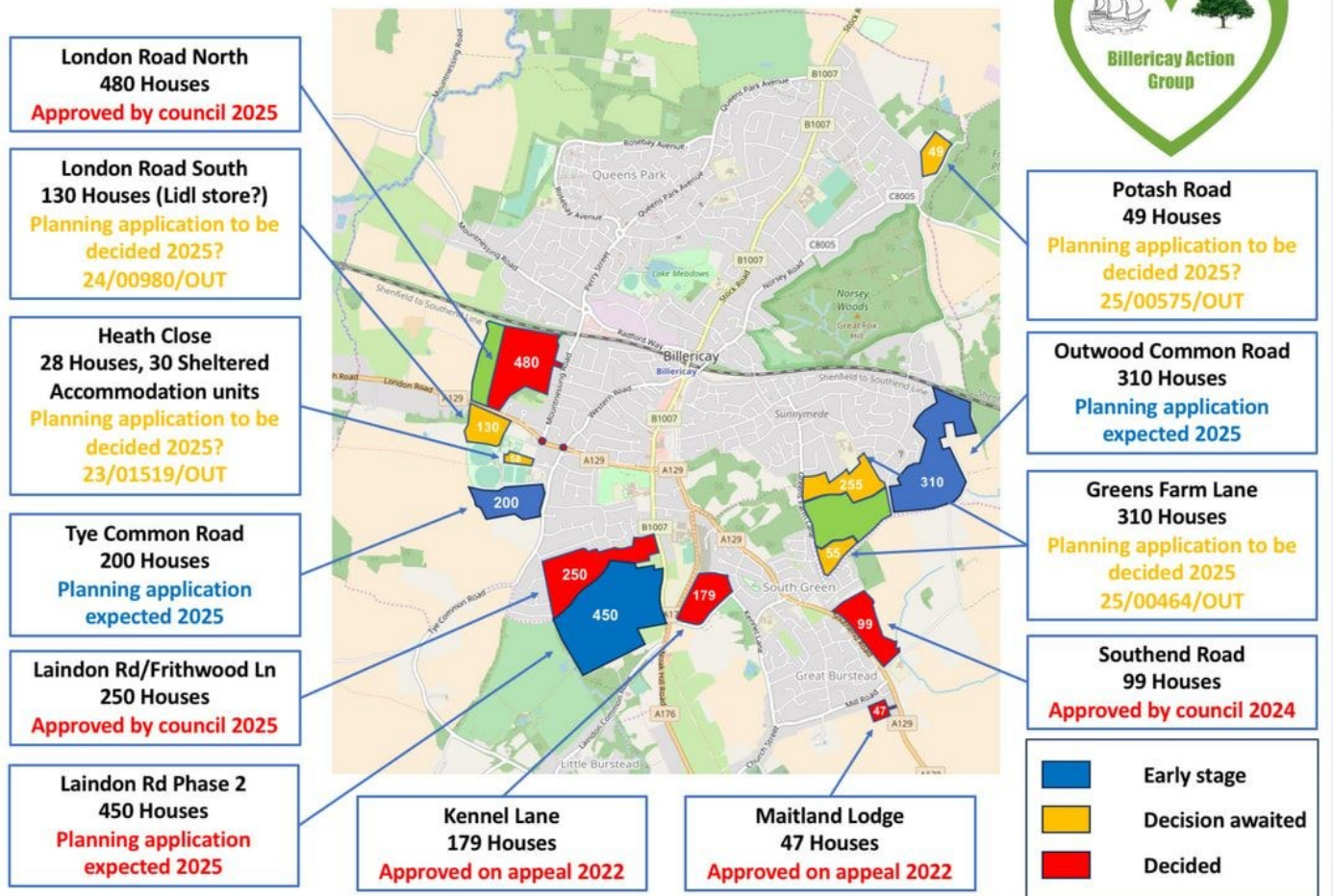


Your Parish Council News

The Big Issue - Local (Over) Development

Little Burstead nestles amidst many traditional Essex farms, or at least it did. We are beginning to feel a bit like General Custer as he gazed at the approaching army of Arapaho warriors and bleat as we may, we know that our village is soon to be swallowed live and kicking as Billericay is merged into Basildon decimating all village life in the middle. This isn't a small local developer providing a few welcome homes for locals, these are the big boys moving in with big budgets and big intentions and we have already seen that their approach is welcomed by Basildon Council having granted permission for hundreds of houses on what was formerly Green belt land.

BILLERICAY NORTH & CENTRE



Take for example the Laindon Road/ Frithwood Lane development for 250 houses which has been allowed and lies on Little Burstead's northern boundary....it wasn't even a year from granting this permission before Gleasons went back for a second bite of the cherry and are now applying for 450 new homes on the land that lies between the newly permitted



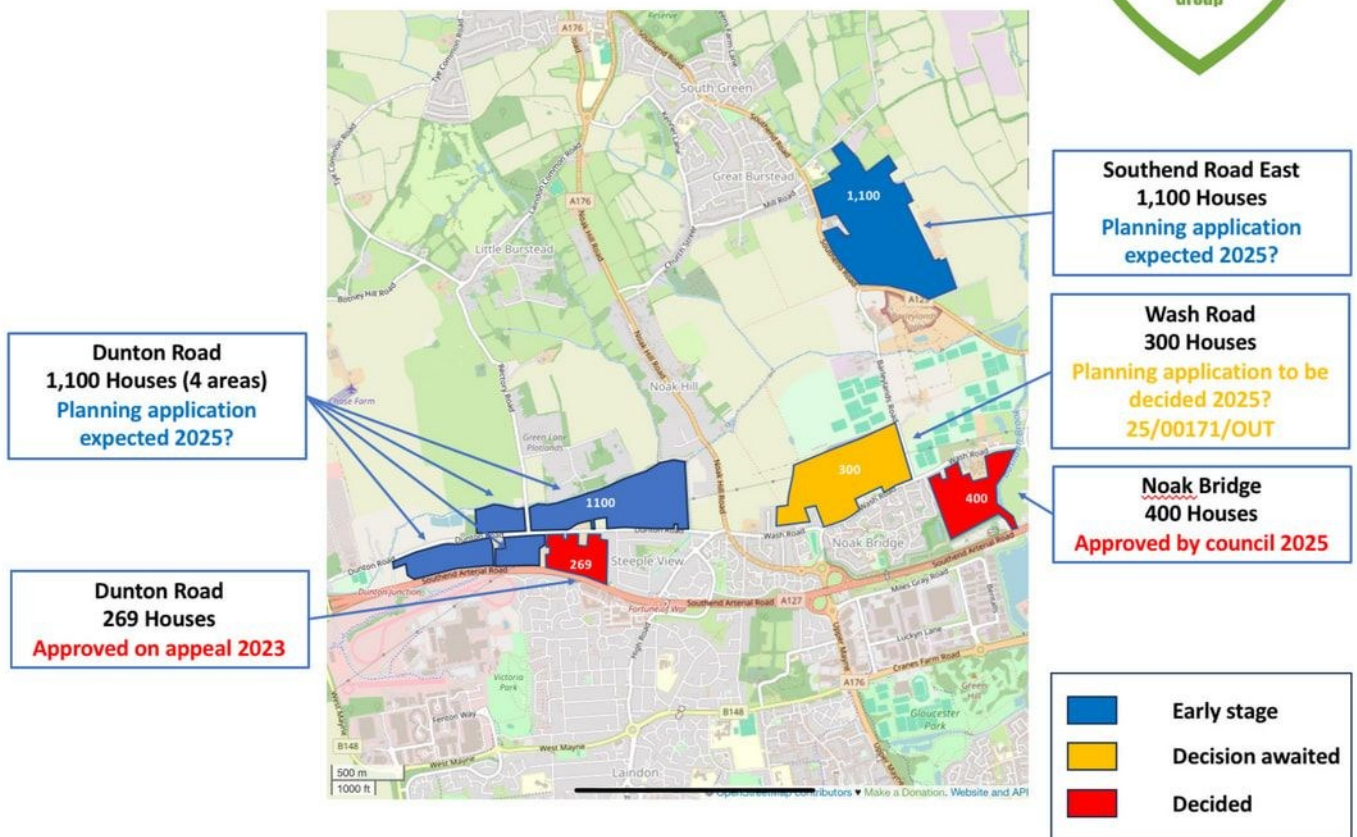
The Little Burstead Times



Your Parish Council News

development and Laidon Common Road. We have invited Gleasons to come and discuss their proposals at an public meeting. Their proposals may feel intimidating, but there's more to come. Bloor Homes kindly came to the Village Hall this

BILLERICAY SOUTH STEEPLE VIEW & NOAK BRIDGE



Summer to present their plans for their Dunton Road development. The site which lies adjacent to the A127 is perhaps more suitable for development than the Gleason's site to our north but, the impact on our village will be severe.

Aside from the additional load placed on local services which are thought by most to be inadequate, how will we cope with the additional vehicle movements that an additional 2000+ homes on our doorstep will create?

More recently, an application has been submitted by Taylor Wimpey for another 175 new homes, we really are surrounded and there would probably be more to the East if it weren't for the new Norwich to Tilbury overhead power line!

If you don't pay attention to the developing Basildon Council Local Plan and you don't make your feeling known and you don't attend public meetings about this when they are arranged, you have only yourselves to blame when you look out of your windows to see cars queuing past your doorstep. For heaven's sake, turn on, turn up and have your say, it's the only power you have!



The Little Burstead Times



Your Parish Council News

Here are the key facts about how the Local Plan process is progressing in Basildon:

Plan scope & scale - The draft Basildon Local Plan aims to provide for 27,111 new homes between 2023-2043. Of those, a large share would require Green Belt land to be released (~16,900 homes).

Affordable housing & other provision - Minimum of 10,420 affordable homes are proposed. Also, provisions for Gypsy & Traveller pitches (235 minimum) and a travelling showpeople yard (13 pitches) are included.

Other land uses - The Plan includes new employment land (65-82 hectares) and other infrastructure – e.g. transport, community infrastructure – to support growth.

Consultation stages - Basildon held a Regulation 18 public consultation on the draft Local Plan (Nov 2024-Jan 2025). Then a second Part 2 of the Regulation 18 consultation on more detailed policy matters (e.g. affordable housing, health, town centre vitality) between March-April 2025.

Timetable / legal status - The Local Development Scheme (LDS) 2024-2026 sets an anticipated adoption timeline of Summer 2026. However, Basildon has been under pressure from the Secretary of State because its timetable slipped, missing earlier deadlines. So far, the Plan has not been submitted for inspection; submission is expected late in 2025 or early 2026.

Key Policy Elements of Relevance

Some of the policies or features that are likely to affect Little Burstead directly or indirectly:

Green Belt Review / Release - Because nearly 17,000 of the proposed new homes require release of land currently designated as Green Belt, there will be boundary changes. Parcels of land formerly protected may be rezoned.

Conservation & Built Heritage - The Local Plan and supporting studies will need to consider conservation areas, historic buildings, and the rural character of villages. Local Conservation Area Management Plans (CAMPs) like Little Burstead's are already in place for preserving character under existing saved policies.

Infrastructure and Community Facilities - To support growth, there are proposals for new community infrastructure and potentially upgraded transport, health, leisure etc. Plan includes employment land, connectivity.

Housing Density and Location Priorities - Although many new homes are to be built on Green Belt, there is also attention to urban areas, brownfield sites, and more sustainable locations. The Plan balances where housing could go.

Implications for Little Burstead if the Plan is Adopted

Green Belt pressure / Loss of protection - High risk of change. Because so much of the housing growth depends on releasing Green Belt, areas like Little Burstead are vulnerable to being re-designated for development. Land near Little Burstead that is selected will lose its Green Belt status, leading to possible housing or infrastructure development.

Change to Local/Parish character - Increased development could encroach on the existing rural, village character. More traffic, more built form, and less separation between Little Burstead and neighbouring settlements may occur. Villages may become more suburbanised.

Increased Infrastructure Demand - When large housing developments occur nearby, there will be more pressure on local services: roads, schools, healthcare, drainage etc. Might bring improvements (if planned properly), but risk of insufficient capacity.

Potential for Investment - On the positive side, if Little Burstead is included within infrastructure planning, improvements in roads, broadband, community facilities might flow. Also possible funding or support for local conservation, environment, recreation areas.

Planning Control Changes / Local Say - With a new Local Plan, the weight of policy shifts. Local saved policies (from 1998) may be superseded. There may be fewer protections unless specifically built into the new plan. Parish councils like Little Burstead's may have limited influence unless they engage in the consultation and lobbying.



VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE NEWS

Winter 2025 Issue 312 Charity No 301311

Little Burstead Village Hall

Another year has slipped by with our Village Hall being the focus of many village events and over the past months we have had "Murder in the Village Hall", film shows, Music in the Meadow, Little Burstead in Bloom open gardens, a calorific overburden of Village Dining including Christmas Dinner, an Easter Egg Hunt and a Scare Crow Competition.

We also lit the beacon several times to commemorate the World War 2 celebrations. Regular weekly events in the hall have included Art Painting and a Chat, Table Tennis, Yoga classes for all ages, with many other regular users including the Women's Institute and National Child Birth Trust.

The Village Hall is often used for private functions, children's parties being very popular. Our Parish Council has regular meetings every second month and occasionally, our local MP holds a surgery. With the help of kind hearted villagers, the Village Hall has this year planted a mix of 2000 Golden Trumpet, King Alfred and Tête à Tête daffodils around the village.



Why not come and join our next Village Hall event?

When visiting the Village Hall, PLEASE park in the Ellis Field opposite "Ashleigh" on Laindon Common Road.

The Village Hall Committee members are:

<u>Chairperson</u>	Roger Savage	cas21savage@gmail.com - 01268 41 65 20
<u>Treasurer</u>	Angela McCoy	aclark2719@aol.com
<u>Hall Bookings</u>	Carol Savage	cas21savage@gmail.com
<u>Secretary</u>	Chris Hutchings	aabodies@aol.com 01268 41 22 15
<u>Committee Members</u>	Jan Ellis	01277 65 71 00
	Sheila Wright	01277 65 85 42
	James Slocombe	jaslocombe@gmail.com
	Simon Hirst	simonhirst1970@outlook.com
	Mandy & Rob Moulton Miller	r1912ram@googlemail.com
<u>Website</u>	littleburstead.com	
<u>Hall telephone</u>	07865 75 37 64	<u>Wifi Password</u> lbvh1234



Events for your Diary

FILM & FOOD CLUB

Join us for an evening of pure joy with home cooked food and a classic film. You can sit back and enjoy a sausage and a cider followed by ice cream and liquors as you watch Sweeney Todd which should be great fun for family and friends on **Saturday, 1st November at 18:30** for a 19:00 start and a bargain at £15 each so book your table now!

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Join us for our annual Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings and raucous fun on **Friday, 5th December at 18:30** for 19:00 start. All the usual fun and the traditional Christmas sing along with our compulsory "On the First Day of Christmas" at the forefront of the cacophony. The cost will be a miniscule £24.50 each and you can book your place now, just contact any team member to register.

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS FAYRE

On **Saturday, 6th December at 10:00** until 14:00 we will hold our annual Craft Fayre in the village hall. Why not book a table now to raise monies for you favourite charity or just make some extra cash for Christmas



Dear friends and neighbours,

We are writing to extend our thanks to each of you who visited and/or opened your garden for the Little Burstead 'Open Gardens' event on Sunday 22 June 2025. Your willingness to open your garden and the hard work making it look so beautiful, contributed to a hugely successful day that was enjoyed by all who attended.

Combined with openings at 1 Brook Cottage and the National Garden Scheme, the village collectively raised £1319.80 for NGS charities and £287.21 for Little Burstead Village Hall. Beyond funds raised for charity, involvement in the open gardens event allows us all to meet with friends; admire their peonies, pansies and periwinkle and helps keep the village looking delightfully pretty, colourful and welcoming to visitors. The care we take with our gardens and our pride at showing them off, is a great example of village community life – a coming together to share our collective efforts and appreciate nature in its blooming glory. All members of the Village Hall committee are very grateful for your participation.

Looking ahead, we invite you to be a part of the next village garden opening, which is scheduled for Saturday 20th June 2026.

Your involvement is what makes the event a success, no matter how big or small your garden, how well-stocked or well-mown it is, we hope that everyone able will consider participating in 2026.

Please contact Janet Ellis (janet.ann.ellis@me.com) or James Slocombe (jaslocombe@gmail.com) .

The Little Burstead Times



Your Parish Council News

St Mary the Virgin

Rectory Road
Little Burstead
Billericay CM12 9TR

billericaychurches.org/smv/index.html

Sunday Services

We meet at 10.30 every Sunday morning for worship. The monthly pattern we follow is:-

- 1st Sunday Holy Communion.
- 2nd Sunday Morning Worship
- 3rd Sunday Holy Communion
- 4th Sunday Morning Worship
- 5th Sunday Team service*

We are part of the Billericay and Little Burstead Team Ministry, and on a 5th Sunday in the month, the service will be at one of the other churches in the Team, usually Emmanuel on Laindon Road or Christ Church on Perry Street.

Who We Are

St. Mary's is to be led by the new Rector, **Chris Arnold** (photo right) whose installation was on 18th March—you can reach him by email at chrisarnold85@gmail.com.

Chris is assisted by:

Associate Priest - Reverend **Margaret Fowler** - 01277 62 38 48 -
margaret.fowler@billericaychurches.org

Verger - **David Bowles** - 01277 65 76 15 - davidbowles670@gmail.com

Church Dates for your Diary

Coffee morning on the 2nd Tuesday in the month 10.00 - 12.00 in the Old School

Next Chapter Bereavement Group - Coffee mornings held on 2nd Saturday in the month at Emmanuel Church Hall, Laindon Road, Billericay CM12 9LD at 10.30 - 12.30.

For further details please contact **Sandra Healy** at smwarden@gmail.com or call on 01268 41 55 54 or 07957 34 80 06.

Please contact Reverend Rupert Hankey with any enquiries you may have.



The Little Burstead Times



Your Parish Council News

Advent Services

at St Mary the Virgin Church, Little Burstead

If you'd like to find out more about the Christian message of Christmas, why not visit your local church this festive season?



7th December – **Communion Service** 10.30am with Arch-Deacon Sue

14th December – meeting at Christchurch, Perry Street to celebrate their 60th Anniversary



14th December – Carols By Candlelight – 6pm



20th December – Christingle Service (with puppet!) – 3pm



21st December – Morning Service – 10:30am



Please check our Church Near You website (<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6189/>) for further details

We look forward to welcoming you to St Mary the Virgin this Christmas and wish you all a very merry and peaceful advent season.

The Breadmaker

Our Lady is a Breadmaker
Come to the House of Bread
Lays her Child in a feeding trough
Such was His lowly bed

And from that town of Bethlehem
The whole world shall be fed

O kneel before His manger
See where He lays His Head
The Maker of the starry skies
Is Christ our Living Bread

From a poem by Rev J.B. Hirst (1933 – 2024)

In the original Hebrew, 'Bethlehem', Jesus' town of birth, is translated as 'House of Bread'.

The Old English word for 'Lady' refers to the female head of the family – literally the one who kneads and makes the bread.

Jesus said: "I am the Bread of Life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry." John 6: 35 (NIV)



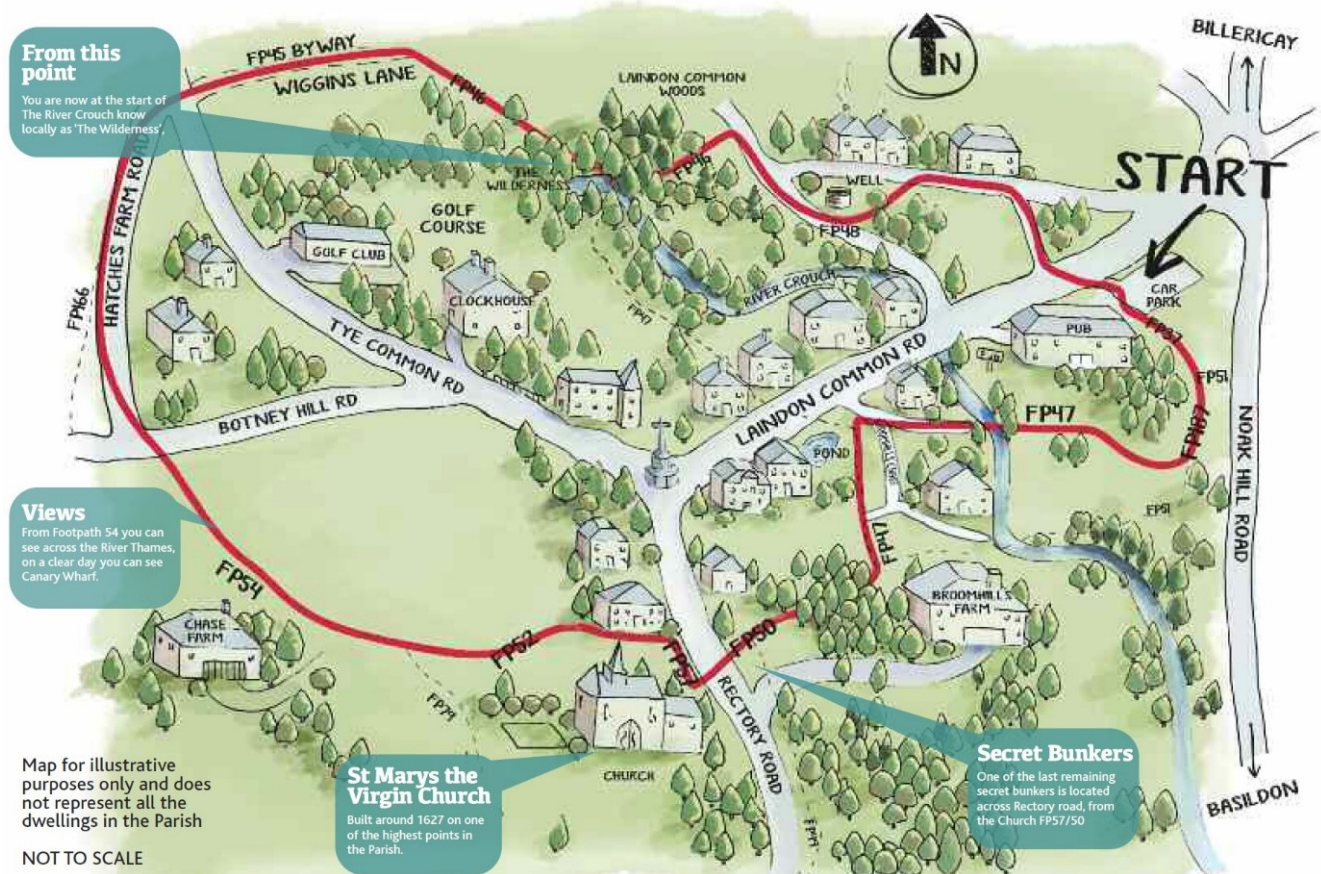
The Little Burstead Times



Your Parish Council News

Little Burstead Circular Walk

Fancy a stroll? If you have about 90 minutes to spare and fancy walking for 6.5km, start at the car park at the Noak Hill end of Laindon Common Road and follow the route highlighted in red below to see the village on foot – you'll love it!



1. From the car park, cross Laindon Common Road, follow the way marker signs turning left towards Laindon Common. By Frith Cottage turn left, then after a short distance turn right onto the grassland, past the Well.
2. Follow the way marker signs towards the woodland of Laindon Common and then join Bridleway 48, turning right.
3. Carry on until a sign to turn left. You will cross a bridge over a stream (the River Crouch) onto Footpath 46 and the Golf Course. The remains of a hedge on the right, rich in plant and animal life, is estimated to be at least 600 years old!
4. Follow on until you cross the stream to the other side of the hedge.
5. Continue until you reach the centre of the Golf Course where there is a lake enclosed by trees (The Wilderness), including rare wildlife.
6. Turn right following the way marker signs across to Wiggins Lane.
7. At the junction with Wiggins Lane, you will notice large Sycamore trees facing you. Once a roadway between Tye Common and Hatches Farm Road, Wiggins Lane is now a green lane used as a bridleway for access to fields.
8. At the end of Wiggins Lane, carefully cross the road, to Little Burstead Common, following the way marker signs. You can now walk down the side of the road or on the verge where possible. Please be careful especially during peak hours as the traffic can be particularly busy. In drier months it may be possible to walk through the Common, but this is usually marshy for much of the year.

The Little Burstead Times



Your Parish Council News

9. At the junction with Botney Hill Road, carefully cross the road and turn left on the verge, then turn right onto Chase Farm (Footpath 52). You'll see a fine view ahead of South Essex.
10. Continue across the fields and over a small bridge, following the way marker signs until you have reached a right turn. At this point you can go either way. Turn right to carry on the footpath or turn left to take a slightly shorter route via a permissive path, and then meet up again with Footpath 52.
11. Following the signs, continue in an easterly direction towards Little Burstead Village past a copse to the right and then up to the South boundary of The Rectory.
12. Upon reaching Rectory Road, turn right walking parallel to the road at the edge of the field Footpath 57.
13. Halfway along this stretch of the route continue either on the footpath, across the corner of field, or take the permissive path along the edge of the field for the final stretch towards St Marys the Virgin Church.
14. From the Church, cross Rectory Road before the corner, taking care to cross safely.
15. Walk through the gap in the hedge, turn right and over the bridge beneath the next hedge. Facing Broomhills Farm, turn left onto Footpath 49 towards Broomhills Chase.
16. Upon reaching Broomhills Chase (private residential estate) turn right, then left, and right again where signposted.
17. Carry on down into a small valley to the River Crouch. Take care the path is rather steep and slippery in wet weather, although there is a handrail. Go across the bridge and up the other bank into the fields.
18. With trees and hedgerow to the right, go on up across until you turn to the left, Footpath 187, behind the gardens of Noak Hill Road properties.
19. Continue following way marker signs into small woodland, with a sports ground to the right.
20. Upon reaching Laindon Common Road turn right taking the natural roadside path to return to the car park.

HERONGATE WOOD WOODLAND CEMETERY & FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Plan ahead and avoid those difficult questions...

- *Have you had the conversation with family members?*
- *Who would you speak to if you needed to make funeral arrangements for a family member?*
- *Does your family know your wishes regarding your funeral?*
- *Have you or your family made any financial provisions regarding your funeral?*

No?...then book a free, no obligation appointment with one of our professional and qualified Funeral Arrangers

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Telephone: - **01277 811064**

Email: enquiries@herongatewood.co.uk

Website: green-burial.co.uk

Herongate Wood, Billericay Road, Brentwood, Essex, CM13 3SE



Part of the Adam & Greenwood Funeral Home Family



The Little Burstead Times



Your Parish Council News

Then and Now



We don't know the date this was taken, but would suggest a little after the second world war?

Below is the same view now; the mature trees behind are long gone and the hedge is much taller, but Hatches House, possibly the oldest in Little Burstead, remains.



The Little Burstead Times



Your Parish Council News

Polka Dot Farm Nursery—Little Burstead’s Newest Asset

Polka Dot Farm Nursery was set up on the site of the old farm shop on Tye Common Road almost two years ago. The nursery was inspected by OFSTED (the regulatory body) in March and achieved the top grading of “Outstanding” across the board in all areas.

Run by Sian Douglas (The Elms, Little Burstead) and Faye O’Rourke (local Billericay resident) the nursery was set up to address the need for children to go “back to basics” with their play. The nursery focuses on its ethos of “Less Screen Time, More Green Time” for the children who attend and there is a huge emphasis on “Old School Childhoods.”

The nursery has huge outdoor spaces for children to safely play and explore and includes an onsite allotment for the children to grow their own food.

Every day, the nursery cares for up to 122 children aged from babies right through to school starters. Spread across six base rooms and seven outside play spaces (including an animal petting area) the site feels spacious and well-thought out.

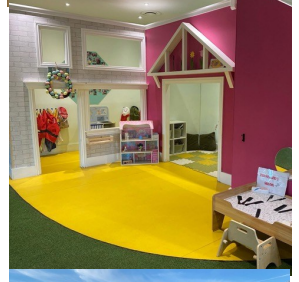
There is a team of 58 staff who are referred to as “the heartbeat of the farm.” They bring energy, patience and creativity to every day. Staff range in age from 17 right up to 75 and everyone brings something unique to the nursery.

This approach has not only been loved by families but also recognised by Ofsted. The nursery was incredibly proud to have been rated ‘Outstanding’ which is a huge achievement for the whole team. It shows the dedication and care that goes into every part of life at Polka Dot Farm.

The feedback from parents online has also been amazing. Looking online (Google reviews) you can see that the nursery regularly receive heartfelt reviews that speak about the warm welcome, the inspiring activities and the happiness of their children.

Polka Dot Farm is a fantastic resource for the Little Burstead community and for the wider community in Billericay. For anyone interested in finding out more, head to the website www.polkadotfarm.co.uk or drop in and have a chat with the team. You will receive a warm welcome.

We are on Tye Common Road, Little Burstead CM12 9SD or call us on 01277 56 34 39.



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Welcome to Little Burstead: A New Resident's Guide

Welcome to Little Burstead! We're delighted to have you as part of our community. This guide is designed to help you settle in and make the most of living in our beautiful parish.

Getting to Know Your Community

Introduce Yourself: - Take a moment to introduce yourself to your neighbours. A friendly “hello” can go a long way in building good relationships.

Local Amenities:

- Village Hall: The heart of community activities, offering various events and meeting spaces and to rent the hall or join in with the events, make contact with Carol Savage at cas21savage@gmail.com.
- Local Shops and Services: Discover the nearby grocery stores, post office, and other essential services – a wide variety of shops are available close to Billericay High Street while Basildon is surrounded by many large supermarkets. However, if you need somewhere to “nip” to quickly with easy parking, why not try South Green? It’s really a handy place to know about.
- Community Groups and Activities:
- Little Burstead Parish Council: Attend council meetings to stay informed and involved in local decisions.
- Clubs and Societies: Join local clubs to meet new people and engage in community life.

Essential Information

1. Waste and Recycling:

- Collection Days: Waste and recycling are collected on specific days. Check the council website at basildon.gov.uk/article/4784/Waste-and-recycling or load the council app “OurStreets – Basildon Council” for your schedule and much more useful information.

- Recycling Centres: The nearest recycling centre is at Barleylands Recycling Centre, Barleylands Road, Billericay CM11 2U. This is free but will only accept recyclable waste and for more general waste, you will need to make an appointment for the Pitsea Recycling Centre, Pitsea Hall Lane, Pitsea, Basildon SS16 4UH.
- The Crunch: Periodically, Basildon Council will send out a waste collection service which normally takes place in the car park at the junction of Laindon Common Road and Noak Hill Road. This is your chance to turn up and drop your rubbish locally but the service is currently under review and may be suspended again.

2. Public Transport: - None, nada, zipo, zilch—if you do not have a car the cadge a lift, walk, ride a bike or call Uber. However, a new bus service is now promised to serve the deluge of new homes that are about to submerge us in commuting traffic as we become the region’s favourite rat run.

- Train Stations:

The nearest train station is in Billericay which offers a good connection to London’s Liverpool Street Station. There is a car park which serves the station, but this is chargeable. Some commuters elect to drive to West Horndon and catch a train to Fenchurch Street which offers savings both in ticket and parking costs.

3. Healthcare: - Local GP Practices: Register with a local GP for healthcare services. The closest medical facilities are listed on the NHS website at nhs.uk/nhs-services/services-near-you/.

Accident and Emergency: - We are fortunate to have Basildon University Hospital at SS16 5NL on our doorstep. This offers a full Accident and Emergency service but it is worth bearing in mind that for minor injuries, a trip to the Minor Injuries Unit in Orsett hospital at RM16 3EU may save a long wait for treatment. find-an-accident-and-emergency-service.



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Check on the best facilities to use at nhs.uk/service-search/find-an-accident-and-emergency-service.

- Defibrillators: Little Burstead has 4 defibrillators at the following locations:

AEC, Unit 3, Carvers Farm, Dunton Road, Little Burstead CM12 9TY

The Burstead Gold Club, Tye Common Road, Little Burstead CM12 9SS

The Dukes Head, Laindon Common Road, Little Burstead CM12 9TA

Little Burstead Village Hall, Laindon Common Road, Little Burstead CM12 9TJ

Locations of defibrillators may change, so it's worth occasionally checking on bhf.org.uk/how-you-can-help/how-to-save-a-life/defibrillators/understanding-defibrillators-what-they-are-and-how-to-use-them for the latest advice and locations.

We hope you never have need of one, but below are the British Heart Foundation instructions—they're well worth reading and at least if you have read them, you will have a small head start in an emergency.

Anyone can use a defibrillator, but you need to phone 999 for the code to open the door and retrieve the unit. You do not need training. Once you turn it on, it will give clear step-by-step voice instructions. Many defibrillators also have visual prompts and images showing how to use them. The device checks the person's heart rhythm and will only tell you to give them a shock if it's needed. You cannot shock yourself or someone else accidentally.

Steps to using a defibrillator

Step 1: Press the green button to switch on the defibrillator and follow the instructions.

Step 2: Remove the person's clothing above the waist. You might have to remove a person's bra by slipping the straps down or cutting it off. Most defibrillator packs have tools like scissors to help you to do this. It might feel odd or embarrassing but do not let that stop you. Remember, this is a life-or-death situation.

Step 3: Peel off the sticky pads and attach them to the person's bare skin. Put one pad on each side of the chest as shown in the picture on the defibrillator.

Step 4: Once you have attached the pads, stop CPR and do not touch the person. The defibrillator will then check the person's heart rhythm.

Step 5: The defibrillator will decide whether a shock is needed. If so, it will tell you to press the 'shock' button. An automatic defibrillator will shock the person without you needing to do anything. Do not touch the person while they're being shocked.

Step 6: The defibrillator will tell you when the shock has been given and whether you need to continue CPR.

Step 7: If the defibrillator tells you to continue to do CPR, continue with chest compressions until the person shows signs of life, or the defibrillator tells you to stop so it can analyse the heartbeat again.

Pharmacies: Find nearby pharmacies for your prescriptions and health needs – again the NHS app will help you find what you need in this respect, please visit nhs.uk/service-search/pharmacy/find-a-pharmacy.

4. Utilities: - Water and Sewerage: Services are provided by Essex & Suffolk Water. Contact them 03457 820111 for new connections or issues.

- Electricity and Gas: Choose from a range of providers. Visit comparison websites to find the best deals.

5. Internet and Communications: - Broadband Providers: Several providers offer services in Little Burstead, but for most of the Parish, County Broadband (01376 562002) appear to be the only supplier of full fibre Broadband. Should County Broadband not be able to serve your property, the only viable alternative presently available appears to be to install a Starlink Satellite system which is available from spacex.com. It may also be possible to obtain Broadband connection through a Satellite service provider such as Sky, but you will need to check availability and choose the best option for your needs. There is also the option of fitting a mobile SIM based unit, but this will only be as good as the mobile signal available at your home although if you have 5G, this is a viable alternative that shouldn't be dismissed without further thought.

- Postal Services: The local post office provides postal and banking services. The main Post Office is at 103C High Street, in Billericay but there's also a service in South Green and at in the convenience store at the junction of Mountnessing Road and Perry Street.

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Community Etiquette

Noise Levels:

- Be mindful of your noise levels, especially during early mornings and late evenings.
- Inform neighbours in advance if you plan to have a party or any event that might be loud.

Parking:

- Park considerately, ensuring that driveways and pathways are not blocked. Follow local parking regulations.

Pet Ownership: - Ensure pets are well-behaved and do not cause a nuisance.

- Are your pets intimidating your neighbours? Dogs especially are territorial and may appear to be aggressive to others in defence of your property.
- Ultimately, you will be responsible for your dog's behaviour and under Section 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, if any dog is dangerously out of control in any place, including all private property, the owner or person for the time being in charge of the dog is guilty of a summary offence - if your dog bites your neighbour, you are the criminal!
- For smaller pets such as cats or dogs, defecation or urination can lead to unwanted smells, especially in hot weather. Please be aware that pets may not appreciate land ownership boundaries and for example, your neighbour may not be pleased to find your dog's excrement deposited neatly in the middle of their lawn. On this subject, which utter morons think it appropriate to pick up their dog's excrement in "poo" bags and then throw the filled bags into hedges and trees? This is plain stupid. So if your dog defecates in a public place, pick it up with a "poo" bag, take it home and dispose of it properly. Nobody has the right to denigrate other people's enjoyment of nature and the countryside just because they are too lazy to behave in a decent and civilised way.
- Noise, again dogs are probably the biggest cause of problems. Dogs will bark to defend you and your property and they tend to perform this task well – sometimes too well and in doing so, do they cause a nuisance to your neighbours?
- Before buying a pet, be confident in your ability to train it properly and if necessary, seek professional help.
- Be aware that exotic pets may require a licence.

Generally

"Do unto others as you would have others do unto you" and by following these guidelines, you can foster positive relationships with your neighbours and contribute to a harmonious living environment.

Getting Involved

1. Volunteer Opportunities: Contribute to the community by volunteering for local projects, events, or the parish council.
2. Community Events: Attend community events such as fairs, markets, and seasonal celebrations to meet residents and enjoy local culture.

Useful Contacts

1. Borough Council Office: Contact Basildon Borough Council for any local governance issues, planning applications, and community services.
2. Emergency Services: Police, Fire, Ambulance: Dial 999 for emergencies. For non-emergencies, contact the local police station.

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3. Local Representatives: - Get in touch with your local councillors for any concerns or to discuss community matters. The Parish Council sits beneath both Basildon Borough (basildon.gov.uk) and Essex County Council (essex.gov.uk).

Your elected Councillors for Basildon Borough Council are:

- Cllr. Andrew Baggott - Andrew.Baggott@members.basildon.gov.uk
- Cllr. Richard Moore - richard.moore@members.basildon.gov.uk
- Cllr. Kevin Blake - kevin.blake@members.basildon.gov.uk

Basildon Borough Council should be contacted for matters relating to:

- Animal Control & Licensing
- Building Control
- Council Tax & Benefits
- Environmental Health
- Housing, Rent & Homelessness
- Planning
- Parking
- Street Scene Services
- Waste & Recycling

Your Essex County Council elected representatives are:

Cllr Anthony Hedley - cllr.anthony.hedley@essex.gov.uk

Dr Richard Moore - cllr.richard.moore@essex.gov.uk

Essex County Council should be contacted on for matters relating to:

- Adult Social Care & Health
- Births, Ceremonies & Deaths
- Business Licences
- Children, Young People & Families
- Heritage, Local History & Archives
- Libraries
- Roads, Streets & Transport
- Trading Standards
- Blue Badge
- Disabled parking bays
- School transport

Please note that both Basildon Borough Council and Essex County Council operate online reporting facilities which they claim, will be much quicker to use than telephoning. Ho hum.

For matters concerning roads, streets and transport such as to report a highways problem, get updates on travel, transport and roadworks, please refer to Essex Highways (essexhighways.org) where you will be able to:

- report or track a problem with a road or pavement
- get live traffic and travel updates
- apply for something including skips and scaffolding licenses, dropped kerbs etc.
- get bus information
- apply for an older or disabled persons bus pass
- pay or challenge a bus lane or gate Penalty Charge Notice (PCN)
- view highway improvement schemes
- get around in Essex
- view a public rights of way map

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You will also find information about:

- Blue Badges
- Disabled parking bays
- School transport
- View highway improvement schemes
- Get around in Essex
- View a public rights of way map

Environmental Stewardship

1. Biodiversity: Participate in local initiatives to protect and enhance our natural environment. Join planting events and support conservation efforts.
2. Sustainable Living: Adopt eco-friendly practices such as recycling, composting, and reducing energy consumption to contribute to a sustainable community.

Conclusion

We hope this guide helps you settle into Little Burstead and enjoy all that our Parish has to offer.

Above all, welcome to the community, and we look forward to getting to know you!

Lastly

- We've done our best to make sure that the contents of the Little Burstead Times are true and correct, but we're human and so please accept, as we do ourselves, that we are capable of making mistakes. If you see something that is wrong, that needs correction, that should be said in addition, that has been omitted—then please say and we will do our utmost to bring it to people's attention in the next issue—reader input is welcome because discussion is healthy!
- If you have any ideas for content or would like to submit a report about personal, group or other activities even if only vaguely associated with Little Burstead, we would love to hear from you.
- If you have any ideas for improvements, big or small, that would make Little Burstead a better place to live, please share them with us.
- If you have knowledge of local history or an old village photographs that might interest others, please send it in.
- If you can spare an evening occasionally to join us and see how Parish Council affairs are run, would love to see you at our regular meetings
- We hope that you now read this article because you have read the whole of this issue to get here and we truly hope that you enjoyed the journey, but even if you didn't and think it could be vastly improved, please give us your feedback, negative or positive, whatever it is—we would really appreciate the guidance this would give us.
- If you are a local business offering local services and would like to advertise in The Times, please contact one of the councillors listed. Our rates are very reasonable since we seek merely to cover the printing costs and additionally, we restrict the number of advertisements to a minimum, we offer our advertisers a degree of exclusivity.

Please send your emails to littlebursteadpc@gmail.com