

The Resident

Billericay District Residents' Association



"Help us to help you"



June 2022



Many of you may know that the Conservatives held control of Basildon Council as a result of the May local ward elections. They retain a majority with 25 seats over the combined Labour and Independents with 17 seats. But what does this mean when it comes to the Local Plan?

Back in March the previous Conservative administration took the bold step to withdraw the proposed new Local Plan, citing issues with large scale Green Belt loss and high rise developments in Basildon town centre as their primary reasons for doing so. We had been consistently calling for the Local Plan to be withdrawn

for the last year so this was seen as a major achievement and a step in the right direction. We still find ourselves in a somewhat uncertain position but we are buoyed by the fact that with the Conservatives in administration they should deliver on their earlier promises to come up with

a better Local Plan, and involve local people more comprehensively and positively in the creation of the plan.

Furthermore, the Government, through Bills proposed in the Queens speech in May, are expected to make some important changes to the planning system which will allow councils to come up with Local Plans based on lower housing targets where valid constraints such as the Green Belt exist. This is crucial and it's important that our councillors heed this as excessive housing numbers have always been at the heart of our bad and damaging Local Plan in the past.

Please be assured that we will continue the fight for a good Local Plan. One that delivers what local people really need, is sustainable with appropriate infrastructure and protects the environment. We will do all we can to influence the new administration and hold councillors and council officers to account with 4 major themes:-

- 1 A housing target that is based on local need not perceived national demand**
- 2 Protecting the existing Green Belt and our irreplaceable open spaces, and recognising such land as a constraint to development**
- 3 Giving housing priority to local people and delivering affordable properties of the right type in the right places**
- 4 Ensuring that infrastructure to support housing is delivered first and completely**

Additionally, we will be insisting that the existing Local Plan continues to be used to inform all planning decisions until the new Local Plan is adopted, and that the current Green Belt is protected in the short term from speculative development.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

SOLAR FARM

The BDRA have submitted their concerns to Basildon Council about the latest Planning Application highlighting the unnecessary development in the Green Belt and a range of other issues including the loss of agricultural land and potential visual impact.

REIDS and The Fold

Members will have seen suggestions in the press about developments of flats at Reids

on Laindon Road and possible implications for the Fold Arts Centre. At present no Planning Application has been submitted to Basildon Council and to the best of our knowledge any changes are far from finalised. Whilst access to The Fold is through the Reids site, the buildings are separate and have different owners. The Fold plays home to over 20 local groups and provides facilities otherwise not available in the town. BDRA will be keeping a close

eye on developments which might affect The Fold and we will bring more news in future editions of The Resident.

Dementia Care Home Pipp's Hill Road North

Plans for a dementia care home on Pipp's Hill Road North in Billericay have been rejected by Basildon Borough Council. Issues following building in a green belt area, a lack of accessibility and highway safety, and noise from the building work were

reportedly cited as reasonable objections to the proposal.

HSBC High Street

Billericay and Basildon's MP John Baron is currently working on a campaign to retain the Billericay HSBC bank branch, following announcements of its closure this year. Mr Baron has been in contact with the Chief Executive of the bank pleading for them to change the decision, and we are awaiting further updates.

Visit the BDRA Website at: www.bdra.org



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**Sunday 17th July from 11.00am to 5.00pm
at the Billericay Town Football Club**

With around 1700 visitors enjoying the sunshine last summer, this year there will be over 50 stands including traditional East End pie & mash, fresh cakes and bakes, artisan jams and sauces, Caribbean, Mexican and Turkish food as well as demos and tastings.

Braintree based The Big Bear Company, Story Valley Spirit, Lava Spirits and Billericay-based Lusus wines will be just some of the many drink companies at the event as well as The Red Lion and The Beauvoir Arms.

Organisers Abby and Jodi wanted to showcase local businesses and are pleased to announce estate agents Stanton Hockett as their new sponsor and also thank Billericay Town FC for its continued support.

Entertainment on the day will include Essex favourite DJ Mark Tracey, Rochford-based magician Doug Roden and a charity football match organised by Stanton Hockett supporting Prostrate UK.

Tickets are £5 on the day – under 12s free or via Eventbrite in advance, £4.50. For more information call **07904 323820**

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Letters...

We've been absolutely delighted with the recent response from our readers to articles and local issues featured in this magazine, and of course your fantastic response to requests for Jubilee and your royal memories.

Please keep your thoughts and ideas coming in – they really bring the Resident to life and makes sure the BDRA committee are aware of your views on local matters.

Many thanks!

Editor



Dear Editor,

When I received my May edition of the Resident this month I wondered if it would be possible to have an option whereby Residents could access the magazine in a digital format, with the additional option for online annual subscription payments? I think that this would be essential in the future if we are to appeal to the younger generation of residents moving into the area. Obviously, hand delivered Magazines may still be preferred by some residents and should, of course certainly continue. I welcome your thoughts!

Kind Regards,

Wendy

Thanks for this suggestion. We currently have a sub-committee looking at our website, social media accessibility and the way this could change going forward. This idea will certainly contribute towards our thinking and we welcome all thoughts from our residents on this issue – do you want on line payment options, digital format options?

Dear Editor,

On receiving 40 copies of the May Resident for distribution I was pleasantly surprised to see the photo on the "Letters page" of Mayflower Morris Men, myself included, dancing in Longrise 45 years ago. It was one of three street parties to which we were invited for the Queen's 25th Jubilee. Also in the photo is our current Squire, Julian Whybra, who was guest speaker at a recent BDRA AGM.

This Jubilee the side are dancing at the **Beacon Ceremony and at South Green Fete**. I am the only founder member (from 1973) who has danced throughout with the side, so looking forward to our 50th anniversary next year.

Tony Gray – Road Rep

Thanks for your recollections Tony, we would love to see you all at the current Platinum Jubilee celebrations so please send us in a photo if you can!

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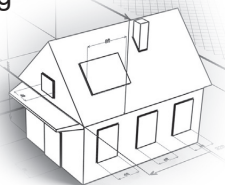
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Leaving a gift to a charity in your will

Charities often rely on gifts made under a deceased's will to keep the charity afloat financially, as most charities do not receive government or lottery funding, and anyone can leave a gift to a charity/charities under their will.

When executing your will, you can leave details of the name, postal address and charity number of the charity/charities that you would like to inherit part of your estate. You can either leave the charity a fixed sum or a percentage of your estate.

What are the inheritance tax implications of leaving your estate to charity?

Did you know that any donation to a charity left under your will, will be taken off the value of your estate before inheritance tax is calculated.

How do you make sure it counts as a charity?

It is always worth double checking that the charity is a registered charity with the Charity Commission, to

ensure that it is a reputable organisation. Their website is <https://www.gov.uk/find-charity-information>

Could a gift cause friction with your family?

Whilst some family members may be fine with you leaving a portion or whole of your estate to a charity, others may not be. If you are thinking about leaving a significant portion of your estate to a charity and not a loved one, then it is important to document this decision, to try and avoid an expensive legal dispute arising after your death.

Can I specify how the charity uses my money?

You can include in your will stipulations as to what your gift is used for, but it is always best to discuss your wishes with the charity directly first.

If you would like to make a will, please contact one of our will specialists, Emma Clarke.

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Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II



Our gardeners have been pleased to create a design on the raised bed in the gardens this summer, which is dedicated to Her Majesty The Queen and the 70 years of loyal service she has given to this country. The majority of us have only ever known one monarch during our lives, although some of us can remember her Coronation in June 1953, when we remember the Queen of Tonga in her open carriage in the rain. Our parents planted red, white and blue flowers in our front gardens and decorated the street with union flags and bunting. How exciting it was to watch the Coronation on one of those tiny black & white TVs; the first television many of us had seen.

That year had begun with a terrible disaster on the night of January 31st. Around midnight a depression moved down the east coast causing a tidal wave that overwhelmed Canvey Island. The boats from Lake

Meadows were evidently taken to Canvey to help evacuate people.

There was a coronation pageant at the park, which had to be postponed a few days due to the inclement

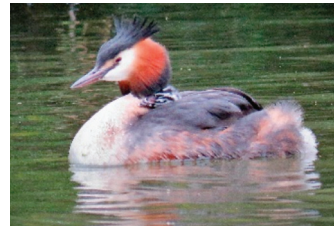
weather. Over 400 people took part with 2,000 watching the spectacle and one group of citizens dressed as characters from previous times.

Even a few years ago, their off-spring would visit each Spring. Recently they have disappeared, to be replaced by a pair of great crested grebes



A number of trees were planted at Lake Meadows for the Coronation and a pair of swans were given to the park

who regularly build their nest and can be seen carrying the young around on their backs.



We are fortunate to see so many different birds and waterfowl living here or visiting the park. As always there are lots of young Canada Geese goslings, Moorhens and Coots.

about this time, who regularly nested at the Perry Street gate corner amongst the water lilies.

To join the Friends of Lake Meadows and to support the work that we do in caring for the park, see www.lakemeadows.org.uk



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Men's Shed launches in Lake Meadows, Billericay



A new Men's Shed has opened within Lake Meadows Park, Billericay to cater for local men who are interested in doing wood work or other crafts for fun within a sociable setting. A short walk from the park café, the Shed will be open every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 10.00am until 1.00pm.

Billericay Men's Shed is part of the Essex Shed Network; a charitable organisation that provides support to Men's Sheds across the county.

Kim Barford, who was involved with the idea of bringing a Men's Shed to Billericay around three years ago, when she brought her father, Ted, to a special 'Shed-lite' session run by the Essex Shed Network for those with dementia or similar. All Kim's hard work and dedication since was recognised with the honour of the cutting of the ribbon to officially open the Shed.

The Shed is open to all local men and those interested are encouraged to contact Billericay Men's Shed via email: billericaymensshed@gmail.com, or come along during the more informal Monday session between 10.00am to 1.00pm and introduce yourself.



LA TOSCANA CLOSURE

We are sad to have to acknowledge the closure of one of Billericay's much loved restaurants La Toscana, following the announcement of the owner Tony's retirement. La Toscana closed its doors for the last time on Billericay High Street on Saturday May 28th.

We know the owners Tony and Suzanne would like to "extend our heartfelt gratitude to all their wonderful customers – past and present – who have supported us through some very difficult and turbulent

years as well as the good ones"

We wish them well in the next part of their lives and thank them for 21 years of delicious food and great service!





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BDRA NEWS



BDRA Chair Vacancy

Despite several articles in the Magazine over the last few months, advising of my retirement as the Chair of the BDRA, we have received no enquiries to date.

The role of Chair is an important part of the Association and I would urge anybody who would like further information, without commitment, to make contact at chairman@bdra.org and I would be happy to talk through my role and also cover the roles of the fantastic committee that work alongside me, it's very much a team effort so please give me a call.

Best wishes

Andy

Street Pastors help out!

In previous issues we have highlighted the disruptions caused to residents in the Outwood Common Road/Greenway area by the cancellation of the No 9 bus route operated by FirstBus. A huge thanks goes out to the Billericay Street Pastors who have kindly agreed to use their minibus to transport a small number of local residents from the areas affected and take them to the High Street.

Road Rep Wanted

We are now advertising another road rep vacancy for a total of approximately 22 members for the area South Ridge / Abbots Ride. Anyone interested in getting involved and looking for a way to get their steps in please contact Mark Hayes on 01277 630170.

New Treasurer and JAC Chair

We are pleased to announce that Keith Bailey, will be the new Chair of the Joint Area Committee and will replace Trevor Leach who steps up as our new Treasurer at the end of July when Peter Sharp retires. We wish them huge success in their new roles.

KFC Litter

Since the opening of the new Billericay KFC branch on the High Street, there have been increasing complaints regarding the litter problems outside of the restaurant. It has been agreed that on behalf of the residents, the BDRA committee will be getting in touch with the East Billericay Area Councillor in order to tackle this issue.

High Street Survey

In 2019 members of the BDRA began logging shops and occupancy on our High St in order to monitor the balance of independent/chain retail shops, food/hospitality venues, salons, banks, agents, offices, residential, council and community services and empty premises. As we would expect, we have seen some closures but happily new businesses have also been opening their doors to Billericay Residents.

You may have seen a High St survey distributed on social media earlier this year, in addition the BDRA has already started preparing our latest survey and to aid in its preparation we would be very interested in hearing your views on the shape of the current or future High St and any particular issues you would like to be addressed in the survey. In this way we can make sure we ask the right questions to ensure we collect data that reflects the rich diversity of our Residents and their interests and preferences.

Please contact us at resident@bdra.org

Great Burstead Church Summer Fete

**Saturday 2nd July 2022 –
11.00am to 4.00pm**

Please join us for our summer fete, a little smaller than in the past yet favourites will be there – the Grand Draw, stalls, tea & cake, BBQ (12.00-2.00pm), music, classic cars and more. It will be CASH ONLY this year.



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Dates for your Diary!



BDRA and Town Council Meetings

- All members welcome. Contact us on resident@bdra.org. Next meeting: 7.30pm at the Reading Rooms on **Thursday 14th July**
- Proposed meetings of the Town Council - Planning - **14th and 28th June**, Full Council **16th June**; Finance & General Purposes **9th June**



Clubs and Societies

- **Billericay Archaeological and Historical Society.** Meetings are held at The Fold, Laindon Road and the next meeting is **Monday 13th June** A Personal History of the London to Brighton Car Rally – Les Smith. Non-Members £2, Raffle £1, refreshments 50p per person.
- **Billericay Flower Arranging Group** meet on the **first Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm for 8pm start** in the W.I. Hall, St. Edith's Lane, Billericay. Visitors welcome at £7 each. Contact Linda Gilbey on 01277 656217 or email ljgilbey@oal.com
- **Billericay Horticultural Society** meet in the Chantry Centre from 8pm-10pm, visitors welcome £3.00. Refreshments available. The next meeting is **Monday 20th June** – Selection and Care of
- **Billericay WEA** meet in The Reading Rooms, 73 High Street **Thursday 23rd June 2.00 - 4.30pm** Thomas Hardy -The Man, His Work and His Wessex, a taster course with Margaret Mills. Fee £12.00 (C2228849). Online course, **Wednesday 6th July 2.00-4.30pm** Who Does Billericay Think It Is? A Billericay Family History Story with Ted Woodgate. Fee £8.00 (C2228851) Contact: enrolonline.wea.uk; phone 0300 303 3464 or Billericay.Branch@wea.ac.uk
- **Brentwood Arts Cinema Club** United Reform Church Hall, New Rd Brentwood (opposite the Library). Films start at 7.30pm. **17th July** Battleship Potemkin. Annual

Membership £42, Guests £6 per film. Contact: bacc.contact@gmail.com

- **Chelmsford & District Welsh Society.** Our annual concert with the Trelawnyd Male Voice Choir and Elin Manahan Thoms takes place in Chelmsford Cathedral on **Saturday 11th June at 7.30pm**. Tickets £17,50 tel: 07724 144432 or email at gwenno.gllwyd@gmail.com
- **Gig in the Garden** takes place at Emmanuel on **Sunday 17th July**. Connor Selby and his band, supported by Joe Slater and up and coming artist Gen Johnson. **Sunday 7th August** The Pantaloons: The War of the Worlds to be held in the Rectory Garden. Contact revpaulcarr@btinternet.com.
- **Gone Too Soon** - Bereavement support group for Parents who have lost a Son or Daughter in any circumstances and if recent or a while ago. Meetings are held at The Chantry Centre, Chantry Way on the **second Monday of each month, starting at 7pm**. The next meeting: **11th July**. Parents are given a warm and friendly welcome in a safe environment, meeting other people Contact Lyn on 07387805406 or e-mail lyn-currie@hotmail.co.uk
- **Norsey Wood Society** – Illustrated talk on **Monday 20th June** at 7.45pm in The Fold, 72 Laindon Road, Sheila Dearn, from Hedgehog Heaven, will present 'Life and Death of a Hedgehog'. Everyone welcome to this free event. Contact: norseywoodsociety.uk or e-mail norseywoodsociety1977@gmail.com
- **Photofold Camera Club** meet at The Chantry Centre, Chantry Way on **Tuesdays 8-10pm**, doors open at 7.30pm. Info at www.photofold.org.uk
- **Probus Retired Men's Club** – Join other retired professional and businessmen at our monthly lunch, usually with a Speaker. Contact Steve on 07817 694980 or stevejk88@outlook.com for more details.

The WI

- **Billericay WI** meets at the WI Hall, St. Edith's Lane **at 2pm on the first and third Wednesday** of each month. Contact 01277 624255.
- **Little Burstead WI** meets on the **second Thursday of the month from 2pm-4pm** at Little Burstead Village Hall. Contact 01268 491396

- **South Green WI** meet on the **third Thursday of the month** at South Green Memorial Hall, Southend Road. CM11 2PR. Contact 01277 652739
- **South Green Thursday Club** (For the over 60s). Held **every Thursday 1.15pm-3.30pm** at South Green Memorial Hall. Contact Albert 01277 624897
- **Venturers' Bridge Club** – Venturers' Bridge Club meets **on Thursdays 1.15pm** at Hannakins Farm, Rosebay Avenue for social bridge in a friendly environment. £4.00 per session. Contact graham@forsythe.co.uk



Fundraising Events

- **Remus Sanctuary 12th June starts at 11am** – Online Auction via Remus Facebook Page **13th June at 2.15pm** Afternoon Tea at the Sanctuary. Cost £20 per person. **3rd July 1pm-5pm** Open Day and Dog Show. Booking essential. Visit www.remussanctuary.org/events for more information



Fitness and Sport

- **Billericay parkrun** – **Every Saturday 8.45am** at Lake Meadows, parkrun provides a free, timed 5k run, jog or walk for all standards from 4years+ Visit www.parkrun.org.uk/billericay or visit our Facebook page.
- **Lake Meadows junior parkrun** – **Every Sunday at 8.45am** at Lake Meadows, parkrun provides a free, timed 2k run, jog or walk for all standards from 4-14 years. Visit www.parkrun.org.uk/lakemeadows-juniors/ or visit our Facebook page: Lake Meadows junior parkrun
- **Billericay Town Walking Football** – Football for the over 50s. We train at Billericay Town on **Mondays 8pm-9.30pm** and **Thursdays 10am-12pm** - £5 per session. E-mail Bill at btfcwf@gmail.com

To advertise your event here, please email resident@bdra

Deadline for the next issue is 10th May for events taking place between 10th June and 9th July 2022.

