

SUMMER 2021

BASILDON

OUR BOROUGH





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CONTACT US

Basildon Our Borough is produced by the Communications Team at Basildon Council. It is published four times a year and delivered free to almost 80,000 homes across the borough.

Do you have a story about the community or information about an event which you would like to be considered for inclusion in a future edition of the magazine?

Or, for advertising enquires email - jude.mason@basildon.gov.uk

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USEFUL INFORMATION



SAMARITANS
Telephone: 116123
(free from any phone)

COMPASS 24/7 DOMESTIC ABUSE HELPLINE
Telephone: 0330 333 7444

STREETLINK
If you find someone sleeping rough, report to Streetlink:
www.streetlink.org.uk
Telephone: 0300 500 0914
(24 hour)

NHS MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS LINE
Call 111, select option 2
24 hours a day, 365 days a year

ONLINE SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
Kooth - online mental wellbeing support. Free and anonymous, 365 days a year. www.kooth.com

NHS 111
Call 111 or go to 111.nhs.uk
They can help if you have an urgent medical problem and you are not sure what to do

WELCOME

Welcome to the latest edition of your council's magazine. You can see from the contents page that this issue is all about making changes. And while we focus on making small changes that can make a big impact on tackling the climate change emergency, we are also about making big changes.

This new administration will make changes that you will see day to day. We will change how this council is run, we will change our relationship with Essex County Council and we will change the plans for the town centre. We will listen to you and your ideas. After all, we are here to deliver on your priorities.

We all know that the town centre has to change. High Streets around the country have been destroyed by the pandemic and we have had

to say goodbye to some well-loved brands. But we are not going to accept that this comes at any cost. You told us that the proposals for the town centre were not what you wanted to see and we have listened. We have started a new consultation and we will take feedback on what you want to say, however you want to say it.

There are up and coming Meet the Leader events across the borough that I will be attending. Please come along to discuss any feedback you have. For dates and locations, please visit the website www.basildon.gov.uk or follow my Facebook page for updates. First event - 29 June, 18:30, Billericay Town Council.

Email: leader@basildon.gov.uk or message me on my Facebook page @Cllr Andrew Baggott - Leader of Basildon Council.

Councillor Andrew Baggott
Leader of Basildon Council



"It's time for changes small and large that will make an impact."



To ensure that the Basildon town centre regeneration reflects the views of all residents, across the whole borough, we are asking for your views on what's most important to you about the future of Basildon. We want to find out what your priorities are for the town centre - what you would like to see in Basildon, along with your views on how we address important issues like housing, transport, culture, leisure, shopping and the environment. Please visit: www.basildon.gov.uk/town-centre-engagement to complete the survey, alternatively one of our customer service advisers will happily listen to all your comments and complete this early engagement consultation.



www.basildon.gov.uk/town-centre-engagement

CALL 01268 533333

BOROUGH VACCINATION CENTRES A HUGE SUCCESS

Thank you to the fantastic NHS staff and the many volunteers who have worked tremendously hard across the borough to support the rollout of the coronavirus vaccines.

Our council buildings; The George Hurd Centre and the Towngate Theatre have both been used as vaccination centres, with their staff being redeployed to support the delivery of the programme.

Simon Scott-Pearce, Towngate Theatre Manager, said: "It's been extremely rewarding for the entire Towngate Team to be involved in the vaccination programme, and the NHS' efforts to save lives. It's been an amazing team effort and thank you to all the residents who have come through the doors so far."



EVERYONE ACTIVE LEISURE CENTRES GET COMPLETE FACILITIES UPGRADE



Everyone Active facilities in our borough have undergone a full-scale revamp to improve the leisure experience for our residents.

Basildon Sporting Village, Eversley Leisure Centre, and Wickford Swim and Fitness Centre have all benefitted from the makeovers, with a total replacement of gym equipment, fitness suites, new changing and shower facilities, and a new look and feel to the spaces.

The one-million-pound investment means new equipment has now been added on top of the existing offering, including Wattbikes, plate loaded resistance kit, Olympic Power Rack, a squat rack and Scott Bench. The flooring and signage have also been replaced at all three centres.

With the aid of newly fitted technology, all three centres have now added virtual classes to their group exercise offering to allow for more classes and spaces.

Shaun Beagle, Contract Manager at Everyone Active, said: "After a tough year, we're so pleased to be able to offer residents an extra incentive to get active again. What's more, we are also adding virtual classes to our group cycling and group exercise programmes."

Chairman of the Leisure and Environment Committee, Councillor Craig Rimmer, said: "These three centres are fantastic facilities for our borough, and these improvements will only make the experience of visiting them even better for our residents."

YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS WIN NATIONAL AWARD FOR LEADING CHANGE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

Young people aged 10-15 from the Basildon borough and South Essex, have won a National Award for their community work as part of the EmpowHER project, delivered by Essex Youth Service in partnership with UKYouth and the British Red Cross.

The EmpowHER project helps young women and girls lead change in their communities, increase their self-esteem and increase wellbeing by providing inclusive and meaningful social action opportunities.

The group won an award at the National EmpowHER celebration for two projects they chose themselves, Autism Sensory bags for children and young people that were distributed to the SNAP Charity and through the Essex Young Carers Service. They also donated items for the homeless including sleeping bags, toiletries and food.

Olivia Dolby from Wickford also won a Peer Support Award for the autism sensory bag project. Olivia said "I really enjoyed working with all the girls on the autism project. It felt good to be part of a team during lockdown and to see everyone enjoying it. It made me have more confidence in socialising with other girls that I didn't know. I was so pleased and proud to have won the Peer Support Award as I worked hard and encouraged everyone to have fun."



BASILDON TOWN CENTRE EARLY ENGAGEMENT CONSULTATION

Basildon Council would like residents' views on what they want to see for the future of Basildon town centre.

The detailed questions cover a number of areas, including acceptable building heights; future social and cultural offerings; and what types of housing residents would want among a list of other questions.

The results of the questions will support in the development of a new regeneration strategy for Basildon Town Centre. The new strategy will be formally consulted on after it has been approved at committee.

Leader of Basildon Council, Councillor Andrew Baggott, said: "We know how strong residents' views are on the future of Basildon town centre, and that's why we've launched this comprehensive early engagement consultation so the people of Basildon can have their voices heard. We want to ensure that we get the right balance of the things that matter most to our residents, so that in the long term the town centre is a thriving asset that our residents can be proud of.

"This isn't going to be hidden, we want everyone to complete it, and share it, so that as many residents as possible can take part and share their views."

Chairman of the Regeneration and Economic Development Committee, Councillor Anthony Hedley, added: "We recognise that changes need to happen in the town centre, and residents' views are extremely important in this process. We want to start a conversation to help us better understand residents' expectations and how they would approach some of the challenges we face in redesigning Basildon town centre. Your views are crucial in helping us shape the Basildon town centre of the future."

The early engagement consultation is available for residents to complete online at: www.basildon.gov.uk/town-centre-engagement or via phone by calling our Customer Services team on 01268 533333.

The consultation closes on 7 July 2021.

NEWS



NEW HIGH STREET MARKET LAUNCH A SUCCESS FOR WICKFORD

The new Wickford Market launched successfully on Saturday 8 May, and to support its opening the high street will be closed to traffic on Saturdays for a trial period.

In its new location on the main Wickford High Street, the market features up to 20 traders with a wide variety of stalls including a fishmonger, artisan bread bakery and fashion.

The market is open every Saturday between the hours of 8am - 4pm, with the high street being pedestrianised and closed to traffic every Saturday on a six-month trial period between 5am - 6pm.

Despite the rainy weather footfall in the opening weekends was very promising, and with it improving its hoped the number of visitors each weekend will increase further.

Chairman of the Regeneration and Economic Development Committee Councillor Tony Hedley, said: "The council has previously undertaken extensive surveying into the moving of the market, and the pedestrianisation of the high street, and in the over 400 responses received both initiatives were overwhelmingly supported by both the businesses and the residents of Wickford.

"It is important that the high street is revitalised to ensure that Wickford is sustainable as a retail and leisure location. This new market, with the pedestrianisation, is hoped will generate additional footfall and create opportunities for local people."

Wickford Market Operator, Trevor Day added: "Wickford has been a market town for years and the market is a great opportunity for the whole community and shops to help revive the high street and bring people back to the town."



BASILDON COUNCIL TO CREATE FIVE REMEMBRANCE TREE CIRCLES ACROSS THE BOROUGH

Basildon Council is working to introduce five community orchard blossom tree circles in separate areas across the borough.

Each area will be a circle of remembrance, to honour those lost to Covid-19 and generally within our local communities. The trees will be funded via a crowdfunding campaign, of which the details will be released soon.

The decision to create the tree circles was agreed by councillors during the Neighbourhoods and Public Spaces Committee meeting back in February 2021.

Councillor David Dadds, Mayor of Basildon, said:

“These areas will be lovely places for people to go where they can pay their respects to lost residents within each local community.

“The crowdfunding element will give residents a real sense of community ownership, that the trees really belong to each area.

“We are on a drive to plant as many trees as we can to improve biodiversity across the borough, and these will add to those statistics, but in a very poignant way.”



RAISING AWARENESS OF THE RISKS OF EXPLOITATION

The Safer Basildon Partnership, funded by the Essex Violence & Vulnerability Unit, has delivered a series of workshops to over 1300 pupils across the borough focusing on the impact of exploitation and the harms caused by serious violence.

The workshops were delivered virtually across six secondary schools in the borough, with the focus on educating and supporting Year 7 pupils to make positive choices.

Three main topics were explored during the sessions: serious youth violence – highlighting the risks of gangs and criminal exploitation; healthy relationships and talking to a trusted adult; and online safety - encompassing social media, grooming, and advice on managing personal safety.

Alongside these sessions for pupils, an online virtual exploitation event was also attended by nearly 200 parents and carers of school age children, with 91% of parents attending the sessions rating them good/excellent.

Chair of Safer Basildon, Scott Logan, said: “These virtual events have been really well received by both the participating schools and the parents of the children.

“I really hope that these fantastic educational sessions make a difference, and the increased awareness within the community will work towards preventing young people in our borough becoming victims.”

For the latest Safer Basildon news and events, sign up for their newsletter at www.basildon.gov.uk/keepintouch

UPGRADES FOR ‘OUR STREETS’ WASTE AND RECYCLING APP

The app, available on both android and IOS devices, provides residents with a personalised experience, and users are able to easily access information on their next collection or get informed about ways they can dispose of waste and recycling items within the borough.

Residents can receive live information about any service issues and can request online services including ordering additional pink sacks, reporting dumped rubbish or a missed collection at their property.

Notifications are a new feature and were requested through resident feedback. Users can choose from three different notifications, including a notification the day before a collection is due to remind residents to put items out by 7.30am the next day.

Another new feature introduces a new way to make a request for additional pink sacks. Residents can order pink sacks to their property with a simple click and swipe right on the home screen.

Residents with an android device can download the app from the Google Play Store at play.google.com/store or via the App Store on iPhone apps. apple.com

HELP MAKE WICKFORD SAFER, GREENER AND HEALTHIER

Walking and cycling should be so easy, straightforward and fun that it becomes the automatic choice for getting around, especially for shorter journeys.

Working with Basildon Council and local community and accessibility groups, Essex County Council is consulting on plans to re-allocate road space to make more room for everybody to safely walk and cycle in Wickford.

The proposals are centred around Nevendon Road, a busy route through the town but is also the main access serving several local schools in what is a largely residential area.

The proposals include creating a new 'liveable neighbourhood' in this area which will help make it easier and safer to walk and cycle, while enjoying a more pleasant street and public realm as a result of fewer cars, with various measures used to prevent residential streets being used as shortcuts, car parks and rat-runs.

Within the Nevendon Road area, Elder Avenue, Grange Avenue, North Crescent, Oakhurst Drive and Bromford's Drive will all be designated as School Streets. At the entrance to each of these areas, Essex County Council are proposing to introduce traffic calming raised tables. These are sections which bring up the road to the height of the pavement, slowing vehicles and providing easier crossing points for pedestrians.

Tell us what you think about our proposals. **Visit www.essexhighways.org/safer-greener-healthier/active-travel-essex and click on the Wickford button. The consultation will run until Friday 2 July.**

Hard copies are available on request - please ring 0345 743 0430.

NEWS



“As part of our small changes, big impact climate change campaign we are encouraging our residents to think about the carbon emissions they produce. Walking and cycling as an alternative to car travel is a great way to improve health as well as have a big impact on the environment.”

Councillor Craig Rimmer Chairman of the Leisure and Environment Committee

SKATE PARK RECEIVES FULL REVAMP

Gloucester Park's skate park has undergone a full-scale revamp, to improve the quality of equipment and build a skate park to last for years to come.

The new skate park is designed to cater for all types of rider and will include many different features, including multiple quarter pipes, four sets of stairs and a multitude of other exciting and varied equipment.

Councillor Andrew Baggott, Leader of the Council, said: “Gloucester's skate park is extremely popular with the community, but it has required a number of running repairs over many years and the rate of these repairs was increasing. We wanted to improve its offering for our borough's young people.

“We have replaced the old structure with a concrete version, which will make it more robust, reduce ongoing maintenance costs, improve safety and make it a quieter structure.

“The new skate park will stand as a real community hub for our borough's adventurous young people and will be a state-of-the-art facility that residents and us as a council can be really proud of.”

Works started back in March and the new skate park was opened to the public at the end of May 2021.





SMALL CHANGES BIG IMPACT

There is a climate change emergency and Basildon Council is answering the call to take action and needs everyone in the borough to do their bit too.

The council cannot achieve its climate ambition alone. Only about 2% of the borough's emissions are in its direct control. For the rest, the council is reliant on the choices and actions of individuals, organisations, and businesses. Among other things, people need to buy and sell sustainable goods and services, to create less waste, to switch to low carbon energy, and to stop using petrol and diesel vehicles by moving towards sustainable modes of transport.

The council is leading from the front with a pledge to become a carbon net zero authority by 2030 by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from council activities.

Swapping gas-guzzling petrol and diesel vehicles for electric alternatives, replacing gas boilers in its buildings and council homes for electric ones and planting thousands of trees are just some of the ways the council is trying to turn the tide on climate change.

The council has prioritised doing all it can to help the whole borough meet the target of becoming carbon net zero by 2050.

The council has also launched its Small Changes, Big Impact campaign to highlight its plans and how residents can do their bit.

The council has secured £635,828 of grant funding to decarbonise the Basildon Centre this year.

Towards the end of 2021 it will also carry out further projects to decarbonise the Basildon Sporting Village and Wickford Swimming pool. There will be a host of new grant funding opportunities that Basildon will tap into to ensure that it can continue to deliver on our climate change programme.

The council is also in the process of collating data from across all its services, such as waste, transport and council energy usage. This data will enable the authority to set a comprehensive baseline to identify areas for improvement and to monitor performance going forward.

CHANGING OUR WASTE SERVICES TO REDUCE EMISSIONS

Basildon is currently developing a new waste strategy with climate change in mind.

Electric food and garden waste vehicles are currently on order and route optimisation technology will enable journeys to be planned more efficiently reducing the miles covered by these vehicles.

Work is already underway with regards to LED street lighting, and possible funding streams to support its implementation.

This year the council took delivery of two Nissan ENV200 electric vans (pictured), which are already being used by the Parks and Countryside Team around the borough.



"We must encourage all sectors in the borough to do everything in their power to reduce the impacts of climate change, to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and to make public their commitment to action. As a local authority we have a big role to play in influencing government on measures that help address the local impact of climate change."

Councillor Baggott
Leader of the Council





SMALL CHANGES BIG IMPACT

ECO-FRIENDLY WAYS OF GETTING AROUND

The use of petrol and diesel vehicles in the borough makes up approximately 19% of Basildon's emissions.

Cars produce more carbon emissions than all other modes of transport put together.

Around 1,000 vehicles registered in Basildon are ultra-low emission (approximately 1.2% of the total number of vehicles), and over 190 charge points have been installed in public spaces.

WE HAVE A VISION FOR OUR BOROUGH

At 23% Basildon has one of the highest proportions of tree canopy cover in the country and is above the national average.

The growth of vegetation and trees in the borough captures a small fraction (0.1%) of Basildon's emissions each year. Trees can play an important role in climate adaptation, absorbing air pollution emissions and providing wildlife habitats.

People in the borough will be healthier as a result of more active travel and cleaner air.

Walking and cycling will be easier and the first choice for most local journeys. Fewer are likely to own cars and all vehicles will be electric. Many neighbourhoods and town centres will be car free. Public transport will be clean and provide an excellent and accessible service.

OUR VISION FOR BUILDINGS AND ENERGY

Energy used to heat and power buildings in the borough makes up around 81% of carbon emissions in Basildon.

The amount of energy consumed is influenced by the efficiency of our buildings and homes. Well under half of the 76,120 homes in Basildon are not yet efficient enough to make the necessary move away from natural gas central heating to low carbon alternatives. Electricity and gas used in non-residential buildings make up around 34% of emissions.

Residents and businesses will have much lower energy bills because homes will be more energy efficient and will store and generate low carbon energy. Natural gas heating will be replaced with low carbon alternatives. All new developments will be net-zero carbon, sustainable and adapted to the effects of climate change.



OUR VISION FOR A GREEN BASILDON

By 2050 the borough will have more trees and vegetation for people to enjoy. Town centres and residential areas will feel cooler, be less prone to flooding and have cleaner air.

Communities will feel more ownership of public green spaces, more connected to nature and have an improved sense of wellbeing.

The council is aiming to increase tree cover by 10% by 2050, potentially equivalent to planting around 800 trees every year to 2050. The main opportunities to plant trees are likely to be on private land such as gardens, which hold around two thirds of the trees in Basildon.

The council will plant new trees on public land and council-managed green spaces, and take opportunities to introduce sustainable drainage systems and green verges.



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO MINIMISE YOUR CARBON IMPACT?

SMALL CHANGES
BIG IMPACT

By 2050 all homes must be highly energy efficient to reduce the amount of energy used and here are some of the ways you can start to reduce carbon emissions from your home.

BOILER REPLACEMENT OR REPAIR

Heating accounts for around 60% of what you spend in a year on energy bills. Depending on your boiler's age, a shiny new efficient one could save you up to £315 a year.

CAVITY WALL INSULATION

Most homes built between 1920 and 1990 have a gap between internal and external walls. Filling the cavity with insulating mineral wool and foam means cold air is kept out, and warm air stays in, which can save an average three-bedroom home up to £255 per year. It's not for everyone, so make sure it's appropriate for your home first.

LOFT INSULATION

Up to a quarter of your home's heat escapes via the roof, but you can solve this by laying mineral wool under the rafters, saving up to £225 a year.

THE WARM HOME DISCOUNT SCHEME

This scheme requires suppliers, by law, to help people in the UK who receive pension credit or are on a low income, pay for their energy. The £140 rebate is applied directly to your electricity bill, between September and March.

There is a support helpline, or if you've not received your letter. Call 0800 731 0214.

SOLAR PANELS

Solar panels convert energy from the sun into electricity. Battery storage on a typical property can reduce energy bills, save several tonnes of carbon emissions and enable the production of around 94GWh per year of local, flexible electricity supply. The Energy Saving Trust estimates a typical system can knock between £90 and £240 off a household bill per year depending on the system and electrical demands of each household.

For more information visit www.basildon.gov.uk/climate



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**LOVE
ESSEX**



BIG BUSINESSES LEAD THE WAY

Climate change is an issue that affects us all. But we all have the power to do something about it. We checked in with two of the borough's biggest businesses to see how they are adapting to reduce emissions and make their products and facilities more sustainable.

LEONARDO

Aerospace engineering company Leonardo employs over 1000 highly skilled people at its site at Christopher Martin Road in Basildon and is committed to reducing its carbon footprint through a range of carefully selected initiatives. Over the past year alone, Leonardo in Basildon has achieved a 9% reduction in carbon related to the generation of electricity and the business recently rolled out the installation of new Electric Vehicle charging points at its site. And the company's Basildon-produced thermal imaging camera helps us understand more about our impact on the planet, used by the BBC in the iconic Planet Earth 2 and Springwatch series.

The Company's responsible working methods extend to their agreement with Xerox Print who have already planted 1,891 trees on behalf of Leonardo. The Basildon business continues to work closely with their energy manager, with sub-metering reviews to support their ongoing analysis of energy usage.

Andy Brown, Sustainability Ambassador for Leonardo UK said: "Leonardo is the leading company from the Aerospace and Defence Sector within the Dow Jones Sustainability Index for the second year running and our commitment to finding sustainable solutions extends beyond the walls of our Basildon business to our supply chain right across the UK."



"We continue to work hard to measure, manage and reduce our carbon footprint, and to play our own part in the fight against climate change."

Andy Brown
Sustainability Ambassador for Leonardo UK

The Basildon built award-winning New Holland T6 Methane Power Tractor launched in 2019. It is the world's first 100% methane-powered production tractor, meeting green credentials with a dramatic reduction in Particulate Matter (PM), Nitrous Oxides (NOX) and other harmful gases. This results in an overall saving of 80% emissions polluting the atmosphere compared to current diesel models. The tractor is powered by biomethane, allowing farmers to make use of agricultural or animal waste. Refilling can also be performed directly from the gas grid network or at specific biomethane stations.

With a continuous focus on sustainability the New Holland plant has undertaken several green initiatives recently including:

- 'Trees are the roots of the future' a CNH Industrial European initiative which has seen 40 new trees planted on the New Holland site
- Working in partnership with The Essex Wildlife Trust and local schools through a series of 'Plasticology' workshops which look at the impact of producing too much plastic and how to eliminate it through upcycling etc
- Supporting the solitary Mason bee by placing several nesting boxes around the site. These bees are extraordinary pollinators with just 250 females able to pollinate an acre of fruit trees and are believed to be more efficient than honeybees.

CNH Basildon have reduced energy consumption by 20% through various projects and initiatives raised over the last five years. CNH Industrial is the leader in the Machinery and Electrical Equipment Industry Group in the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices, World and Europe, for the tenth consecutive year. <https://bit.ly/3goHVZA>



SMALL BUSINESSES PRIORITISE CLIMATE CHANGE

MEET MILK & MORE

Milk & More is committed to helping its customers reduce plastic waste and play their part in caring for the environment. 97% of everything it sells comes in packaging that is reusable, recyclable or compostable, including the iconic glass milk bottle - collected, cleaned and reused on average 25 times.

Alongside fresh British milk, Milk & More offers a wide range of premium food and drink from artisan producers across the country - from organic breakfast cereals and yoghurts to fresh organic fruit and veg - all delivered before 7am. Milk & More also has eco-friendly household products, including cleaning products, toiletries and even food for the birds.

Milk & More saved 1,631 tonnes of plastic in 2020 by switching more of its milk and juice range into glass bottles and saved a further 3,800 tonnes of CO2 from only using renewable electricity. Additionally, with one of the largest fleets of electric vehicles in the country, Milk & More saved 3.4 million litres of diesel last year.

Deliveries include Basildon, Billericay, Laindon, Wickford and Pitsea.

To sign up, please visit www.milkandmore.co.uk

"Basildon is full of amazing local businesses who have put real thought into how to make themselves more sustainably viable. It is really encouraging to see how we are all working towards net-zero carbon emissions in the borough by 2050."

Councillor Terri Sargent, Communities and Wellbeing Committee



THE MAGIC MUSHROOM'S CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITMENT

Darren Bennett, owner of The Magic Mushroom Restaurant at Barleylands, offers freshly cooked food from contemporary menus with a traditional influence for lunch, dinner, and afternoon tea.

For the past 25 years, Darren's Billericay based restaurant supports not only the local community but also local businesses for his fresh produce and services such as the laundry of linen. Darren says, "We are extremely lucky to have fantastic suppliers and distributors in and around Essex for our fresh produce - great when streamlining deliveries. We ensure that our menus are seasonal, and include vegetarian and vegan options. Catering for specific dietary requirements is one of the reasons our clients love coming back and something that we are enormously proud of."

A new initiative, 'The Magic Mushroom Garden' is where they will grow their own fruit, vegetables, and herbs used in the menus to further reduce the number of miles on the planet of the produce used. Staff also feel encouraged to think about sustainability when they go home, giving them a sense of pride of being part of a team that is making a difference.

www.magicmushroomrestaurant.co.uk



HOW BARLEYLANDS TEA ROOM ARE COMBATTING CLIMATE CHANGE

Surrounded by the scenic greenery of Barleylands farm, the backdrop is key to Tiptree tea room's charm. It makes sense that the business is acting against climate change and protecting the environment.

If you have visited the tearoom, you have probably seen the shelves stocked with jams and spreads, ready to take home and host your own afternoon tea. Pouring these products into glass jars, made largely from recycled glass, is one way Tiptree tea room is reducing plastic use.

After emptying the jar, customers can upcycle them as quirky makeup holders, loose change jars or seasoning pots!

Also, Tiptree tea room has reduced the amount of plastic used for takeaway orders. Incredibly, one single-use plastic bag can take up to 1,000 years to decompose, so orders are packaged into paper bags. Instead of plastic containers, food is also packed into Vegware containers - this material is compostable and more sustainable than plastic.

www.tiptree.com/barleylands





ESSEX BUSINESSES SETTING A SUSTAINABILITY EXAMPLE IN THE BOROUGH

Basildon's entrepreneurial spirit has long been celebrated. Now, our businesses sustainability standards are also setting a shining example for thousands of firms across the Thames Estuary, East London, North Kent, and South Essex regions.

We look at companies awarded the title of Estuary Visionary, in recognition of their green growth.

SENTINEL CONTRACTING

Sentinel Contracting is a Billericay based decorating & fire protection contractor. The firm works with main contractors across the South East to find greener solutions to reduce the impact of construction on the environment. From their Guild Prime Industrial Estate HQ, the team also helps buildings meet WELL building standards, which take a holistic approach to health in the built environment.

One such example is the recent 60 London Wall project, the renovation of an office building in London's EC2. The Sentinel team achieved a UK first by reducing the amount of decorating & fire protection waste sent to landfill by 80% and reducing impact to air quality by 40%.

www.sentinelcontracting.com



GERALD McDONALD & CO.

Gerald McDonald & Co. is a family business that has been supplying the UK & international food and drink industry for over 100 years. At its purpose-built facility on Basildon's Cranes Farm Road, the business stocks certified organic products from basil to sour cherry puree and lemon oil.

Since 1917 the firm has been on a mission to innovate, recently this has seen sustainable business initiatives including - installation of a voltage optimiser to control electricity supply, 384 solar panels (saving 46,375kg of CO² per year), and a dedicated recycling process to deal with shrink wrap - the result of which is a greener food and drink supply chain.

www.geraldmcdonald.com



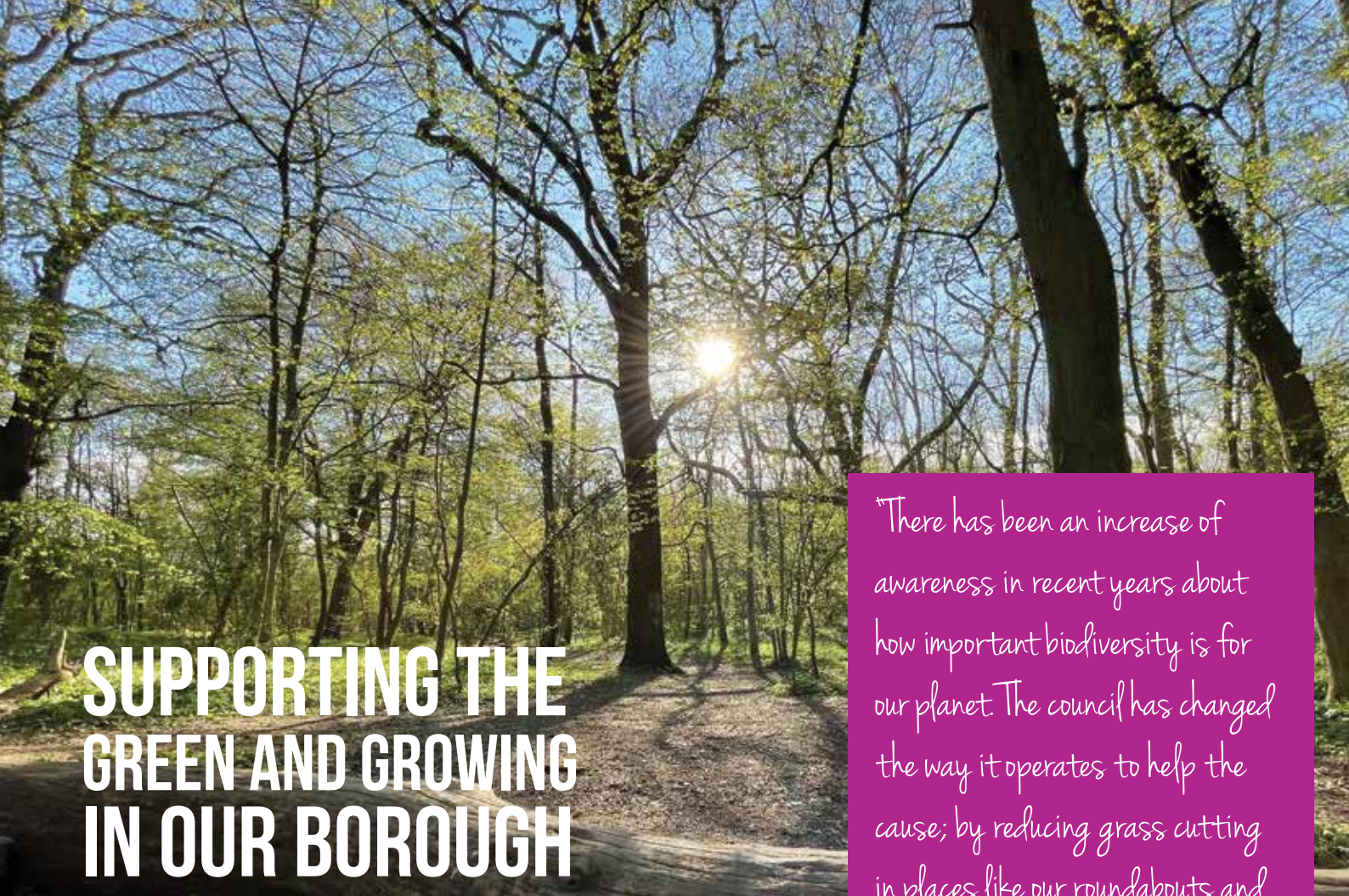
GROUND CONTROL

Ground Control is the UK's largest privately-owned provider of landscaping and grounds maintenance services. Their work helps clients to minimize impact on the environment and achieve sustainability goals across 50,000 commercial sites in the UK.

Based in Billericay's Radford Way, this eco star has taken serious steps to reduce the environmental impact caused by its operations including - The Evergreen Fund which aims to invest £5 million into sustainable environment initiatives by 2025, removal of single use plastics, the planting of a million new native trees, creation of protected areas of biodiversity, and migration to electric vehicles. Ground Control has achieved carbon neutral status five years ahead of its own 2025 target.

www.ground-control.co.uk





SUPPORTING THE GREEN AND GROWING IN OUR BOROUGH

We're blessed with fantastic open spaces across the borough, and we're committed to protecting and enhancing those spaces to show them off as best we can. And not just to make them more attractive - increasing the biodiversity across our borough helps to keep our open spaces as healthy for us as they can be, as well as helping to protect the habitats for our wildlife and increasing food sources for pollinators to help support ecosystems across the borough.

There are many different initiatives that the council has introduced to help support these ideas, and just some of them are illustrated below.



WILDFLOWER MEADOWS

Working in partnership with our borough's fantastic community groups, the council has undertaken planting of wildflower meadows in parks and open spaces across the borough. This has happened in Lake Meadows, Wickford Memorial Park, Kent View Road, Northlands Park and Gloucester Park so far. These spaces will improve the attractiveness of the spaces and create more spaces for our important pollinators to do their work.

"There has been an increase of awareness in recent years about how important biodiversity is for our planet. The council has changed the way it operates to help the cause; by reducing grass cutting in places like our roundabouts and grass verges. This has allowed for the beautiful, natural wildflowers to grow, like the threatened Green-winged orchid spotted on our roundabouts in Langdon Hills."

Councillor Craig Rimmer
Chairman of Leisure and Environment Committee



TREE PLANTING FRAMEWORK

The newly agreed tree planting framework has been implemented to better manage tree planting across the borough. The framework consists of three key elements; identifying suitable and necessary sites for tree planting, selecting trees that are pollinator friendly to make them as useful to our environment as they can be, and installing signage to identify pollinator friendly habitats on council land to help keep them protected.



WHO ARE POLLINATORS?

Beetles, bats, birds, butterflies, moths, flies, wasps, and lastly and most importantly, bees are pollinators. They drink nectar from flowers or feed off pollen, and then transfer pollen grains as they move from place to place.

One out of every three mouthfuls of our food depends on pollinators

Around 97 per cent of the country's wildflowers have been lost in the previous 60 years

Wildflowers provide lots of things that insects need: food in the form of leaves, nectar and pollen, also shelter and places to breed

Between 75% and 95% of all flowering plants need pollination to survive

3500

trees planted as part of the 26-acre extension to Wickford Memorial



115

trees including over 50 varieties of fruit trees planted in three areas across Gloucester Park

INCORPORATING GREENNESS INTO POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

The council is working alongside the landscape architect team for all Sempra Homes' potential developments, to ensure that landscaping and important green features such as ponds, tree planting and pollinating flora are incorporated within development sites to help support both plant life and wildlife.





BASILDON TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION

OPEN LAB

Open Lab came to the town centre this May and June, transforming vacant shops into pop-up pockets of activity for everyone to explore.

Seven amazing artists - chosen by local people, for local people - delivered a range of exciting, innovative, inspiring and free events and activities - including film and photography - for everyone to enjoy.

If you missed it, find out more about the artists who took part: www.open-lab.co.uk

SUMMER OF CULTURE

This summer residents can look forward to a summer of culture thanks to BasildON Creative People and Places, a radical, new cultural programme for people who live or work in the borough, as well as those who come to visit the town centre.

So do come and enjoy Basildon, support your local shops, restaurants and cafes and enjoy everything that's on offer.



NEW TOWN PORTRAITS

New Town Portraits was one of the exciting Open Labs cultural projects.

"I like discovering everyday places, and observing the interaction between people and the environment. Of course for my portrait work a big part of the appeal is meeting and connecting with so many new and interesting people."

Local photographer, Mark Massey

Visit Mark Massey's website www.markmassey.co.uk to view his work.



"I was pleased to see the exciting progress on this scheme. The cinema and restaurants will breathe new life into this part of the town centre. We want East Square to become a real destination of choice for our residents. A place to spend weekend and evening leisure time."

Councillor Baggott
Leader of the Council

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION

Basildon's brand new 10 screen cinema is on track to be completed in July this year, ready to open in early 2022 despite a global pandemic. The East Square Development will also see six new restaurants come to the town centre – watch this space for more announcements. And as you would expect, the new cinema is being built to the highest standards, using timber from FSC accredited sources, which means that the wood used comes from well-managed forests and/or is recycled. On top of this, 95% of the waste generated by the project is recycled, rather than sent to landfill.

THE BILLERICAY PILGRIMS WHO INFLUENCED AMERICA

Lots of us drive past Mayflower High School, without thinking about where the name came from. In 1620, six Billericay residents voyaged to (now) America, over sixty-six days, seeking a fresh start in a different land.



Billericay blends the old and new with a high-street full of independent, local businesses and acres of ancient woodland to discover around the town.

Placed just 25 miles outside Central London, the railway line links the town to the capital in under 35 minutes, plus with three secondary schools, Billericay is a desirable area for commuters and families alike.

But Billericay has a deeper history, from forests dating back to the Iron Age to World War One relics.



SEE LOCAL HISTORY ON YOUR WAY TO GRAB A COFFEE

During the first world war, one of the giant German Zeppelin airships was shot down during an aerial battle in the skies of Billericay. During its fiery skyfall, it narrowly missed the High Street and crashed into a field close to Greens Farm Lane. In 2016, a plaque was erected at the site, marking 100 years since the crash.

Today, you can see parts of the Zeppelin in the Cater Museum in Billericay High Street. Founded in 1960, the grade-II listed building itself is part of Billericay's history, dating back to the 18th century. The museum houses dozens of local weird and wonderful artefacts, including an exhibit on a three-headed lamb. Visit the museum at 74 Billericay High Street.

THE BATTLE OF BILLERICAY



Billericay is not only full of local cultural heritage - the town played a prominent role in the Peasants' Revolt, way back in 1381. The major uprising was triggered by increasing taxes as the world recovered from the Black Death plague in the 1340s.

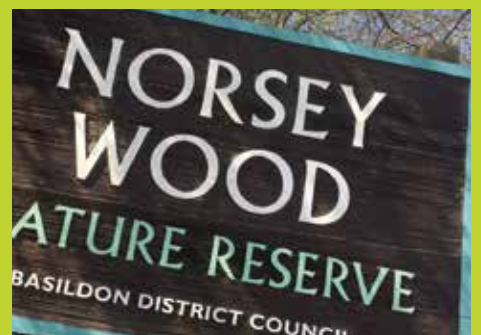
After months of marching across London and Essex, on 28 June 1381, the Battle of Billericay ended the Peasants Revolt. King Richard II soldiers marched to Norsey Wood and defeated the rebels in battle. Although it was not a happy ending for rebels, academics have studied the revolt for years and it's believed to still influence our tax system even today.

REDISCOVERING BILLERICAY

NORSEY WOOD IS VISITED BY 60,000 PEOPLE A YEAR

Norsey wood is a scenic dog-walking spot and hosts over four-hundred years of history. In fact, the 175-acre site is a scheduled ancient monument, with a huge variety of plants and wildlife.

Most of the trees were planted during the early 1800s, including the impressive chestnut trees. To keep the trees healthy and help them regrow, every year they are cut down to ground level. During October, the trees produce a crop of nuts that are eaten by many creatures - including humans!



"With a community enriched in history, beautiful parks and excellent transport links, Billericay is a town to be proud of. There's an exciting future ahead for our town, residents and businesses."

Councillor David Dadds, Mayor of Basildon

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www.wattylercountrypark.org.uk



Basildon Council
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WHAT'S ON...



BILLERICAY BOWLS CLUB

Looking for a way to stay active and meet new people? Why not visit Billericay Bowls Club, they follow all Government and Bowls England coronavirus guidelines. Those attending need to wear flat shoes. All other equipment will be provided. Call Jenny on 07941 977338 in advance to pre-book a timeslot for your visit or visit www.billericaybowlingclub.co.uk for more information.



WAT TYLER COUNTRY PARK

Wat Tyler are welcoming bookings for school trips, after a tough year for students and teachers. Session activities can be customised based on age - including a teddy bears picnic for KS1 groups or habitat investigation for KS2 groups. Times are flexible, groups can visit for a short while or a full school day. Visit www.wattylercountrypark.org.uk for more information.



VIRTUAL APPRENTICESHIPS AND JOBS FAIR

Wednesday 7 July - 10:30am - 12:30pm

Hear from the employers about their current vacancies in Essex, plus handy hints and tips about their application and interview process.

You will get a chance to live chat with employers and ask questions about current opportunities, the application process, careers and more! Book your place online at www.essexopportunities.co.uk/jobs-fair-7th-july



BASILDON MARKET SUMMER FUN DAYS

Come along to Basildon market for free rides and activities for children! All events will have Covid safety measures in place. These events have been funded by the Go Trade project to support local markets.

10am-4pm, Saturday 31 July, 7 August, 14 August and 21 August.



QUIZ NIGHT AT THE PLACE

Join the Place in Pitsea on Friday 17 September for a quiz night. Entry is only £3 per person, and teams of up to 8 people can win a cash prize. Contact reception on 01268 205284 or visit www.basildon.gov.uk/theplace to book your tickets.



OPEN MIC PARK READS

Across the county, local authors and performers have a chance to read, share and perform short works at open mic events. Sponsored by Essex Book Festival. The events are launching in July/August, find dates and times closest to you: essexbookfestival.org.uk/event/open-mic-park-reads/



GONE TOO SOON

'Gone Too Soon' is a bereavement support group for parents who have lost a child of any age, in any circumstances, recently or otherwise. The meetings introduce wellbeing activities to relieve stress as well as welcoming speakers to help you cope with bereavement.

Monthly meetings take place in The Chantry Centre, Chantry Way, Billericay from 7pm - 9pm. For more information call Lyn on 07387 805406 , email lyn-currie@hotmail.co.uk. Or visit

www.gone-too-soon.online



100 GREAT BLACK BRITAINS

Hosted by Essex Book Festival, Patrick Vernon OBE will discuss his new book, 100 Great Black Britons. Introducing an investigation into the role black Britons have played in the UK's history over the past thousand years. Join the event 7pm-8pm at Basildon Library on July 8, tickets are available here: essexbookfestival.org.uk/event/100-great-black-britains



BILLERICAY CAR SHOW

Visit Barleylands on Sunday 12 September for a brand-new classic car show. With hundreds of classic/custom vehicles, live music, a vintage market, street food and bouncy castles, there's something for everyone. Free parking will be available, tickets on sale here: www.haddoneventsco.uk/2021-dates



HAPPY HUB CYCLE CLUB

Local mental health charity Motivated Minds are officially a registered cycle club with Cycling UK. Exclusively for men, join their MEN'd programme at 10am every Friday. Learn basic bike mechanics and repairs, with an informal therapeutic approach, reducing stigma and giving men a chance to chat freely. Group bike rides around the borough are also open to registrations. Find out more: www.motivated-minds.co.uk/happy-hub-cycle-club.php



**YOUR COUNCIL
YOUR SAY**

MEET THE CHAIRS

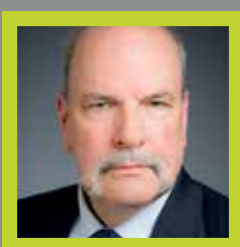


Cllr Andrew Baggott Policy Executive Committee

This committee is at the core of the council's responsibilities and ultimately approving policies from other committees. It also sets the Corporate Plan, which is the direction of travel and focus of the council going forwards. I am committed to preparing a five year ongoing plan rather than the approach of renewing every year.

Cllr Andrew Baggott - Enforcement and Public Protection Committee

Residents consistent concerns reported to me are antisocial behaviour, nuisance tenants, flytipping, drug dealing and unauthorised development in the Green Belt. Each of these, in varying degrees, blights people's lives and sense of wellbeing. This committee will focus on these areas. My ambition is to set out on a zero tolerance approach. This will be a challenge but the benefits for everyone make it worthwhile.



Cllr Anthony Hedley - Regeneration & Economic Development Committee

Regeneration and economic development in Basildon has its challenges but we are determined to listen to residents, our business community, potential investors, schools and colleges to ensure we develop the homes, jobs and supporting infrastructure to reinvigorate the borough. Residents need to be confident that they and their families will have every opportunity to thrive, find a home and secure employment.



Cllr Richard Moore - Strategic Planning & Infrastructure Committee

My priority is to guide the Local Plan through the Examination in Public. There have been delays during the start of the Examination including the submission of additional evidence in response to the Ministerial Directive received from DEFRA relating to concerns around air quality. The Examination resumed in December 2020 and we are now addressing issues identified by the Planning Inspector.



Cllr Craig Rimmer - Leisure & Environment Committee

The top priorities are improving parks, sports and leisure amenities, maintaining weekly bin collections, delivering a parking strategy and tackling climate change. Langdon Hills Recreational Ground, Westlake Park, Lake Meadows and Wat Tyler Country Park will be amongst the first to benefit from new funding. We aim to get Pitsea Swimming Pool open in early 2022.



Cllr Terri Sargent - Communities & Wellbeing Committee

This committee will be the cohesive thread across all committees with a focus on listening to residents, allowing them to participate in purposeful consultation, to develop skills to manage community buildings and apply for funding to support community projects.

To develop strategies to reach out exclusively to enhance community health & wellbeing.



Cllr Andrew Schrader - Housing & Estate Renewal Committee

We will strengthen tenant and leaseholder engagement, ensuring residents are treated with respect and we listen to concerns and act upon them. We're committed to providing Basildon homes for Basildon people and will increase supply of social housing and invest in existing stock to ensure homes are of a good standard and sustainable.



Cllr Stuart Sullivan - Resources & Commercial Committee

We will immediately focus on implementing the Administration's initial budget priorities and examine the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account, to ensure they deliver as promised for residents. We will ensure our commercial strategy is robust and delivers the best results for the taxpayer, while continuing to develop opportunities to make the council more efficient and financially secure.

HOW THE COUNCIL WORKS

Elections for councillors in 14 of the borough's 16 wards took place on Thursday 7 May. There were no borough elections this year in Wickford Castledon and Wickford Park wards.

Basildon Council has 42 elected members representing 16 wards. Not all councillors were up for election this year as the council is voted in by thirds. Councillors are elected to serve a four-year term.

The election results changed the political make-up of the council meaning the Conservatives have 22 seats, Labour 11, Independents 4, Absolute Independents 2, Wickford Independents 2. You can see the full election results at www.basildon.gov.uk/elections

Following the elections, councillors met at the annual general meeting to appoint a new Mayor, Leader of the Council and chairpersons of the council's various service, scrutiny and regulatory committees.

Cllr Andrew Baggott was appointed as the new Leader of the Council with Cllr David Dadds made Mayor of Basildon.

Did you miss your chance to vote this time? You don't need to wait until elections to register to vote. If you are not already registered, or have moved home recently - you can now register to vote online and it only takes five minutes. Just go to www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

By-election for Pitsea North West, will be arranged as soon as is feasible.

COMMITTEE DATES

Committee dates (all meetings start at 7pm unless stated otherwise)

Planning Committee	Enforcement and Public Protection Committee
Wednesday 7 July	Tuesday 13 July
Wednesday 21 July	Resources & Commercial Committee
Leisure & Environment Committee	Wednesday 14 July
Thursday 24 June	Policy Executive Committee
Audit & Risk Committee	Thursday 15 July
Wednesday 30 June	Scrutiny Committee
Wednesday 28 July	Tuesday 20 July
Communities & Wellbeing Committee	Full Council (starts 7.30pm)
Thursday 1 July	Thursday 22 July
Regeneration & Economic Development Committee	Strategic Planning & Infrastructure Committee
Tuesday 6 July	Thursday 29 July
Licensing Committee	
Thursday 8 July	

BILLERICAY WEST



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25 Prower Close,
Billericay
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Phil Turner
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27 Cranmer Close,
Billericay
CM12 0YQ



David Dadds
01277 631811
Mayor of Basildon
The Farthings,
10 The Square,
Stock CM4 9LH



Andrew Schrader
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St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



Stuart Sullivan
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6 Great Saling,
Shotgate, Wickford
SS11 8XH

BILLERICAY EAST

BURSTEAD



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Leader of the Council
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Kevin Blake
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Richard Moore
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Maryam Yaquub
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ST. MARTINS

LEE CHAPEL NORTH



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Elaine McDonald
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LANGDON HILLS



Christopher Allen
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Val Robbins
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Hazel Green
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Pauline Kettle
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All councillors can be contacted via email:
firstname.surname@members.basildon.gov.uk

For more information regarding councillors please call **01268 533333**

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Terri Sargent
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FRYERNS

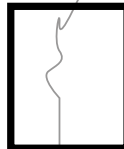


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David Kirkman
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PITSEA NORTH WEST



Vacant Seat



Patricia Reid
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SS14 1DL



Jack Ferguson
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25 Langford Grove,
Basildon SS13 1NX

VANGE



Yetunde Adeshile
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Melissa McGeorge
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PITSEA SOUTH EAST



Gary Canham
07736 930946
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St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



Luke Mackenzie
07483 276109
Deputy Mayor of Basildon
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



Craig Rimmer
07535 826481
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL

Frame colour	Political group	Number of seats
	CONSERVATIVE	22
	LABOUR	11
	INDEPENDENTS	4
	WICKFORD INDEPENDENTS	2
	ABSOLUTE INDEPENDENTS	2



Kerry Smith
01268 661812
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL

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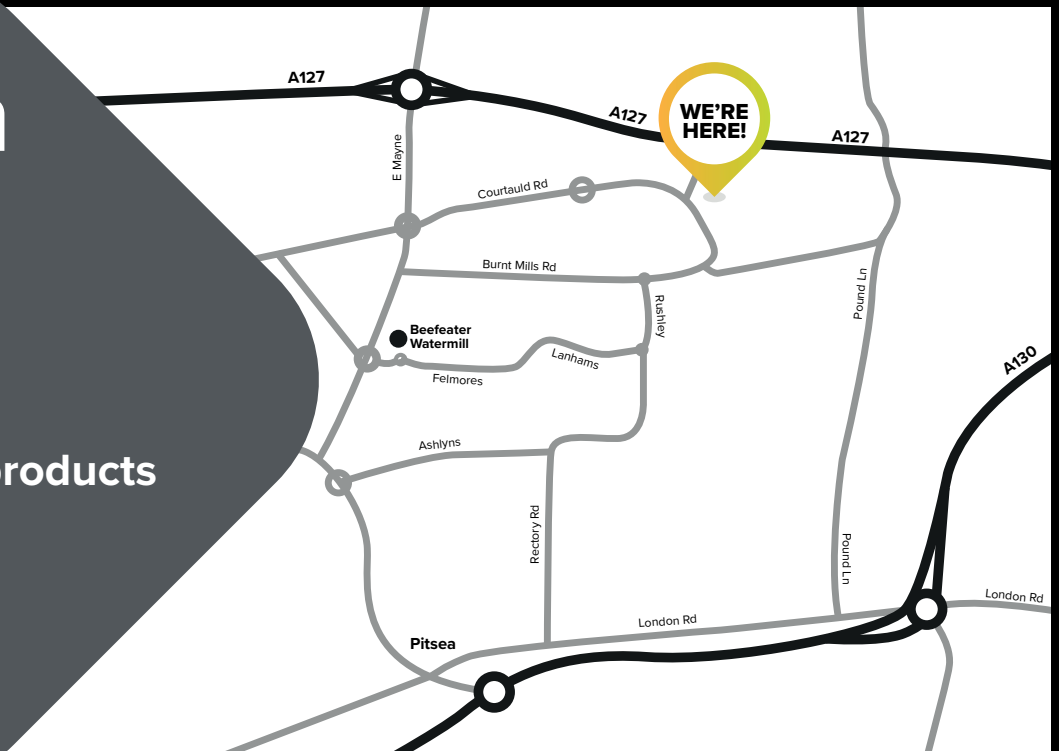
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