

Annual Report 2008/2009

The year saw some notable achievements by your Local Council.

Firstly I am addressing you as Chair of what is the first 'Village Council' in the County, new legislation was recently introduced which enabled the Council to choose from a number of titles. Our members voted at their March meeting to adopt the change to a 'Village Council'. They felt the change would improve the profile of the Council, make people more aware of the Council's work, its power and place within local government and hopefully help to promote more community involvement.

Summer 2008 saw the re-launch of the newsletter affectionately known as 'The Mole', it is still early days but it is hoped the newsletter will become a great source of communication for residents and we hope to improve it more with articles and recollections from residents of all ages.

Early 2009 saw the introduction of a parking scheme around the shopping area of South Green. It followed extensive consultation with traders and residents which started in 2005, I think you will agree it is now easier to park at the shops and it is the Village Councils hope, that in turn, this will improve trade for the shopkeepers.

At the Village Council we take our community needs seriously, and you may already be aware that the Council has, following an extensive process recruited a part time Community Worker, for an initial 6 month contract. who will be starting soon.

It was noted in the year that the sign on South Green and the Youth Shelter were in need of restoration and re-decoration, both of which have now been completed and look much improved.

The Village Council was particularly mindful of the current economic climate and managed with prudent budgeting to maintain the precept for 2009/2010 at the same level as 2008/2009. There are now more properties with the Great Burstead and South Green which actually resulted in a reduction of 18p for a band 'D' property.

A Planning Committee was formed in the Autumn of 2008 to comment upon the increasing number of planning applications submitted within Great Burstead and South Green.

The Village Council continues to work for the best interests of residents, and to protect and enhance the local environment. Residents are always welcome to attend the monthly meetings, details of which are on the notice board or are available on the website.

Finally, my special thanks to our very able Village Clerk, Kim Barford.