

# GREAT BURSTEAD AND SOUTH GREEN VILLAGE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2018/2019

**The Village Council has had another successful year working on behalf of residents.**

The Village Council achieved its full complement of councillors with the co-option of Cllr Lesley Cowles and Cllr Linda Thomas in May 2019. Cllrs Cowles and Thomas are enthusiastic about using their skills for the benefit of our community.

The Village Council has been consulted on all local planning applications and has submitted responses to Basildon Borough Council on behalf of residents.

The Village Council formed a Working Party to formulate a response to the Local Plan. The latest response has been submitted to Basildon Borough Council who have forwarded all responses and the Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate for consideration.

The Fun Day of August 2018 was held in the Memorial Hall due to wet weather but this did not stop the fun as Cllr Willingham, who organises the Fun Day, made sure most of the attractions were there. The next Fun Day is on Sunday 25 August this year so please make a date in your diaries for this popular free event organised by the Village Council for residents.

The Village Council is investigating refurbishing the paths within the green to make them safer for walkers and have the paths marked up with distances/paces in the interests of health.

The Village Council has held two litter picks in the last 12 months. The June 2019 litter pick attracted 8 community minded residents. Thanks to all who took part and to Cllr Chapman for leading the litter picks.

The Village Council now has a popular twitter account where relevant news and Village Council matters are covered. Thanks to Cllr Crowe for managing the twitter account.

The hanging baskets are not in place, although the bell bollards have been planted and weed control will take place as usual at South Green parade of shops. Very disappointingly Essex County Council have decided that the lamp columns at the parade should not have hanging baskets despite there being hanging baskets there since 1997. Its a real shame as the baskets were much appreciated by residents over the years. However, the Village Council is attempting to make other arrangements for appropriate floral displays at the shops.

The installation of CCTV at the South Green shops area is still ongoing. Permission has been granted by Essex County Council and the Village Council has been granted a licence to install the equipment. This project is taking longer than estimated as the power network provider is considering how to work on the connection.

The Christmas lights will be provided by the company who did such a good job last year.

An agreement has been signed with Essex Police to provide two Special Constables for the village. Recruitment and training will take a while but once in place they will patrol the village. Although there was an application this did not come to fruition. The 2 volunteer posts are still available should any community minded residents wish to apply.

The Village Voice newsletter is published twice a year covering Village Council activities. Thanks are due to Cllr John Dear for editing the newsletter.

The Village Council has followed up several highways issues with Essex County Council who have responded to some and other responses are awaited. Highways matters are often brought to the attention of the Village Council by Cllr Boyce for which thanks is due.

Village Councillors receive no payment for their work for the Village Council. They give of their time freely and deserve our thanks. Finally, the Village Council thanks the Village Clerk for her dedicated service to the Council and residents.

Chairman – Councillor Marie Dear