

Great Burstead and South Green Village Council – Chair's Annual Report 2012/2013

This has been a very productive year for the Village Council. Our first priority is the careful management of finances. For the previous three years we have held the precept, the local taxation collected by Basildon Borough Council and paid annually to Village Council, at the same rate. This year we have managed to slightly reduce the precept from £11.88 to £11.61 on a band D property which will be slightly higher or lower on other bands.

Due to feedback from councillors and residents regarding litter and the state of the walkways and forecourts at Grange Parade, we have formed a Litter Working Party to maintain good housekeeping and pride in our village.

Yet again we have organised the installation of the Christmas lights and hanging baskets. We have also arranged additional planting and weeding at Grange Parade Shops.

We continue to communicate with residents through our newsletter, website and Clerk and we are now lucky to have two notice boards. We already have one on the green but St Mary Magdalene Church have kindly given permission for the Village Council to use one of their notice boards fronting onto Church Street which has given us the opportunity of keeping Great Burstead residents better informed about the Council.

We have initiated an Environmental Trust Grant Fund in memory of Councillor Martin Wakelin. The fund is designed to encourage children at local schools and pre-schools to take an interest in the environment and take part in related projects. The two pre-schools in our village, Montessori and Grenfell, and South Green Junior and Infants schools, have successfully applied to the Trust Panel to fund projects.

A village sign is proposed for the Great Burstead side of the village. We also plan to have a summer event on the green next year. For both the village sign and summer event we welcome residents' views.

We continue to be consulted by Basildon Borough Council on all village planning applications and work with Essex County Council. For example, we have been informed that consultations are in progress to reduce the speed in Coxes Farm Road to 40mph. Something the Village Council have been involved in with residents for quite a few years.

Since last year's elections four new councillors have joined the council, bringing their experience and commitment to the service of residents. All Village Councillors give of their time freely and deserve thanks.

Lastly, we thank our Clerk who enables the council to develop projects to enhance the village. Whatever councillors decide it is ultimately the Clerk who works to make it happen.

Chair - Marie Dear