



# Billericay Town Crier

May 2026

[www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk)

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL

## YOUTH SUPPORT PROGRAMME ESTABLISHED

BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL has partnered with Bar'n'Bus to deliver a new youth support programme across the town.

The initiative will provide structured, supervised support for young people, engaging with them in the places they already spend time and helping to build positive relationships and opportunities.

While the vast majority of young people in Billericay are a credit to the community, there is a clear need to ensure that all young people have access to positive support, guidance and safe spaces – particularly those who may not currently engage with organised activities.

The programme will include:

- **Outreach work** in locations such as the High Street, Lake Meadows and Queens Park, where youth workers engage directly with young people
- **Mobile drop-in sessions** using Bar'n'Bus's dedicated youth vehicle, offering a safe and welcoming space
- **Targeted programmes** to support young people who may need additional guidance
- **In-school mentoring**, providing one-to-one support from trained volunteers

Bar'n'Bus will also be a regular presence at community events, including Summer-Fest, helping to ensure young people are supported in a consistent and visible way.

This programme is an important step in providing early support, building trust and creating positive pathways for young people in Billericay.

## GOOD COMPANIONS: TOWN COUNCIL TAKES ON BELOVED COMMUNITY CLUB

AT THE END of December, Billericay Town Council took over the running of the Billericay Good Companions Club from Ken and Eleanor Tout, who retired after 33 years of dedicated service.

The Good Companions is a social club for older residents, meeting twice a month to provide company, conversation and entertainment for those who may otherwise be socially isolated. Members travel in a variety of ways – on foot, by bus, and for those less mobile, via Basildon Community Transport Services.

Each session includes an hour of entertainment – from singers and bands to quizzes and seated exercise – followed by time to chat and catch up over tea and cake.

The sessions are organised by Town Council staff and supported by a dedicated group of volunteers who help create the warm and welcoming atmosphere the club is known for.

For many attendees, it is the highlight of their fortnight. It is also a clear example of how the Town Council is supporting older residents and helping to reduce social isolation within our community.

If you would like to get involved – whether as a member, volunteer or by providing an hour of entertainment – please contact [xxxx@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:xxxx@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk).



Town Clerk – Deborah Tonkiss

## BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL PROUD TO ASSIST BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION LIVING TRIBUTE BENCH IN BILLERICAY

ARCHIE SHORT, 7, from Essex is one of 65 people in the UK with cardiovascular disease selected by British Heart Foundation to have an iconic red bench dedicated to them as a 'living tribute' to raise awareness and celebrate lifesaving research.

A 'football mad' seven-year-old boy diagnosed with heart failure has been 'honoured' with an iconic red bench on the QEII Playing Field known locally as Sun Corner as part of a campaign to raise awareness of the importance of research into cardiovascular disease.

Behind every bench is a powerful real-life story of someone living with a cardiovascular condition and thanks to research, they can survive to enjoy life with their loved ones.

Archie's bench has been unveiled at Sun Corner, a location special to him because he is a huge fan of Billericay football club.

**The Town Council is proud to have been involved with this campaign by helping to identify a suitable location and arranging the installation.**

## ANNUAL TOWN MEETING THURSDAY 23RD APRIL 2026

BILLERICAY RESIDENTS WERE recently invited to attend the town's annual meeting at the Chantry Centre. They were able to meet town councillors and hear from local MP Richard Holden.

The meeting was also an opportunity to ask questions and get information about any issues affecting Billericay.



T: 01277 625732 • E: [townclerk@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk) • W: [www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk)

W: [www.chantrycentre.org.uk](http://www.chantrycentre.org.uk)

Office Opening Times – 9.30am - 5.30pm Monday - Friday.

[@BillericayTC](https://www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk)

BillericayTownCouncil

For further information and general enquiries contact: Town Clerk  
Billericay Town Council • The Chantry Centre • Chantry Way • Billericay CM11 2AP



Cllr Herlock and Rotary Helpers

## BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY DAY

ON FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> March 2026, the Town Council celebrated the wealth of opportunities offered by the many organisations that exist around Billericay. Eighteen groups contributed to our Community Day event, some local, such as the Billericay Arts Association and the Billericay Bowling Club and some national, such as Parkinsons UK and the Royal British Legion but all have an impact in Billericay. There were some more established groups like the popular Billericay Community Cinema and the Billericay Tree Wardens and some new faces such as the Mid Essex Recovery College, which support mental health and Create Yourself Calm's art and mindfulness courses. It is amazing how many clubs exist in the area who are happy to welcome new members. There is so much on offer!

The event was buzzing with chatter and well attended by the public. The stall holders spoke with great enthusiasm about their groups and the activities they run, attracting new interest and some joiners!

Members of Billericay Town Rotary offered refreshments, providing delicious home-made cakes and raising £85 for local charities.

If you missed the event and want to know what is out there to fill your time, a full list of the participants and their contact details can be obtained from the Town Council office.

## NEWS FROM BILLERICAY BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

YOUR BILLERICAY, Billericay Business Improvement District, is delighted to invite residents and visitors to two exciting community events, so be sure to put the dates in your diary!

On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May, from 11am-3pm, Billericay High Street will come alive with our vibrant Artisan Food & Drink Market, celebrating everything that makes our town special. In addition to our shops; visitors can browse a wonderful selection of independent retailers offering delicious cheeses, chutneys, and wines from local vineyards. Adding to the atmosphere, our very own dementia-friendly choir will be performing, bringing music and joy to the day.

Looking ahead to Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September, join us for our Community Parade and Fun Day – a true celebration of all that Billericay has to offer. Expect a lively, inclusive day filled with local pride, entertainment, and activities for all ages. Everyone is welcome, and if you or your organisation would like to take part in the parade, please get in touch at [info@yourbillericaybid.org](mailto:info@yourbillericaybid.org).

We look forward to seeing you there as we celebrate our wonderful town together!



## SUPPORTING NEW COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AT THE CHANTRY CENTRE

OUR AIM FOR the Chantry Centre has always been to strike a balance between in-come from commercial hires and activities run by community groups on a not-for-profit basis – activities that are designed to serve and strengthen our community.

Many groups already run regular events at the Centre. Previously we had in-troduced the Community Support Grant to help new community groups establish themselves. In our 2025/6 budget we took this a step further by setting aside funding to help initiate new activities – particularly those supporting underserved groups – as well as helping existing groups expand what they offer.

Support is provided through free use of the Chantry Centre facilities, along with additional funding where needed, for example towards refreshments or publicity.

The response has been very positive, and a number of new activities have either started or will be launching shortly:

- A monthly talk and discussion group for people living with dementia, run by Billericay Dementia Friendly Community, starting in May
- A Community Tea Dance, open to all but especially aimed at seniors and those living with dementia, running monthly (except July)
- Dementia-friendly cinema screenings every two months, designed to entertain and help reduce social isolation for both attendees and carers
- A new event from the Mayflower Morris Men aimed at engaging younger adults aged 18 to 35
- A special exhibition to commemorate the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Zeppelin being brought down over the area
- Weekly yoga classes for young autistic adults, starting in May and run by Bend N Breeze

These initiatives demonstrate how relatively small amounts of support can unlock new opportunities – helping local groups to try new ideas, reach new audiences and ensure that the Chantry Centre continues to be a hub for the whole community.

## BILLERICAY TREE WARDENS CELEBRATE LOVE OF TREES WITH FREE GIVEAWAY

THE BILLERICAY TREE Wardens Tree Giveaway was on the High Street for the third consecutive year, this time being on St Valentine's Day, Saturday 14 February – a special day to celebrate their love of trees.

With over 60 trees on offer this annual event proved to be extremely popular with residents queuing outside Paul Robinson Solicitors to get a free tree. The Billericay Tree Wardens are grateful to Paul Robinson Solicitors for the use of their frontage.

The trees were all well-known British natives including Wild Cherry, Rowan, Hazel, Silver Birch and Oak. Some were grown locally in the Tree Warden's nursery in Nourse Wood. Others were purchased by the Billericay Tree Wardens, funded by various past donations.

The Giveaway attracted all age groups. Young children picked up mini-sized trees which would grow with them, and bigger trees were snapped up as a Valentine's gift for grown-ups. The Tree Wardens handed out advice on which tree to choose and how to plant them in gardens before the end of the tree planting season in March with a special emphasis on watering!

The trees went very quickly and were gone in just over an hour making it the most successful Giveaway so far!

**BILLERICAY BOWLING CLUB**  
[www.billericaybowlingclub.co.uk](http://www.billericaybowlingclub.co.uk)

Billericay Bowling Club is based in Lake Meadows Park.

All abilities including beginners are very welcome.

For more information please see our website or contact our Membership Secretary on 07907 193080.





Rhododendrons at Lake Meadows



### LOVE PARKS WEEK – JULY 26<sup>TH</sup> TO AUGUST 2<sup>ND</sup>

LAKE MEADOWS WILL be among hundreds of parks across the country taking part in Love Parks Week 2026. The event is an annual celebration of parks and green spaces, the volunteers who help care for them and the huge benefits they bring to our communities and the environment. The week is promoted by 'Keep Britain Tidy', which is a registered charity.

Parks provide over £34 billion in health and wellbeing benefits annually and save the NHS over £111 million every year in reduced GP appointments alone. But despite this, many

parks are suffering from under-investment and neglect, putting these vital benefits at risk. Love Parks Week inspires people to get involved and take crucial community action to protect their local green spaces.

The Friends of Lake Meadows will be planning event on one day that week, but it would be lovely to have an event going on in the park everyday. We haven't the manpower to do it ourselves, so we are inviting any groups in Billericay, who use the park, to get involved and hold an event. So, if you belong to any group, please ask the organiser to get in touch.

We'd love to hear from you!  
secretary@lakemeadows.org.uk



## Billericay Lions Club

*"Ordinary people, doing amazing things"*

On 14 March the Billericay Lions held a quiz, "A Taste of Austria" for those in need in Billericay.

Over the last 17 years over £12,000 has been raised at this annual "Taste of..." event.

On this occasion an amazing £600 was raised. Lisa Hull, Lions President, expressed her gratitude for the support from the community.

Anyone interested in learning more about volunteering for the Lions please email:  
lions@billericaylions.com.

## BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL NOTICE OF VACANCY TO BE FILLED BY CO-OPTION

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED to fill one vacancy for the office of Councillor in the EAST Ward of Billericay. In order to be considered for a vacancy, applicants must be over 18, a British subject or Citizen of the Commonwealth or EU, and live or work in Billericay.

If you are interested or require further information please contact:

The Town Clerk, The Chantry Centre,  
Chantry Way, Billericay CM11 2AP  
Telephone: 01277 625732

Email: townclerk@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk

Applications must be received by the Town Clerk **no later than 12 noon on Wednesday**

**3rd June 2026** for consideration at the Meeting of the Billericay Town Council to be held on **Thursday 11th June 2026**.

## TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

### MAY 2026

Thursday 7 Annual Town Council  
Tuesday 12 Planning  
Tuesday 19 Health, Well-Being & Env  
Tuesday 26 Planning  
Thursday 11 Finance & General Purposes

### JUNE 2026

Tuesday 9 Planning  
Thursday 11 Full Council  
Tuesday 23 Planning

### JULY 2026

Tuesday 3 Planning  
Tuesday 14 Health, Well-Being & Env  
Tuesday 21 Planning  
Thursday 23 Finance & General Purposes  
Thursday 30 Full Council

### AUGUST 2026

Tuesday 4 Planning  
Tuesday 18 Planning

### SEPTEMBER 2026

Tuesday 1 Planning  
Tuesday 8 Health, Well-Being & Env  
Tuesday 15 Planning  
Thursday 24 Finance & General Purposes  
Tuesday 29 Planning

All meetings are open to the public and press and are held at The Chantry Centre, Chantry Way, unless otherwise stated and start at 7.00pm.

## BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCILLORS

Name	E-Mail	Ward	Name	E-Mail	Ward
Cllr A Adshead	adam.adshead@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E	Cllr K Mordecai	kim.mordecai@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr P Bunyan	peter.bunyan@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E	Cllr Gary St Pierre	gary.stpierre@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr C Butler	cien.elan.butler@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W	Cllr Ian Scott	ian.scott@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Cllr R Clark	richard.clark@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W	Cllr Heather Stuart	heather.stuart@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Cllr E Davies	eric.davies@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	SW	Cllr G Talbot	gareth.talbot@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Cllr M Dear	marie.dear@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W	Cllr A Talboys	alan.talboys@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr J Devlin	jim.devlin@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W	Cllr M Thomas	mark.thomas@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Cllr J Henshaw	james.henshaw@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	SW	Cllr J Tutton	jim.tutton@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr K Herlock	kathryn.herlock@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E	CHAIRMAN	Cllr Jim Devlin	
Cllr Chris May	chris.may@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W	TOWN CLERK	townclerk@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	
Cllr M Moore	moira.moore@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	SW	WEBSITE	www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	

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