

# BELIEVE

IN BASILDON

SPRING 2021



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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](http://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](http://www.kooth.com)

### NHS 111

Call 111 or go to [111.nhs.uk](http://111.nhs.uk)  
They can help if you have an urgent medical problem and you are not sure what to do



**Basildon Borough**  
COMMUNITY LOTTERY

To buy tickets and find out more please visit [www.basildonboroughcommunitylottery.org](http://www.basildonboroughcommunitylottery.org)

This exciting weekly lottery raises money for good causes in the Basildon Borough. Tickets for the lottery cost just £1 per week, with a top prize of £25,000! All good causes supported by the lottery benefit Basildon Borough and its residents. Players must be 16 or over and physically located in the UK.

## BASILDON TAXIS YOU CAN RELY ON

Whether it's a trip to the supermarket or your vaccination appointment, Ace Taxis Basildon are available with competitive rates. Get to your destination safely and quickly.

**Ace Taxis Basildon**  
**01268 532532**

# WELCOME

Welcome to this Spring edition of Believe in Basildon magazine. In this issue we explore some of the most fascinating facts about our borough. And as we start to move out of the COVID restrictions, we give you lots to re-discover in our borough, in our parks, in our businesses and in our town centres.

Last week, the council set its budget and agreed to freeze council tax for the second year in a row. This is despite the costs of fighting the pandemic and the huge reductions in grants that we receive from central Government. We have addressed a £7.7 million budget gap and unlike many other councils have not made any cuts to services. We have lots of exciting plans for the year ahead and please keep your eyes on the council's social media channels for those updates.

I passionately believe in Basildon and know that we can once again return to being the beating heart of Essex. We are an economic powerhouse with some of the country's largest businesses being

based here along with passionate entrepreneurial small business owners. Our regeneration of the town centre presents us with a once in a lifetime opportunity to address the sad neglect of the town over the past decade. Our new youth zone, the first in Essex and the fastest to ever be completed will give our young people the life chances that they deserve, the new cinema is on track to be open by the end of the year and South Essex college has welcomed virtual students. I know that out of the challenges of Covid, Basildon will Bounce Back.

And on a final note, our county, district and the Office of the Police and Fire Commissioner elections will be going ahead this year, although they will look and feel very different. As always, I would encourage everyone to take part, and the safest way maybe through postal voting. Register early on to make sure you receive your postal vote.

[www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)

**Councillor Gavin Callaghan**  
Leader of Basildon Council



*"I passionately believe in Basildon and know that we can once again return to being the beating heart of Essex."*



## CONTACT US

Believe in Basildon 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](mailto:jude.mason@basildon.gov.uk)  
Visit [www.basildon.gov.uk/believmagazine](http://www.basildon.gov.uk/believmagazine) for information on how to download the spoken word version of Believe in Basildon, or call 01268 208198 to request an alternative format.

Basildon Council accepts no responsibility for the content of any advertisement published in Believe in Basildon and the inclusion of any advertisement does not imply approval or recommendation by the council of either the terms of any offer or service of the advertiser.

All information stated in this magazine is correct at time of printing.



## TRIAL TO SEPARATE FOOD AND GARDEN WASTE COLLECTIONS GETS A POSITIVE RESPONSE

**A trial of separate collections of food and garden waste has concluded with residents who took part submitting positive feedback.**

The six-week trial of separate food and garden waste collections involved 99 households across the borough. Overall the feedback from the majority of properties who took part in the trial found it positive and 88% would be happy for it to be introduced in the future.

Those taking part in the trial, which ended in January, were asked to leave out a 23 litre external caddy for their food waste instead of mixing in with any garden waste in wheeled bins.

“These changes are vital, not only because of the National Waste Strategy and Environment Bill but because of the ambitions of our own Waste Strategy and corporate plan in making the service efficient and environmentally sound.”

### **Councillor David Harrison**

Chairman of the Neighbourhoods and Public Spaces Committee

## COUNCIL PURCHASES SITE FOR 48 AFFORDABLE HOMES

**Forty eight homes are set to be built for borough residents on the council housing waiting list after the council completed the purchase of a site.**

Forty eight homes are set to be built for borough residents on the council housing waiting list after the council completed the purchase of a site.

The site in Burnt Mills Road, Basildon, was purchased for £2.5million and is currently made up of various disused outbuildings.

Eighty three on-site parking spaces will be provided for the new one and two-bed homes including visitor and disabled bays.

The new homes will be built within walking distance of nurseries, infant and primary schools, a GP and dental practice and bus and train connections serving both Pitsea and Basildon town centre.

Construction work is anticipated to start this summer.



“We are proud to be building high quality affordable new homes for our borough residents. There is a real need for one and two bed properties so this development will help to meet the demand on our waiting list.”

**Councillor Gavin Callaghan**  
Leader of Basildon Council



## HOME CONTENTS INSURANCE FOR COUNCIL TENANTS

**Did you know that Basildon Council does not cover contents insurance as part of the tenancy agreement for council tenants?**

Contents insurance is designed to help protect your possessions. No matter how careful you are, there's always a risk that your belongings could be broken, damaged or stolen so home contents insurance can help provide peace of mind should the worst happen.

Tenants who would like to take up the offer can complete an application form on the council's website at [www.basildon.gov.uk/insurance](http://www.basildon.gov.uk/insurance)

## LAINDON COMMUNITY CENTRE BUILDING HANDED BACK TO COUNCIL IN NEED OF MAJOR INVESTMENT

**Basildon Council has taken over the running of the existing Laindon Community Centre site, after the keys were handed to the council by the Laindon Community Association.**

Laindon Community Centre was in need of major investment before the pandemic and the current position means that even more investment is needed.

The centre is currently unable to open, mainly due to a lack of mechanical ventilation. There is also significant repair and maintenance work that needs to be undertaken for it to be in an operational condition.

Leader of Basildon Borough Council, Councillor Gavin Callaghan, said: "We thank Laindon Community Association for their best efforts in trying to manage the centre and keep it open for residents, but this hasn't been possible. For more than twenty five years there has been a chronic under-investment in the centre and there is now significant debts that the Association are unable to repay.

"Officers are currently assessing the work that needs to be undertaken in order for the Laindon Community Centre to be opened safely. The council has been dealing with the immediate issues of securing the building to the satisfaction of our insurance company.

"The building is almost 40-years-old and requires significant investment relating to compliance, fire safety, roofing/guttering and mechanical and electrical works. As a result of the pandemic too, installation of mechanical ventilation in the building is essential in order to make it a safe environment for visitors."

## NEWS



"The council remains absolutely committed to delivering a fit for purpose community facility in Laindon, for the benefit of local residents. And we will make sure that any decisions made are in consultation with the local community."

**Councillor Gavin Callaghan**  
Leader of Basildon Council

## OVER £50,000 WORTH OF GRANTS ISSUED TO SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACROSS THE BOROUGH

**A mental health fund launched by Basildon Council late last year has awarded 12 organisations with grants.**

The one-off grants of up to £5,000 were available to voluntary and community sector organisations to support mental health projects.

One of the grant recipients is the Craig Tyler Trust, who with the funding will launch a mobile mental health support unit.

The Leader of Basildon Council, Councillor Gavin Callaghan, added: "We launched this grant scheme to help our partners in mental health at a time when statistics showed that there could be a greater demand for mental health services over the winter.

"I'm thankful to our partners Public Health, Countryside Properties, and Mark Noble, who put our resident's mental health first by providing financial support to this great cause."

"In receiving this grant the Craig Tyler Trust has been able to give our help to hundreds of people and we will continue to do so with the amazing support of Basildon Council."

**Karen Pullen**  
Chair of the Craig Tyler Trust



# Great reasons to home compost

**Reduces your waste**

**Produces your own compost  
and saves money**

**Reduces greenhouse  
gas emissions**

**Supports wildlife**



**BUY ONE  
GET ONE  
HALF PRICE!**  
From only **£9.50\***  
per bin  
Available in 220  
or 330 litre

Order online at [getcomposting.com](https://www.getcomposting.com)  
or call **0844 571 4444**

\* £5.99 delivery charge applies per order. The 'Buy One Get One Half Price' offer is valid until 31 March 2021 and applies when ordering two of the same product.

Standard cost from BT landlines is 5p per minute plus setup charge. Other providers may charge more.



**LOVE  
ESSEX**



## PULLING TOGETHER TO 'KEEP THE LIGHTS ON' ACROSS BASILDON'S HOSPITALITY BUSINESSES

**The hospitality sector has been one of the worst-hit, making up one third of the job losses caused by unemployment due to the pandemic.**

Casual hospitality workers have been unable to work, ineligible for financial help from the government and have suffered a loss from tips, particularly during the festive period, which would have been their busiest time of the year.

In response to this, last December the Mayor's Charity Appeal Trust, with Basildon Council, launched the 'Keep the lights on appeal' to encourage residents and businesses to pull together and help staff within the hospitality sector across the borough, through crowdfunding donations.

The 'Keep the lights on' crowdfunding campaign, which closed on Friday 29 January, surpassed its target and raised more than £35,000, showing tremendous support for our borough's casual workers.

Further information about the 'Keep the lights on' campaign and the funding provided to local businesses is available at [www.basildon.gov.uk/keepthelightson](http://www.basildon.gov.uk/keepthelightson)



"I have to say a massive thank you to each and every person who has donated to this important cause. To raise in excess of £35,000 at a time like this is a testament to the warmth and graciousness of the Basildon community."

**Councillor David Burton-Sampson**  
The Mayor of Basildon



## COUNCILLORS APPROVE TENDER EXERCISE TO MOVE PITSEA POOL PLAN ALONG

**Plans for a new swimming pool in Pitsea have taken a step forward as councillors agreed a tender exercise to appoint a contractor to draw up designs for the build phase.**

Chairman of the Neighbourhoods and Public Spaces Committee Councillor David Harrison said:

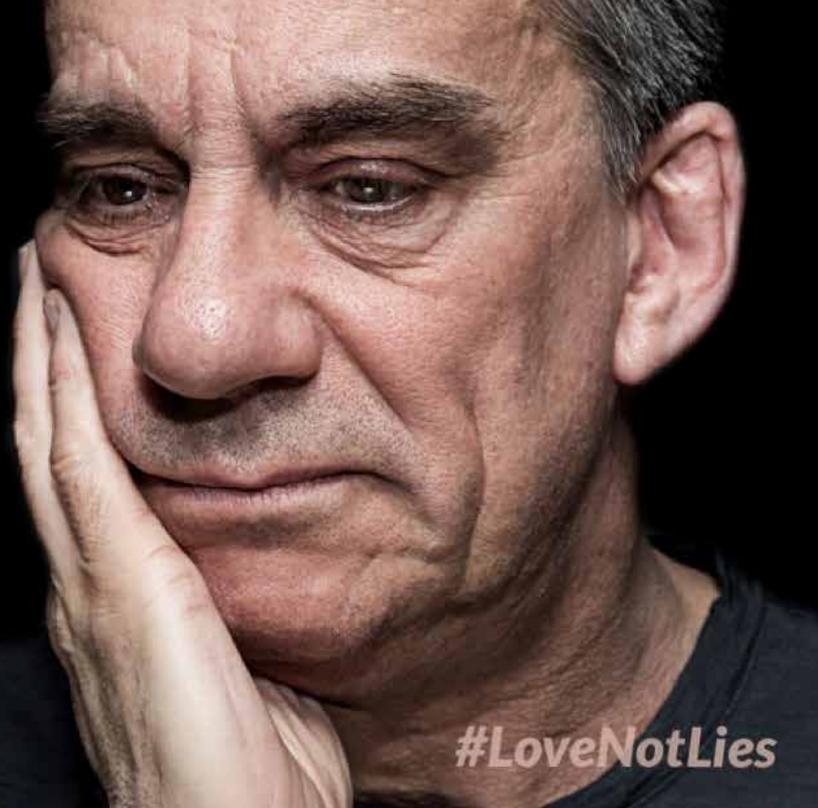
"This project has been held up by the ongoing pandemic given the impact it has had on the leisure industry but going out for tender again sends a clear message. We are committed to bringing a pool to Pitsea."

The outcome of the tender exercise will be discussed at a future meeting of the Neighbourhoods and Public Spaces Committee.

"We remain absolutely committed to progressing with proposals for the development of a swimming pool in Pitsea at Eversley Leisure Centre."

**Councillor Jack Ferguson**  
Vice Chair of the N&PS Committee

# DON'T LET YOUR HEART RULE YOUR HEAD.



**ActionFraud**  
Member of the Action Fraud Group  
www.actionfraud.police.uk



TO STOP FRAUD

#LoveNotLies

## PROTECT YOURSELF

- Avoid giving away too many personal details. Revealing your full name, date of birth and home address may lead to your identity being stolen
- Never send or receive money or give away your bank details to someone you've only met online, no matter how much you trust them or believe their story
- Pick a reputable dating website and use the site's messaging service. Fraudsters want to quickly switch to social media or texting so there's no evidence of them asking you for money.

## SPOT THE SIGNS

- You've struck up a relationship with someone online; they're asking a lot of personal questions about you, but they're not interested in telling you much about themselves
- They invent a reason to ask for your help, using the emotional attachment you've built with them. Your relationship with them may often depend on you sending money
- Their pictures are too perfect - they may have been stolen from an actor or model. Reverse image search can find photos that have been taken from somewhere else.

## HOW IT HAPPENS

Most accounts on dating websites are genuine people looking for romance, but fraudsters may try to contact you by making fake profiles.

They may have arranged to visit you but need money to pay for the flight or visa. They may tell you everything has been booked but their ticket has been stolen, and you need to send money quickly to get them on the next flight.

Alternatively, they may prey on your sympathies, telling you a family member or someone else they are responsible for is ill and they need money for medical treatment.

**For more advice on how to protect yourself from fraud visit [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)**

## ROMANCE FRAUD IS ON THE RISE



## WHAT IS ROMANCE FRAUD?

When you think you've met the perfect partner through an online dating website or app, but the other person is using a fake profile to form a relationship with you. They're using the site to gain your trust and ask you for money or enough personal information to steal your identity.

**SAFERBASILDON**

Working together for a safer borough

# The hub

## HOW WE ARE SUPPORTING OUR VULNERABLE RESIDENTS

Basildon Council was the first in Essex to have our Community Hub in place, launching on 20 March 2020, just two days after local authorities were asked to create Community Hubs.



**15,722 COVID RELATED CALLS**



**8,625 EMAILS**



**18,791 BEFRIENDING CALLS**



**955 PRESCRIPTIONS COLLECTED**



**132 HEARING AID BATTERIES DELIVERED**



**475 FORTNIGHTLY WELFARE CALLS**



**1,197 WEEKLY WELFARE CALLS**



**1,799 REFERRALS**  
to other services both internal and to our community partners including food banks, volunteers, befriending, repairs and welfare checks

Our Community Hub continues to be here for those most in need and continue to help with essentials like prescriptions, hearing aid batteries and access to priority food delivery slots.

You can refer residents to them for support by emailing **coronavirus residents@basildon.gov.uk** or call 01268 533333 and choose option 1.

## On Thursday 6 May, there are elections taking place:

To elect 15 Basildon Borough Councillors in wards across the borough. These wards include Billericay East, Billericay West, Burstead, Crouch, Fryerns, Laindon Park, Langdon Hills, Lee Chapel North, Nethermayne, Pitsea North West, Pitsea South East, St Martin's, Vange and Wickford North. There is no Basildon borough election in Wickford Castledon and Wickford Park wards.

Elections will take place to elect councillors to a number of Local Councils across the borough. These include Billericay Town Council, Little Burstead Parish Council, Great Burstead and South Green Village Council, Ramsden Bellhouse Parish Council, Ramsden Crays Parish Council and Noak Bridge Parish Council.

To elect nine Essex County Council Councillors to represent the five Electoral Divisions in the borough. These Electoral Divisions are Westley Heights; Billericay and Burstead; Laindon Park and Fryerns; Pitsea; and Wickford Crouch.

To elect a Police Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex  
Look out for polling cards which will be sent out directly to you from the end of March/early April; providing full details, including the location of your local polling station.

## CORONAVIRUS

All polling stations will be Covid compliant. Please wear a mask, follow social distancing measures and bring your own pen to polling stations. On Thursday 6 May, the polls will open from 7am and close at 10pm.

## POSTAL VOTES

We understand more people may want to apply for a postal vote this year. Please get your postal vote application in as soon as possible. To apply to vote by post you need to download, print and fill in the postal vote application form. For more information visit [www.basildon.gov.uk/elections](http://www.basildon.gov.uk/elections)

## PLEASE REGISTER TO VOTE

To have your say, you need to be registered to vote on the electoral register. You can now register to vote online, please visit: [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)

## IMPORTANT DATES

**The deadline to register to vote for the May 2021 elections is Monday 19 April 2021**

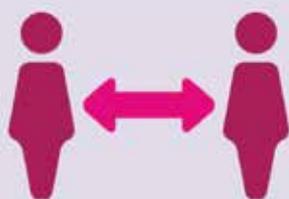
**The deadline to apply for a postal vote is 5pm on Tuesday 20 April 2021**

**The deadline to apply for a proxy vote (whereby somebody can vote on your behalf) is 5pm on Tuesday 27 April 2021**

**The deadline for receipt of Emergency proxy is 5pm on Thursday 6 May 2021.**

If you would prefer to apply to register to vote using a paper form, you can still download the form from the registration site or you can request one from the council's electoral services team on **01268 533333** and send it back to us **by Monday 19 April 2021.**

# GET READY FOR MAY ELECTIONS



Want to vote  
by post?  
Apply early





**SUNDAY  
21 MARCH**



## HAVE YOU GOT YOUR CENSUS LETTER?

**Households across Basildon are being asked to take part in Census 2021.**

Census day is on 21 March, but households will now be receiving letters with online codes explaining how they can complete their forms. If you don't get one in the next couple of weeks, please get in touch with the census contact centre. You can also request a paper questionnaire if you'd prefer to complete your census that way.

Local census support centres will be open while the census is happening. Staff will offer help for people not confident online, who don't have a computer or need help completing on paper.

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

**For more information, and to find out how to get help, visit [census.gov.uk](https://census.gov.uk) or call the contact centre on 0800 141 2021.**

**census  
2021**

*"This is one of my favourite walks through the park and in Wickford - I just wish it was a longer walk, you can get lost in your thoughts here"*

## FRIENDS OF WICKFORD MEMORIAL PARK

# REDISCOVER

## REDISCOVERING OUR PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

**We're blessed with fantastic parks and open spaces across the whole borough. We want our residents to rediscover the beauty of the open spaces that neighbour us, to find out about the wonderful areas you may not have known about.**

So much joy can be had from the outdoors - time outside, breathing in the fresh air, can make a really positive contribution people's mental health and wellbeing.

You might have a favourite outdoor location that you like to visit in the borough - but there is lots more to explore, and lots that you might not have discovered yet.

We spoke to the community groups that help keep some of our parks and open spaces looking as well maintained as they are, to hear about some of their finest aspects from the people who know them best.



## FRIENDS OF GLOUCESTER PARK

**"Looking from west to east across the Gloucester Park fishing lake, it's a lovely spot where you can gather your thoughts. It's amazing how this lake has matured over the years and the trees have made it a wildlife haven, not bad for a man-made lake."**

**"On a late night, the lights from the nearby houses together with the illumination from the moon mean you can get some amazing photos of the sky from Gloucester Park."**



## FRIENDS OF LAKE MEADOWS

"We really enjoy seeing the gardens, which are carefully maintained by the Friends' volunteers each week. They give us much pleasure, whether they are the rhododendrons, the roses, the sensory beds or the many shrubs and perennials, all of which attract different butterflies, bees and insects."



"I love the children's play area - a safe, friendly place where the children can play on the wide variety of equipment suitable for all ages. After watching them, I usually take them to the nearby café for ice creams, whilst I have a coffee."



*"The statue of the Child in the Park, a millennium project, is set in its own garden and is a real treasure that everyone loves. My children love identifying the creatures around the statue while I relax with a friend."*



**NORSEY WOODS SOCIETY**

"In Spring the Wood is transformed, firstly by a carpet of white Wood Anemones, followed by our famous Bluebells which flower before the trees shade out the woodland floor. Norsey Wood is an Ancient Woodland because it existed before 1600AD. The Site of Special Scientific Interest citation states 'one of the best deciduous woods in Essex'."

"The variety of habitats including woodland rides and natural ponds encourages the widest possible range of woodland creatures. For early risers birdsong welcomes Spring whilst the wood changes with each season. Warmer weather brings a succession of woodland butterflies such as the Speckled Wood as well as dragonflies."



## AVAGRACE DESIGNS

Given the pandemic, our small businesses have changed the way they are selling products and many have moved to online sales. Jade Moore, owner of AvaGrace Designs, an events company in Basildon, uses Facebook and Instagram to promote her business. She said "At the start of the pandemic all the events got cancelled and I was uncertain about what was going to happen."

Jade, who also produced the multi-coloured Basildon balloon sign on the A127 last year, in tribute to the NHS and all of our key workers, said: "A lot of people have been struggling to do more for their loved ones' birthdays and I've been getting a lot of orders for balloons, through contactless deliveries or collections."

She went on to say: "I have been overwhelmed with the support I've received, when you support a small business, you're not just making a purchase, you're supporting someone's dream and vision".



@Ava Grace Designs



*"The pandemic has posed huge challenges for many of our businesses - but we have seen many businesses respond in a really innovative way - which is very encouraging."*

**Councillor Aidan McGurran**

Chairman of the Economic Development and Recovery Committee



## REDISCOVERING SMALL BUSINESSES

**The COVID-19 crisis has meant that thousands of jobs have been at risk from the closure of small businesses across the Basildon borough. We have some fantastic small businesses, but now more than ever, they all need our help.**

Michaela Bartlett, owner of Michaela Health and Beauty Salon on Billericay high street, established for 21 years, said: "It has been the most unimaginable year. We have implemented all COVID-19 safety recommendations, but we have been closed for longer than we have been open.

We have now set up an online store so people can order their favourite products and gift vouchers directly from us even if our salon is unable to open."

She went on to say "Please support every small business in Billericay high street, otherwise some of them just aren't going to survive."

[www.michaelahealthandbeauty.co.uk](http://www.michaelahealthandbeauty.co.uk)



**MICHAELA HEALTH & BEAUTY**

**As a council we're already doing our bit, more than £600 million of private sector investment to regenerate Basildon town centre to encourage local people to shop here. And, we will use local companies wherever we can to help to deliver this regeneration.**

Owner of Tune-Up Seafoods, Sola Oke, who are based in Basildon town centre and specialise in supplying fresh fish said: "We are enthusiastic about the town centre regeneration project and we are really looking forward to happier times ahead. The reduced footfall in the town centre has impacted the business in a big way. We have relaunched our website with information on the variety of seafood we sell and ideas on tasty meals."

 @Tune-up foods

This year, as we buy birthday presents, treats or everyday household goods, please consider buying from our borough's small businesses and do what you can to support them. Shop Local Shop Safe.



**TUNE-UP SEAFOODS**



# REDISCOVER

## REDISCOVERING THE GLOBAL BRANDS BRINGING INVESTMENT AND EMPLOYMENT TO THE BOROUGH

**Basildon thrives on entrepreneurial spirit. From the smallest start-ups to global giants in every sector, Basildon has become the largest economy in Essex – providing everything from advanced engineering and manufacturing, to financial services and digital solutions.**

Basildon’s 8,000+ businesses generate 14% of all jobs in Essex. Along the whole Thames Estuary, only Canary Wharf has a bigger economy.

We are taking a look behind the scenes at a handful of Basildon’s biggest businesses, to show how they helped put the borough on the map.



### LEONARDO

**Leonardo is one of the world’s top ten aerospace, defence and security organisations and opened its doors in Basildon in 1952. Awarded with the Investors in People Gold Standard, the company employs 1,000 people based in Basildon.**

Leonardo’s Basildon site develops specialist surveillance, display, communication, and survivability technology for the MoD and customers around the globe.

The company’s Basildon produced thermal imaging camera has been used in iconic wildlife series, including BBC’s Planet Earth 2 and Springwatch, as well as international cricket.

During lockdown, Basildon STEM Ambassadors created a unique wildlife themed remote work experience programme, so local students could gain engineering skills.



### CNH INDUSTRIAL

**Locally we know CNH Industrial by one of its most successful brands – New Holland Agriculture.**

The New Holland Tractor Plant has been in Basildon for more than 55 years, opening in 1964.

Since then, the plant has produced more than 1.6 million tractors and 3.1 million engines.

Basildon’s facility is a global Centre of Excellence for tractor design, and the production line itself is over 2km long.

*"We are fortunate here in the borough to work alongside global partners who want to invest in Basildon. Why wouldn't they? This borough has so much to offer."*

**Councillor Aidan McGurran**

Chairman of the Economic Development and Recovery Committee

## THE UNDERWATER STUDIO

**Quietly nestled in the Burnt Mills Industrial Estate is a hi-tech facility visited by Hollywood heroes and pop superstars.**

The Underwater Studio is the only purpose built, permanently filled and heated underwater film studio in Europe with a removeable roof.

The studio has provided world-class underwater filming facilities for blockbuster movies and countless TV productions, including Star Wars, Top Gear, EastEnders and Trainspotting.

Music videos and stage content for global acts have all been filmed at the studio - including scenes for Take That, Kylie Minogue and Biffy Clyro (pictured).

The Underwater Studio - [www.theunderwaterstudio.com](http://www.theunderwaterstudio.com)

Photography for The Underwater Studio is generously provided by Zac Macaulay Films - [www.zacmacaulay.com](http://www.zacmacaulay.com)

# DISCOVERING NEW LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES WITH MORGAN SINDALL

As well as delivering repairs, maintenance programmes and improvement works to 10,000 council homes, Morgan Sindall Property Services (MSPS) also strive to support and contribute to the communities we work with.

The MSPS Social Value team is working incredibly hard to help the local community during this challenging time. We offer opportunities such as apprenticeship programmes, mentoring and CV workshops, free eLearning courses, energy efficient guidance and virtual work experience; all hosted virtually to keep our residents safe.

**For more information on any of the programmes or workshops, please contact Luke Culling, Social Value Business Partner at MSPS, by emailing [luke.culling@morgansindall.com](mailto:luke.culling@morgansindall.com) or calling 07870 377628.**

## VIRTUAL ENERGY CAFE

**First Friday of every month at 10am**

At these sessions we share advice on making your homes more energy efficient, tips on reducing your carbon footprint and lowering your energy bills.



## STUDENT WORK EXPERIENCE

Working in partnership with Speakers for Schools several virtual work experience opportunities throughout 2021 are on offer.

## HELPING YOU TO UPSKILL

To help support residents mental health and wellbeing, we have teamed up with South Essex College, Harlow College and QDos training to provide free online training courses. Courses for residents include:

- CSCS COURSE
- MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID
- COUNSELLING SKILLS
- BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
- DIGITAL SKILLS
- EXCELLENCE IN CUSTOMER SERVICE
- HEALTH AND NUTRITION



It's a great opportunity to develop new or existing skills, grow in confidence, and achieve a nationally-recognised qualification. Courses take place all year round, and once enrolled you have 12 weeks to complete. Certain criteria does apply (19 years old or over and must have lived in UK for at least the last three years).

*"Morgan Sindall are the council's repairs contractor but in reality they do so much more. Their BasWorx apprenticeship scheme continues to make a difference to the lives of our residents year after year."*

**Councillor Kerry Smith**

Chairman of the Housing and Communities Committee



## SUCCESSFUL BASWORX APPRENTICES

Congratulations to Samson Rosemond who secured an Electrical Apprentice position! Two more apprentices are due to join as Electrical and Multi-Trade apprentices based in our Barleylands Hub. The next cohort begins on Monday 12 April 2021.

**MORGAN SINDALL**

PROPERTY SERVICES

# CHECK CHANGE APPLY



Access your Council Tax, Housing Benefit and Business Rates information all in one place!

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“We are really excited to launch our new e-services portal, this means that you can access your account 24/7 from your PC or phone.”

“So why sign up? To make your life easier by ensuring that your account is updated straight away and to avoid any unnecessary queues!”

**Robert Manser**, Shared Services Revenues & Benefits Manager

# BASILDON'S BOUNCING BACK!

## NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

South Essex College's brand new, state of the art Centre for Digital Technologies, is now complete and will shortly be welcoming classes of new students as part of the town centre regeneration.

The Basildon town centre campus a partnership between Basildon Council, South Essex College and Homes England, offers exceptional facilities and equipment for both young people and adults with a tech focus. Courses on offer include IT, web development, app development, games design and animation. The digital technology courses range from full-time for school leavers to part-time for adults.

The college has also launched a new Level 5 Web Application Development qualification for adults; suitable for individuals with no previous experience who want to work in the digital industry or who want to upskill in this area. Students will learn how to design and code for websites and apps.

If you want to find out more about any of the courses offered at South Essex College, visit [www.southessex.ac.uk](http://www.southessex.ac.uk)



## OPEN FOR BUSINESS

If you're an employer from the digital technology or IT sector and have a skills gap you'd like to address – please contact South Essex College, they would love to hear from you at [apprenticeships@southessex.ac.uk](mailto:apprenticeships@southessex.ac.uk)

The superb 10 screen Empire Cinema and restaurants complex is on track to complete and open later this year despite the challenges caused by the pandemic. The Empire Cinema is an iconic stepping-stone to reimagine Basildon Town Centre to become the beating heart of Essex with restaurants, bars and arts and entertainment for everyone to be proud of and enjoy.

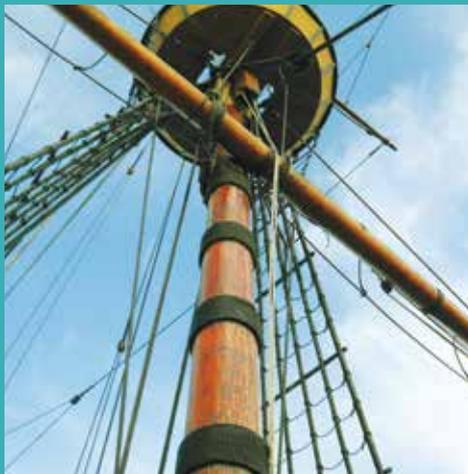
# THE EMPIRE CINEMA STRIKES BACK



## CULTURE FOR ALL

**Arts and culture will be celebrated at every opportunity and will be at the very heart of the Basildon Town Centre transformation, to creatively bring together Basildon's rich cultural heritage.**

Arts and culture will weave throughout the regeneration plan, championing creativity, experimentation, making technology accessible to all and embracing green living in the town centre.



Imagine Basildon alive with outdoor performances, entertainment and much more. Imagine interactive pop-up spaces, creating little pockets of creative experiences, inviting shoppers to pop in, have a go and try something new. Imagine large scale street art commissions animating the walls. Imagine no longer.

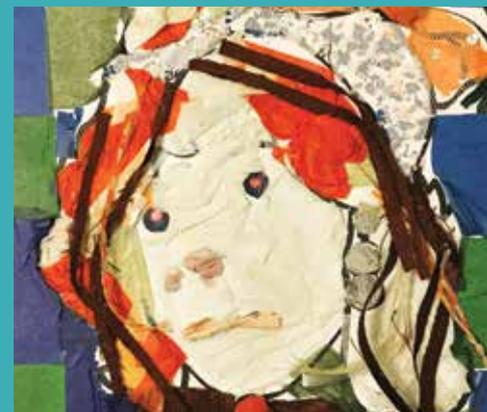
## CHRISTINE'S COLLAGE CHALLENGE

**Christine's Collage Challenge is an ongoing creative project celebrating Basildon's rich cultural heritage.**

Residents are invited to create their own collage creations inspired by famous people who were born or lived in Basildon.

Templates can be downloaded from the Basildon Creative People and Places website - [www.creativebasildon.co.uk/opportunities/](http://www.creativebasildon.co.uk/opportunities/) where you can also find 'how to' films and handy tips to help you create your masterpiece. You can also contact [cpp@creativebasildon.co.uk](mailto:cpp@creativebasildon.co.uk) to have a collage pack posted to you.

Set to run until Summer 2021, there are prizes available for the winning creations, plus an exhibition planned in Eastgate Shopping Centre.





## YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE BOROUGH GET INVOLVED IN SHAPING ESSEX'S FIRST ONSIDE YOUTH ZONE

**Basildon's young people are being invited to get involved with the development of the borough's new OnSide Youth Zone.**

A planning application has now been submitted for the exciting £8.4million centre which is being developed by the national charity OnSide Youth Zones, in partnership with Basildon Council.

Youth Zones provide a safe and inspiring place for young people to spend their leisure time. The Youth Zone will be open seven days a week, with more than 20 activities on offer every session for young people aged 8-19, or up to 25 for those with additional needs.

OnSide wants to involve our borough's young people from the very start of its development.

The Young People's Development Group's first job will be to name and brand the Youth Zone before going on to help with staff recruitment, support with fundraising and, crucially, be a voice for the young people of Basildon.

*"I encourage all young people in the borough to get involved in the Development Group, it's a great opportunity to have your say and develop the facility into what you would want it to become."*

**Councillor David Harrison**

Chairman of the Neighbourhoods and Public Spaces Committee



THE  
*Youth*  
**ZONE**  
BASILDON

# BASILDON'S BOUNCING BACK!



## COMMUNITY PROJECT HELPS US REDISCOVER BASILDON'S PAST AND PRESENT

**A community project that explores and rediscovers Basildon's nature and heritage with the aim of leaving a lasting legacy in the town is making exciting progress.**

The community project is a collaboration between Basildon Council, 10 local primary schools, heritage groups and local people.

The project named 'Radion' after one of the borough's first cinemas, the former Laindon Picture Theatre, began at the start of the year and is part of a drive to help us rediscover our borough and what it has to offer. The project will conclude with two separate digital images being displayed on two sides of a public lenticular screen which will be installed outside the new Empire Cinema in East Square once completed.

To passers-by the screen will appear like an optical illusion which will change and move. Everything on the screens will have come from the workshops and contributions to the project. Children will be able to recognise their own leaf rubbings on the woodland panorama and heritage of the borough past and present will be shared on the other side of the screen.

More information on the project can be found at [www.radionproject.com](http://www.radionproject.com)



*"This is something the community can feel a sense of ownership of that can leave a lasting legacy in the borough and in particular in the new East Square which will become the night time hub of a totally transformed Basildon town centre."*

**Councillor David Harrison**  
Chairman of the Neighbourhoods  
and Public Spaces Committee



# REDISCOVERING PITSEA

**Very little is known of the early history of Pitsea but this only makes it more fascinating a place.**

There is as much to discover about the town for the first time as there is to rediscover if you haven't visited for a while.

From its bronze-age beginnings as a marshland settlement to its medieval buildings and church.

Pitsea is now one of the Basildon borough's five major towns with a railway line linking it to the capital in 40 minutes and road links via the A13 and A130 making it a desirable area for those who commute.

But what other facts are there to discover?



## **Pitsea has an explosive past**

Wat Tyler Park was once home to an explosives factory. The Pitsea factory produced dynamite, gelignite and other explosives based on nitroglycerine for blasting rocks and mining. The factory thrived during the First World War but struggled afterwards and closed in 1929.

Then in 1891 the British Explosives Syndicate built a factory in Pitsea.

The Pitsea Explosives Factory mostly made explosives for mining. The factory thrived during the First World War but struggled afterwards and closed in 1929. The Nobel business then went into chemicals becoming a household name as Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI).



## **Pitsea Mount is home to a 13th century church building**

When approaching Pitsea by car or rail it's hard to miss the church tower adorning the town's skyline. The 13th century church of Saint Michael's is one of Pitsea's most beloved and enduring landmarks.

Opposite the railway station in Pitsea Hall Lane is Cromwell Manor, formerly known as Pitsea Hall. This property, which now functions as a wedding venue dates back to the 15th century and still retains many original features.

"We are really proud of all our towns and Pitsea is no exception. From its excellent transport links to the beauty of Wat Tyler Country Park. Pitsea has a real sense of history, a strong local community and an exciting future."

**Councillor Jack Ferguson**

Vice Chair of the N&PS Committee

**A 125 acre park named after a famous rebel that is a treasure trove of historical facts**

It would be hard to talk about Pitsea without mentioning the jewel in its crown, Wat Tyler Country Park and its surrounds. 125 acres of country walks, wildlife spotting, adventure play for kids and a history of its own.

People have lived in the Pitsea marshes for around 5,500 years, where salt production, fishing and shellfish have helped people earn a living ever since. Sea salt was first made here in the Bronze Age (2500 - 800BC).

In 1381 the men of nearby Fobbing started the Peasant's Revolt. Wat Tyler, one of the revolt's ill-fated leaders was to give his name to the country park for the people of Basildon six centuries later.



# BASILDON BUDGET 2021



**This has been a very difficult year for council finances. Recovering from the pandemic is going to take many years. This year, the council has lost £7.2 million in revenue and expenses, combined with £1.6 million required savings.**

Just before Christmas, the Government told councils to get the money back through a two percent increase in council tax. I am not prepared to introduce a COVID tax in Basildon so I will be freezing council tax for the second year in a row.

It is important to remember that 70 per cent of the Council tax we pay goes straight to Essex County Council, and a further 15 per cent goes to the police and fire services. That means over

£80 million goes to Essex County Council each year to fix potholes, pavements and provide care services.

This administration has some big ambitions for the year as we bounce back from COVID, including the largest investment in social housing since 1982, clear action on climate change policies including planting 100,000 new trees and the greening of flyovers and the continued regeneration of our town centre. While there are challenges ahead, I believe in Basildon and there will be happier times ahead.

**Councillor Gavin Callaghan**  
Leader of Basildon Council

## HOW COUNCIL TAX IS MADE UP



**70%** Essex County Council

**15%** Basildon Borough Council

**11%** Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner

**4%** Essex Police, Fire and Crime Authority

**£8.8M**

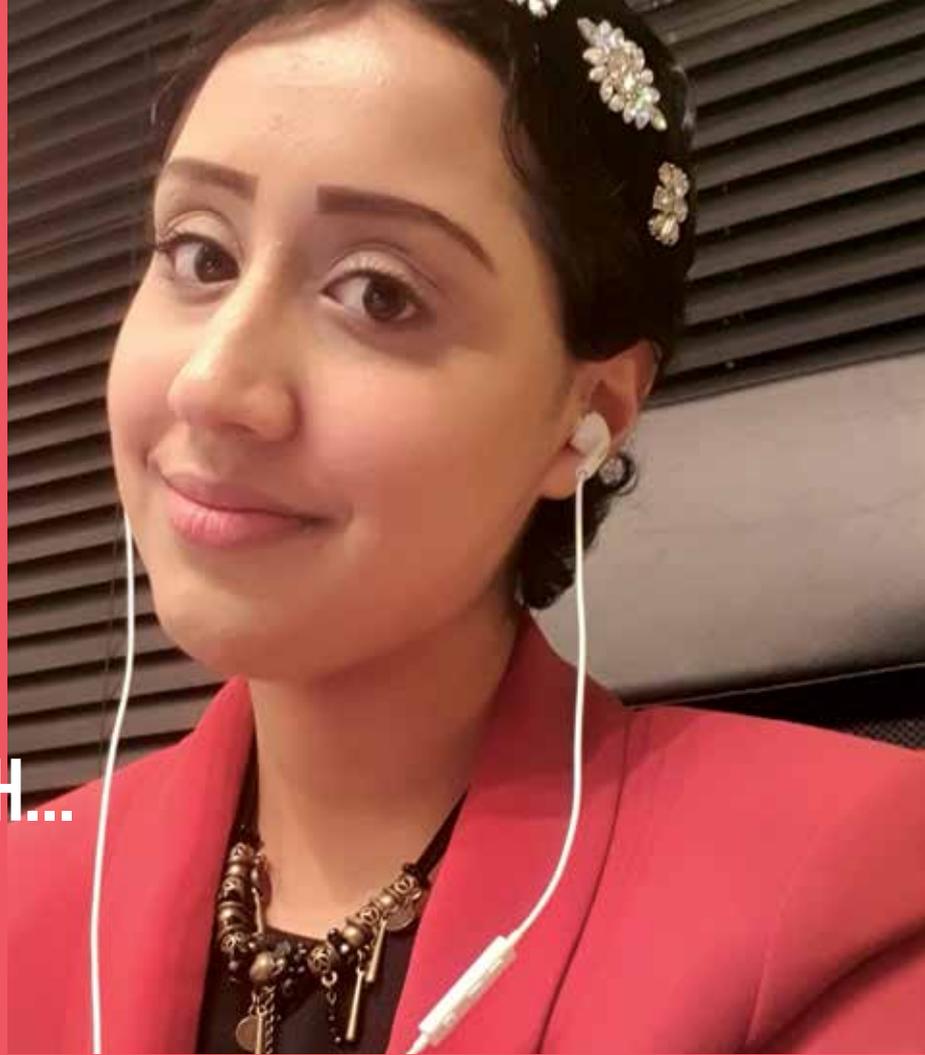
**BUDGET GAP CLOSED WITH NO SERVICES CUT**



## INVESTING IN OUR BOROUGH

*"I've always been passionate about social justice and equality. I feel a compelling sense of consciousness of the opportunities that I have as a woman today, that many women who came before me did not have, and this inspires me to contribute towards society and make a difference."*

## A CONVERSATION WITH...



### **COUNCILLOR MARYAM YAQUB ST MARTIN'S WARD**

#### **What made you want to become a councillor?**

Before becoming a councillor, I was involved in the campaign to save our local libraries from closures. Being involved in this campaign propelled me to do more. I wanted to be proactive in shaping policies that would positively impact the borough and tackle austerity.

#### **Before you became a councillor – did you have a perception of what the role would involve?**

My understanding of the role was around shaping policies and setting strategies for the borough, representing my residents and being an advocate for local issues that directly impacted their lives.

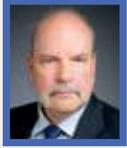
#### **And has that view changed at all?**

Absolutely. It's been completely different to actually experience the inner workings of the council. Things are very fast paced, just as we witnessed during the first lockdown, when we set up a Community Hub to support our residents within 48 hours.

#### **Since you joined the council, what are you most proud of?**

I'm proud of being a member of a progressive council that is tackling injustices and addressing inequality. I'm proud of how we've shown throughout this pandemic how closely connected the council is to the needs of the community. I'm proud that we've put £13,000 towards funding library books, of which £1,000 has been allocated to purchase BAME books. I'm proud that we are bringing a Youth Zone to Basildon which will transform the opportunities our young people have access to and I'm proud that we've set up a mental health fund to support our residents during this challenging time. I'm also proud of the Inclusive Basildon Project, which aims to make the borough more accessible to those with disabilities.

## BILLERICAY WEST



**Anthony Hedley**  
01277 626198  
25 Prower Close,  
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CM11 2BU



**Daniel Lawrence**  
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SS14 1DL



**Phil Turner**  
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**David Dadds**  
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SS14 1DL



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



**Stuart Sullivan**  
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Shotgate, Wickford  
SS11 8XH

## BILLERICAY EAST

## BURSTEAD



**Andrew Baggott**  
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Billericay  
CM12 0JD



**Kevin Blake**  
01268 470597  
66 Walthams,  
Pitsea  
SS13 3PN



**Richard Moore**  
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Billericay  
CM12 9LG



**David Burton-Sampson**  
07480 339823  
*Mayor of Basildon*  
c/o The Basildon Centre,  
St Martin's Sq, Basildon  
SS14 1DL



**Maryam Yaqub**  
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c/o The Basildon Centre,  
St Martin's Sq, Basildon  
SS14 1DL

## LAINDON PARK



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c/o The Basildon Centre,  
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SS14 1DL



**Hazel Green**  
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c/o The Basildon Centre,  
St Martin's Sq, Basildon  
SS14 1DL



**Jeff Henry**  
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c/o The Basildon Centre,  
St Martin's Sq, Basildon  
SS14 1DL

## ST. MARTINS

## LEE CHAPEL NORTH



**Olukayode Adeniran**  
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c/o The Basildon Centre,  
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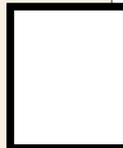


**Andrew Gordon**  
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**Elaine McDonald**  
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c/o The Basildon Centre,  
St Martin's Sq, Basildon  
SS14 1DL

## LANGDON HILLS



Vacant Seat



**Stephen Hillier**  
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## NETHERMAYNE



**Derrick Fellowes**  
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*Deputy Mayor of Basildon*  
c/o The Basildon Centre,  
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SS14 1DL



**Pauline Kettle**  
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c/o The Basildon Centre,  
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All councillors can be contacted via email:  
[firstname.surname@members.basildon.gov.uk](mailto:firstname.surname@members.basildon.gov.uk)

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

# COUNCILLORS OF BASILDON BOROUGH 2020-2021

Frame colour	Political group	Number of seats
	CONSERVATIVE	18
	LABOUR	15
	INDEPENDENTS	4
	WICKFORD INDEPENDENTS	2
	ABSOLUTE INDEPENDENTS	2
	NON – ALIGNED	1

## CROUCH



**Stuart Allen**  
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**Terri Sargent**  
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Noak Bridge,  
Basildon  
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## WICKFORD CASTLEDON



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**Don Morris**  
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Wickford  
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**Peter Holliman**  
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**Carole Morris**  
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**Eunice Brockman**  
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## WICKFORD NORTH



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**George Jeffery**  
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## WICKFORD PARK



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## FRYERNS



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**David Kirkman**  
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## PITSEA NORTH WEST



**Gavin Callaghan**  
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**Patricia Reid**  
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**Jack Ferguson**  
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Basildon  
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## VANGE



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**Melissa McGeorge**  
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c/o The Basildon Centre,  
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SS14 1DL

## PITSEA SOUTH EAST



**Andrew Ansell**  
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St Martin's Sq, Basildon  
SS14 1DL



**Luke Mackenzie**  
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c/o The Basildon Centre,  
St Martin's Sq, Basildon  
SS14 1DL



**Craig Rimmer**  
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c/o The Basildon Centre,  
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SS14 1DL



**Kerry Smith**  
01268 661812  
*Deputy Leader of the Council*  
c/o The Basildon Centre,  
St Martin's Sq, Basildon  
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# WICKFORD MEMORIAL PARK TO GET 26 ACRE EXTENSION

A Wickford beauty spot is to be extended by 26 acres thanks to an agreement by Basildon Council to manage land previously leased to Beauchamps School as open community space.

Beauchamps School no longer required use of the site which had previously been inaccessible to the public, providing Basildon Council with an exciting opportunity to develop and enhance the biodiversity of the area.

Initial concepts for the site include the creation of a number of wetland ponds, planting of a mixture of woodland and wildflower meadows and the planting of a community orchard.

These ideas will be further developed and defined through engagement with a number of parties, including the Forestry Commission, the Woodland Trust, local expertise, Friends Groups and park users.

The site will be managed and maintained by the council's Parks and Countryside service and will provide important opportunities for the local community to be physically active, connect with others, learn new skills, give to the community and enjoy the outdoors, thus, positively contributing to people's mental health and wellbeing.



## THANK YOU FROM THE MAYOR

**Everyone within our borough has been affected by Covid-19 in some way - key workers providing vital services, volunteers who have supported vulnerable residents or those kept apart from family during lockdown.**

In the last six months, when restrictions have allowed, I have been trying to visit as many local groups and organisations as I can to thank them, on behalf of the borough, for their tireless efforts to support our communities. It has been a humbling experience, hearing their personal stories and the challenges they have faced in providing services when sometimes facing challenges in their own circumstances.

The power of community during the pandemic has been inspiring. From neighbours helping neighbours, to our food banks who have found an increased demand for their services to the dedication of our NHS and key workers who been on the front line.

Thank you to all our volunteers, NHS and key workers and everyone who has kept services running, protected us and helped our vulnerable residents in the most challenging times we will probably ever face.

Councillor David Burton-Sampson  
**The Mayor of Basildon**





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IN SOUTH ESSEX

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[www.dialsouthessex.co.uk](http://www.dialsouthessex.co.uk)

email: [enquiries@dialsouthessex.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@dialsouthessex.co.uk)

## BASILDON RADIO STATION LAUNCHES NEW FITNESS PROJECT

Local radio station, Gateway 97.8, has launched a new project funded by Sport England to get the people of Basildon and East Thurrock fit!

Working with local fitness coaches and personal trainers, Gateway 97.8 provides a range of on air classes suitable for all ages and all fitness levels. Classes will be broadcast live on air, on social media and posted on the Gateway 97.8 website for you to catch up on.

Sign up today to be notified when the classes are taking place by visiting:  
[www.gateway978.com/fitness](http://www.gateway978.com/fitness)



HAVE **YOU** ARRANGED YOUR PRE-PAID FUNERAL PLAN ?



Pre-planning and purchasing your funeral **now** can take away much of the financial and emotional burden from your family when a loved one passes, and give you the funeral of your choice. Your plan buys your funeral director's services at **today's price**, however long into the future you actually live, and your close family will be spared the payment and organisation of the funeral arrangements at a difficult time

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**MARTIN ENGLEMAN**

*Associate of The Institute of Professional Will Writers*



**01268 761022 / 07901 948745**

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*Still open 7 days a week !*

### Clarification

In the Winter 2020 edition of Together magazine, an article on page 13 regarding Basildon Side by Side mistakenly had the word ASIAN removed from 'Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities. We sincerely apologise for the error and the online version of the magazine has been amended. You can read it [www.basildon.gov.uk/together](http://www.basildon.gov.uk/together) and click on the winter edition.



HM Government

**NHS**

**CORONAVIRUS**

# **ACT LIKE YOU'VE GOT IT**

**ANYONE CAN SPREAD IT.  
STICK TO THE RULES TO  
STOP THE SPREAD.**

Find out more at [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

**STAY HOME ▶ PROTECT THE NHS ▶ SAVE LIVES**