

SPRING 2023

BASILDON

OUR BOROUGH



 garden waste
Garden Waste Only
Streetcare 01268 553333
House Number:
 Basildon Council



Basildon Council



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CONTACT US

Basildon - Our Borough 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 enquiries email - jude.mason@basildon.gov.uk

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

Visit www.basildon.gov.uk/basildonourborough for information on how to download the spoken word version of Basildon - Our Borough, or call 01268 208198 to request an alternative format.

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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
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

NHS 111

Call 111 or go to 111.nhs.uk
They can help if you have an urgent medical problem and you are not sure what to do



When you're finished with this magazine, please recycle me

 Basildon recycles

WELCOME

Welcome to the spring edition of your resident magazine 'Basildon – Our Borough'. We know times are hard at the moment – and the pressures and challenges facing us all as residents extend to us as a council too. With significant increases to bills and running costs for everything from heating community centres, the fuel for our waste vehicles, and building costs – the list could go on and on. This has meant we have had to make some difficult decisions, as part of the council's 2023/24 budget.

The most difficult of these has probably been the raising of Basildon's portion of council tax by 2.97% and introducing a weekly charged optional subscription service for garden waste – something that most councils around Essex do already charge for, but we understand that it is not something that you currently are as a resident in Basildon. Inside we have included 'Waste Improvements' four page pull out, informing you of our waste service updates that are more efficient, more environmentally friendly, and more sustainable in the long term.

Although these are challenging times, there is still lots to be excited about. We have opened brand-new exciting play areas in some of our major parks, new nature zones and other open space improvements are providing more opportunities for you to get out and get active, we have reaffirmed our commitment

to a multi-million pound investment programme in our estates through Safe and Sound, as well as introducing new enforcement officers, community safety wardens, major CCTV investment to increase the quality and coverage of our cameras.

We are all looking forward to celebrating the King Charles III Coronation in May. The long weekend will see a Coronation Big Lunch, and volunteering event The Big Help Out take place as part of the festivities. Please let us know what you are planning, by making sure to tag our Basildon Council social media accounts in your activities.

Stay up to date by following the council's social media channels on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. I have my own page on Facebook too which is @Cllr Andrew Baggott. We also have our weekly resident newsletter on council news and updates, which I would recommend you subscribing to. You can do so at www.basildon.gov.uk/keepintouch.



King Charles III Coronation 2023

The King's Coronation weekend will see a Coronation Big Lunch, and volunteering event The Big Help Out take place as part of the festivities.

We would be delighted for you to get involved in the King's Coronation celebrations. Are you planning a street party? Apply for street party closures here: www.basildon.gov.uk/kingscoronation



Saturday 6 May

The Coronation Service at Westminster Abbey

Their Majesties The King and The Queen Consort will arrive at Westminster Abbey in procession from Buckingham Palace.



Sunday 7 May

The Coronation Concert at Windsor Castle

A world-class orchestra will play interpretations of musical favourites fronted by some of the world's biggest entertainers.

The Coronation Big Lunch

Neighbours and communities across the United Kingdom are invited to share food and fun together in a nationwide act of celebration and friendship.

Monday 8 May

The Big Help Out

The Big Help Out will encourage people to try volunteering for themselves and join the work being undertaken to support their local areas.

The aim of The Big Help Out is to use volunteering to bring communities together and create a lasting volunteering legacy from the Coronation weekend.

CHAPELGATE DEVELOPMENT TO TRANSFORM DISUSED TOWN NEIGHBOURING SITE

Approval has been granted for the development of 105 new homes at the former car park 14 site in Laindon Link, Basildon.

The development will make use of a site that has been disused for in excess of ten years, creating a vibrant development with different housing types and tenure options to provide choice for local residents.

It will include associated parking, vehicle charging, cycle access, and capacity for green roofs and air source heat pumps to ensure we are going above and beyond sustainability requirements.

70 of the homes will span across two apartment blocks of five and six storeys, with 35 apartments inside each. Additionally there will be ten three-storey townhouses, twenty two-storey semi detached houses, plus a two-storey terrace containing five houses.

All homes will either meet or exceed national space standards – in a location conveniently neighbouring the town centre and the transport links of the nearby train and bus stations. Works are expected to start on the site this Summer.



PAUL YOUNG COMES TO THE TOWNGATE

Paul Young presents his brand-new tour 'Behind the Lens' at the Towngate Theatre on Thursday 4 May, 7.30pm.

Paul Young broke into the big time 40 years ago when No Parlez went to number one and spawned iconic hits like Wherever I Lay My Hat (That's My Home). More success followed with the number one album The Secret Of Association and the worldwide hit Everytime You Go Away, not forgetting an appearance at Live Aid and many more.

Now, on the 40th anniversary of No Parlez, he's releasing a remarkable new record and publishing his extraordinary memoir; both called Behind The Lens.

In Behind The Lens, Paul will meet fans, sing classic hits and tell stories about his incredible career.

Tickets start from just £32 and there is a limited number of VIP Meet & Greet Tickets and VIP Goody Bag Tickets available, don't miss out, book now.

To book tickets, visit towngatetheatre.co.uk or call the Box Office on **01268 205 300**.



BASILDON BUDGET 2023



Over the past 12 months we have seen significant rises in inflation, causing our everyday essentials – food, fuel, utilities and more – to cost much more than they did a year ago. The invasion of Ukraine has added to that burden, impacting global supply chains and greatly impacting our daily lives. The council is not immune to these challenges, enduring a squeeze on the cost of the critical services we provide to you.

We are proud of our robust and effective management of our resources in Basildon. Despite the national outlook and other financial challenges, we have been able to agree a balanced budget for 2023/24.

Council Tax will increase this year – by 2.97% on the Basildon Council portion of your bill. This is equivalent to 16p per week for a Band D property. This is below the current level of inflation and only as much as is necessary to continue delivering the services that matter most to you.

It is important to remember that Basildon Council receives 14% of the Council Tax you pay (full breakdown below).

To maximise the resources available to us, we will continue to review our services for efficiencies. We will cut costs where it is appropriate to do so and invest where we can to modernise the way we work for you.

I am pleased that this year's budget provides a sound financial base which allows us to continue with and add to our ambitious programme of investment and improvement across the borough.

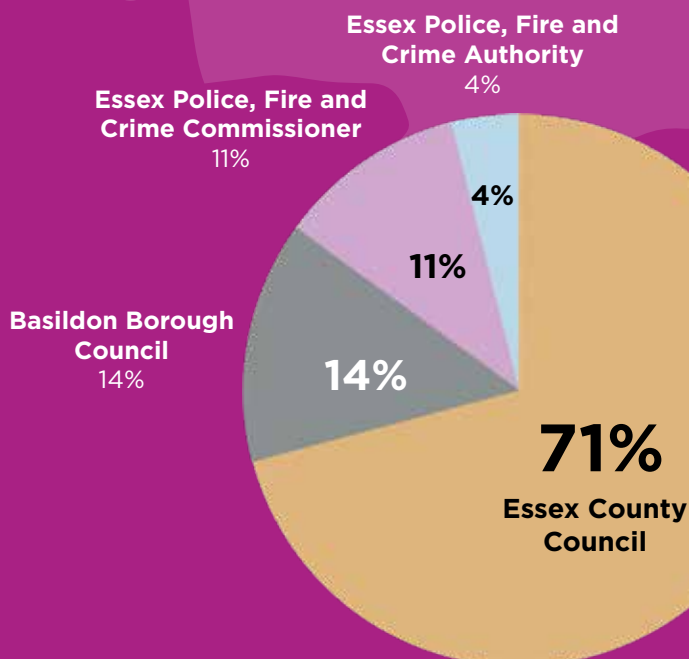
Highlights include a continued focus on our climate change targets; reinforced commitment in community safety through investment in CCTV and community wardens; investment in our open spaces with new play areas and skate parks; a programme of improvements to our waste and recycling services; and continued investment in the construction of a new swimming pool for Pitsea.

These investments are key to unlocking our borough's potential, as we continue to put you at the heart of everything we do.

Thank you.

Councillor Andrew Baggott
Leader of Basildon Council

How your council tax is made up



2.97% increase
£8.28 annually, 16p per week
on a Band D property

2022 – **£278.91**
(Basildon portion)

2023 – **£287.19**
(Basildon portion)

CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY ON NEW POOL FOR PITSEA

In December Councillors officially marked the beginning of construction for a new swimming pool in Pitsea as Morgan Sindall Construction began works.

Councillor Craig Rimmer, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, and Councillor Jeff Henry, Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing, Leisure, Arts, and Culture, attended the site at Eversley Leisure Centre.

The swimming pool will be built as an extension to Eversley Leisure Centre in Pitsea and will be operated by Everyone Active, which currently operates the existing centre on behalf of Basildon Council. Facilities will include a four-lane 25-metre pool, dedicated changing facilities and an extension to the existing car park, providing 50 additional parking spaces for those using the centre.

Councillor Craig Rimmer, Basildon Council's Cabinet Member for Regeneration, said: "This is an important milestone in the development of a new swimming pool for Pitsea – one which will give residents and pupils in Pitsea access to high quality facilities right on their doorstep. Residents have long asked us for a new pool in Pitsea and I am pleased that construction is now underway."

Shaun Beagle, Area Contract Manager at Everyone Active, said: "We are very excited to be adding to the fantastic facilities we have here at Eversley Leisure Centre. The brand-new swimming pool will be a valuable asset for the local community to be able to use and we look forward to the works being completed."



NEW PLANS FOR TOWN CENTRE

In January residents and interested parties were invited to share their feedback on the proposals for redevelopment of the former Post Office site in Basildon town centre.

At the events, members of the public were able to view proposals for the site and provide comment on the proposed plans, prior to the full planning application being submitted.

The announcement comes after councillors confirmed their commitment to redevelop the site at a meeting of Basildon Council's Cabinet on Tuesday 6 December 2022.

At the meeting, councillors agreed to begin a procurement exercise to secure a main contractor for the development. Council officers were also given a mandate to seek out further funding opportunities such as regional and national grants to support the project.

Councillor Craig Rimmer, Cabinet Member for Regeneration said: "I am pleased that development of the Post Office site is progressing to create new high-quality homes in the heart of Basildon town centre.

"These engagement events were extremely useful to ensure the development meets the needs of local people. Thank you to residents and interested parties that came along to the sessions and filled out the consultation online, your views will help us shape this development."

All feedback provided at the sessions, and on the online consultation form, will feed into the planning application which is expected to be submitted in early 2023.

TIER



Park it in a bay or out of the way!

Parking your TIER e-scooter at the end of a ride? You can find the location of designated parking bays, which must be used in busy areas, in the TIER app, where you can also find the locations of our 'no-parking zones'.

When parking in residential areas please park responsibly. Don't block access for other road users or pedestrians, always park on the side of the pavement away from driveways, bus stops and shop entrances.

For questions or to report a parking issue, please contact: support@tier.app or **080 816 49486**

Download the app



FIRST MEETING OF NEW LOCAL PLAN FOCUS GROUP

A new focus group has met for the first time as part of the development of a new Local Plan for Basildon Borough.

We are currently developing a new Local Plan for Basildon Borough and residents were invited to take part in a focus group.

The first meeting of the new focus group took place in February, where residents who have an interest in the development of the Local Plan discussed a range of topics. Meetings will continue throughout the development process, seeking the group's views and opinions, and giving them a chance to have their say.

Councillor Richard Moore, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure said: "We want to make sure that local people have a voice in the development of the new Local Plan. Consulting with the boroughs' residents and hearing their views will play an important part in this.

"Thank you to those residents who signed-up to our Local Plan Focus Group. We will continue to listen to you in order to develop the right Local Plan for Basildon Borough."



The Local Plan is a document that sets out how development including housing, business construction and infrastructure (roads, schools, health facilities, etc.) can best benefit the area the council is responsible for.

If you're interested in joining our focus group in shaping the Basildon Borough Local Plan, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Please email

Communications@basildon.gov.uk to find out more.



SUPPORT WITH THE COST OF LIVING

Support with the cost of living continues to be available on a dedicated digital hub on our website - providing access to help and advice during challenging times.

As the cost of fuel, energy, food and other essentials continues to rise, many of us may start to feel under pressure. People struggling with money, energy debt or the cost of essential services, are not alone. It's important to know that support is available, and we are here to help.

We have pulled together information and resources from across the borough, including ways to save money, support with wellbeing, and tips to be more energy efficient, all in a central location on the council website.

There are a series of resources and tips available to help people save money this winter, as well as information on other services and organisations providing support. Services include assistance with food and essentials, wellbeing, employment, ways to go green and save money, in addition to activities and places to go. These resources are available for everyone and can offer support for a variety of needs.

Find the cost of living pages on our website:
www.basildon.gov.uk/costofliving



Andy's Man Club

Andy's Man Club is a men's suicide prevention charity, offering support groups across the UK and online. Their aim is to end the stigma surrounding Men's mental health and help them through the power of conversation. The club is available for men aged over 18 and is free to attend every Monday except bank holidays. The group gives men the opportunity to open up about issues affecting their lives in a safe, judgement free and non-clinical environment.

You can find out more about Andy's Man Club here www.andysmanclub.co.uk or visit Basildon's club every Monday at 7pm (excl. bank holidays) at Lincewood Primary School, Berry Lane, Langdon Hills, Basildon SS16 6AZ.

A photograph of two women in an office setting. The woman on the left has long, wavy blonde hair and is wearing a light blue top. The woman on the right has blonde hair pulled back and is wearing a black top with gold jewelry. They are both looking down at a document held by the woman on the right. The background is a blurred office environment with a desk and some equipment.

Community Engagement Team

If you're struggling with managing your finances, finding a new job or making sense of benefits applications forms - speak to the Community Engagement Team for personalised help.

With expert knowledge of Basildon Council's Council Tax, Benefits and Housing services - the Community Engagement Team can help with a range of social issues. Advisors are ready to help over the phone or arrange a face-to-face appointment in the Basildon Centre.

Find out more:

www.basildon.gov.uk/costofliving

"We understand the pressures people are currently facing in this unprecedented time because we are experiencing similar challenges and inflated costs. These resources are available from organisations and services across the borough to help as many people get the support they need."

Councillor Andrew Baggott

Leader of Basildon Council, Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Public Order



EXCITING NEWS FOR THE TOWN CENTRE

Open Lab and Young Pioneers programme - Portal Basildon, are two of Creative Basildon's core programmes this spring, that supports innovative and creative, community engagement projects in Basildon, for everyone to enjoy.

Throughout March through to May, Open Lab Basildon – 'Basildances', will be taking place in Basildon town centre in various locations, celebrating people's memories through dance and movement.

If you are interested in getting involved in dancing the stories of Basildon, or have any places that are special to you, get in touch with hello@creativebasildon.co.uk

Funded by the Arts Council England's Creative People and Places Programme.



The Young Pioneers programme is a series of activities led by the participants of our creative skills development programme for 16-25 year olds.

As part of the Young Pioneers programme, Portal Basildon showcases young filmmakers, animators, and gaming students from the Centre for Digital Technologies. A large free public screening in the town centre, will take place on Wednesday 29 March and Thursday 30 March. Come and talk to the creatives and the team behind it.

Funded and supported by Re:Generation 2031, a Creative Estuary Project.

Get in touch with youngpioneers@creativebasildon.co.uk if you want to find out more or visit: www.portalbasildon.co.uk



New and improved CCTV across the town centre

The new East Square development means a growing night-time economy. To support this, the CCTV across the town centre is being improved dramatically.

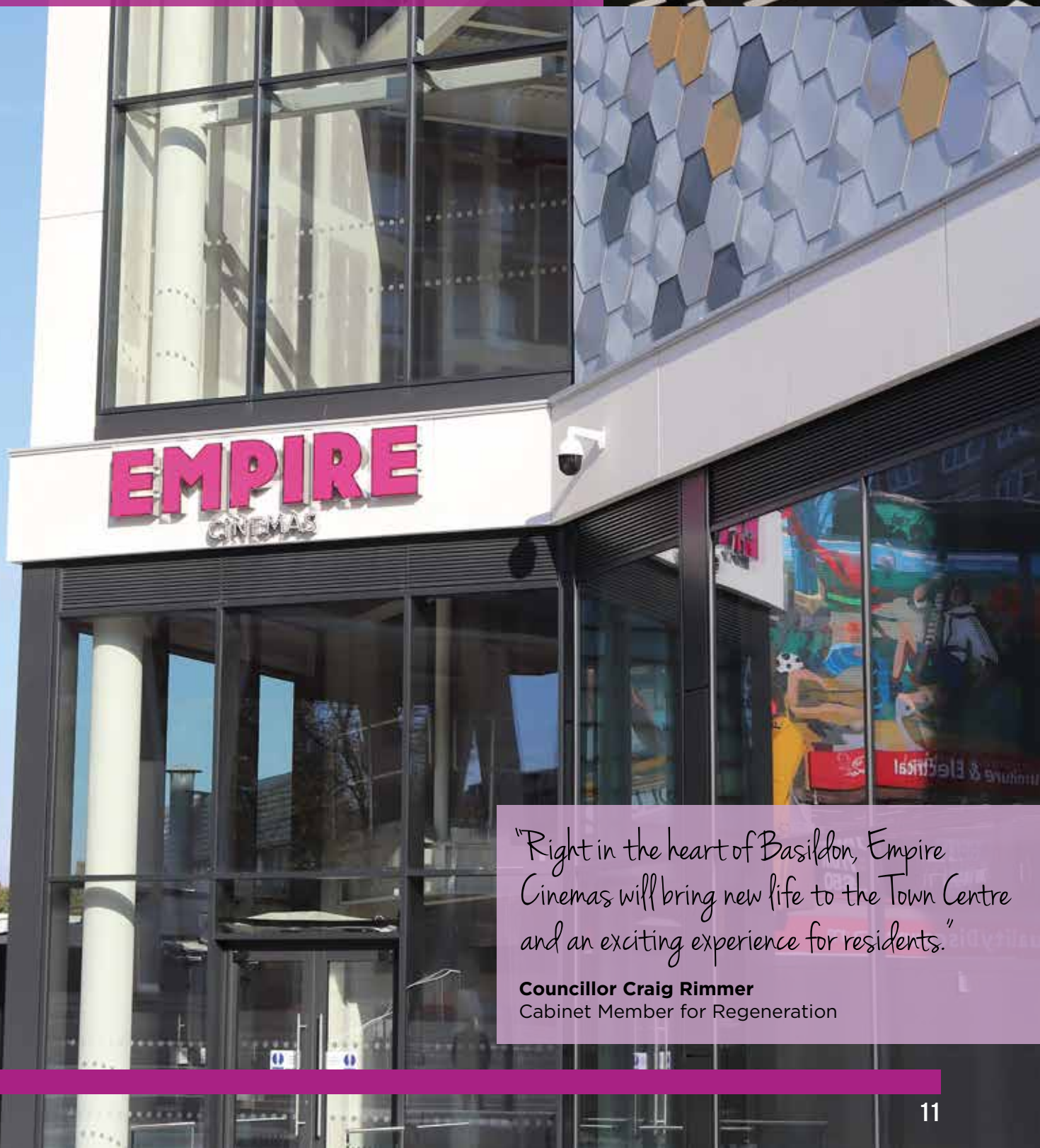
The council, alongside First Bus, Essex Police and the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner, have invested £12,500 each to improve the coverage and quality of cameras.

The main transport link for residents and visitors to the borough, Basildon Bus Station, is getting a complete upgrade with 12 new cameras. With 15 night-vision cameras currently being installed across the rest of the town centre.

The feeds will be viewed by the council's CCTV team for monitoring and retrospective viewing.

Empire Cinemas plans to open their doors soon to the luxurious 11 screen cinema in Basildon Town Centre. The brand-new cinema offers high quality seating, crystal clear sound systems, and the latest digital projection technology so you can enjoy the latest blockbusters, art-house classics and event cinema performances. There is something for everyone to enjoy, whether it's the gaming room, birthday party hire, food and drink options, as well as bringing 60 new jobs to the town centre.

A spokesperson from Empire Cinemas said: "At Empire Cinemas we strive to deliver the ultimate cinema experience. We have a passion for film and a drive to push the cinema experience to new and exciting levels. There's something for everyone at Empire Cinemas in Basildon and we can't wait to welcome you through our doors."



"Right in the heart of Basildon, Empire Cinemas will bring new life to the Town Centre and an exciting experience for residents."

Councillor Craig Rimmer
Cabinet Member for Regeneration



FUTURE SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT IN THE BOROUGH

We know the value of apprenticeships. Apprentices across the borough can earn while they learn, gaining a variety of nationally recognised qualifications.

During National Apprenticeship Week Basildon Council recruited two new apprentices and we look forward to welcoming the new members of our team.

Looking to make your next move? Contact The Advice Store for skills and employment advice - providing support for anyone looking to change or start their career.

www.basildon.gov.uk/theadvicestore

We spoke to two organisations offering unique opportunities for those seeking a new career.

Leonardo

Aerospace engineering company, Leonardo, are accepting applications for their award-winning apprenticeship scheme which could give you entry into a high skilled career in aerospace.

Entrants to the programme undertake an intensive training programme, graduating with substantial skills in the area in which they have specialised. Individuals benefit from both academic and structured 'on-the-job' learning in an advanced technological environment.



Basildon is the home of Leonardo's exciting thermal imaging camera technology that is often used by the BBC to capture unique footage of wildlife for series such as Springwatch, Dynasties, Planet Earth 2 and Big Cats.

The success rate of Leonardo's Apprentice Training programme shows that 90% of their apprentices successfully complete. Many of the company's senior leaders began their careers as apprentices, and a significant number of apprentices go on to undertake degrees and achieve graduate status.

Learn more about the application process and current vacancies on their website:



Essex County Council Opportunities


Whether you're just finishing school, entering the workforce or looking for personal development, the Essex Opportunities Portal offers invaluable skills support for all ages.

Delivered by Essex County Council, the portal is a one-stop shop for jobs, training and apprenticeships. Not only can you search for local vacancies, but you can also explore Essex based employers, rising industries and useful guides and resources.

The team also offer a Working Families Adviser, who helped over 95 residents secure work and access further education and volunteering opportunities in 2022.

Do you have further questions about employment, apprenticeships or training? Perhaps you're exploring options or helping your child figure out their next steps. Find the answers you need on the Essex Opportunities Portal and through our Working Families Adviser.

<https://www.essexopportunities.co.uk>



"Further full-time education is no longer the only option for a successful future. Apprenticeships give young people more opportunities to forge their own path based on what inspires them."

Councillor Andrew Baggott

Leader of Basildon Council, Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Public Order

GET READY FOR ELECTIONS IN MAY



On Thursday 4 May, there are elections taking place in the borough to elect 14 Basildon Borough Councillors in wards across the borough.

These wards are Billericay East, Billericay West, Burstead, Fryerns, Laindon Park, Lee Chapel North, Nethermayne, Pitsea North West, Pitsea South East, St Martin's, Vange, Wickford Castledon, Wickford North and Wickford Park.

There are no elections scheduled to take place in the Crouch and Langdon Hills Wards.

Elections will also take place to elect councillors to Shotgate Parish Council.

To vote at a polling station, you will need to bring photo ID.

IMPORTANT DATES

The deadline to register to vote for the May 2023 elections is Monday 17 April 2023.*

The deadline to apply for a postal vote is 5pm Tuesday 18 April 2023.

The deadline to apply for a proxy vote (whereby somebody can vote on your behalf) is 5pm Tuesday 25 April 2023.

The deadline to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate (in place of photo ID) is 5pm Tuesday 25 April 2023.

The deadline for receipt of emergency proxy is 5pm Thursday 4 May 2023.

*If you would prefer to apply to register to vote using a paper form, you can 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 17 April 2023.

POSTAL VOTES

You can vote by post if you don't want to vote in person at a polling station. Get your postal vote application in as soon as possible. To apply to vote by post you need to download, print and fill in a postal vote application form. For more information visit www.basildon.gov.uk/elections

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

To have your say you need to be registered to vote on the electoral register. You can now register to vote online. It only takes a few minutes. Please visit: www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

DON'T FORGET YOUR PHOTO ID

From 4 May 2023, voters in England will need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations.

Valid forms of photo ID include a passport, driving licence or older person's bus pass. You only need to show one form of ID and it must be the original.

You can still use your photo ID if it is out of date, as long as it looks like you.

If you do not have an accepted form of photo ID you can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate.

To apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate, and to see a full list of accepted forms of photo ID, visit the Electoral Commission website - www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voterid

The
Electoral
Commission

Find out more at

electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID

No ID? You can apply for free voter ID

No ID?
Apply For Free
voter ID by
25 April!



REMEMBER TO

- 1- Register to vote
- 2- Check my photo ID
- 3- Vote at a polling station!

No ID? You can apply for free voter ID

Find out more at

electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID

or call 0800 328 0280



Don't waste your dough



The average Essex household wastes £60 a month by throwing away food that could have been eaten

Save food and money by signing the Essex Food Waste Pledge! Visit loveessex.org/basildon-pledge



WASTE IMPROVEMENTS

Our Waste Strategy is about creating a waste service that is more efficient, more environmentally friendly, and more sustainable in the long term.

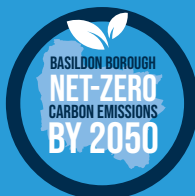
In October last year we introduced weekly food waste collections to encourage food recycling and help reduce the staggering 33% of food waste that was in our black sacks.

Thanks to the support of residents, the service has had the desired effect so far. Based on the first few months of the service going live we are collecting and recycling on average over 400 tonnes of food waste a month. If we continue to recycle this amount of food waste every month in the borough for the first 12 months:

- We will power over 2000 homes with renewable energy from your food waste
- We will save the equivalent Co2 emissions produced yearly by over 1,800 diesel cars if this waste had gone to landfill

That's the impact we are looking to have with any further improvements to our waste services, and more will be coming in October later this year.

Continued on page 20...





YOUR NEW WEEKLY GARDEN WASTE SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE

From spring 2023, garden waste collections will become a weekly subscription service that will be optional for all households in the Basildon Borough.

To sign up for the service go to www.basildon.gov.uk/gardenwaste and complete the required form. Once you have signed up, you will receive a permit sticker within ten working days to add to your green wheeled bin. Please sign up early to make sure you receive your permit sticker prior to the service going live.

To ease the introduction of the new subscription service there will be a discount in the first year and the full charge will be introduced the following year, as detailed below:

- **2023/24: £25 for one garden bin collection subscription and £15 per additional bin**
- **2024/25: £50 for one garden bin collection subscription and £25 per additional bin**

When the full charge is introduced in 2024/25, this equates to £4.17 per month for weekly garden waste collections.

The service will also pause for six weeks over the Christmas catch up period every year and residents will be informed ahead of when this pause will take place.



Do you have a small garden and not cut your grass often? Why not share a bin with your neighbour to halve and reduce the cost. It is important to note, only one resident can sign up for the service, you will need to privately agree with your neighbour to share the bin and cost.

Unless you are signed up to the yearly subscription service, your garden waste will no longer be collected, sign up now



What are the alternatives to a weekly garden waste collection?

Compost at home

You could buy a discounted compost bin from Love Essex <https://getcomposting.com/> and compost your food and garden waste at home. Love Essex has some great tools and information to help get you started if you have never done it before! It is great for the environment, and will create soil improver you can use in your garden.

Go wild

You could leave your garden wild and let nature take its course. This will allow for a variety of wildflowers to form, giving bees and other wildlife a home as well as vital food sources to keep the pollination cycle going – a cycle that creates about 1/3 of the food we eat.

Take it to Barleylands or Pitsea Recycling Centre

At the Barleylands Recycling Centre, we have a public drop off square for a number of recyclable items from cooking oil, to books, to scrap metal, and garden waste.

It's open 9am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday, and 9am to 5pm Saturday to Sunday.

Alternatively, there is the Pitsea Household Waste Recycling Centre.



"With a significant proportion of the borough not having a garden or the need for the service, we have agreed on a fairly-priced subscription to make the service sustainable in the long term."

Councillor Kevin Blake
Cabinet Member for Environment and Carbon Reduction

FROM AUTUMN, NO MORE SPLIT BLACK BAGS

68% of residents supported the introduction of a wheeled bin for black sack waste in our waste consultation last year, and from Autumn the service will be wheeled out across the borough.

In that same consultation, 37% of residents said they experience black sacks being ripped open on a weekly basis. This is a problem across the borough, and one of the main reasons for introducing wheeled bins which

should drastically improve this issue. So from Autumn, you will have a place to conveniently store your waste, ready to be wheeled out on collection day.

It's important to note that this won't affect properties with communal shared bins or those properties not operationally suitable for wheeled bin collections.

REUSABLE SACKS ARE COMING THIS AUTUMN

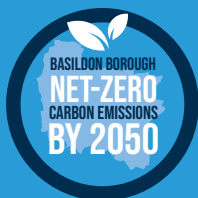
We send ten million single use pink sacks to landfill each year. Not for much longer.

From Autumn 2023 you will get two reusable sacks - one for paper and card and one for plastics and can materials.

Reusable sacks means collected materials will no longer need to be separated at a recycling facility. This will mean we are all doing our bit to improve the environment from home, improving

efficiency and saving money and energy. Please support the improvements to help us reach our recycling rate target of a 55% by 2025 and 65% by 2035.

Further details will follow leading up to the rollout of new services, keep an eye out on the council's social media page and sign up to our newsletter for updates.





A CONVERSATION WITH...

OUR REFUSE DRIVER DUO

Our bubbly refuse husband and wife duo of Ian and Tracey care passionately about the job they do in keeping their borough clean.

Tracey joined the council back in October - as our first female refuse driver at the launch of our weekly food waste collection service. She joined husband Ian, who's been around a little while longer - having joined the council 17 years ago and who is currently driving on one of our pink sack routes each morning.

Who's in charge of the bins at home?

Tracey: "Ian takes the bins out probably 95% of the time. Where I'm on the food waste I like to make sure our caddy and food waste is done correctly and that it's clean - because I know what it's like to collect it."

Ian: "Whereas I'm on the pink sacks, so I monitor religiously what goes into ours. I'm the first one if there's a bit of polystyrene or something in there that shouldn't be, and Tracey's the same with the food waste - everything's got to be in the corn-starch bags and presented as it should be."

Why is doing the right thing with your waste important?

Ian: "We're helping save the environment and it sets a good example to our son as well. He knows how important it is especially now that we both work in this industry."

Tracey: "You feel like you're doing your bit for the planet. It prevents contamination, and it makes it easier for our crews if everything is done correctly."



Who's the better driver?

Ian: "I wouldn't like to say. I was lucky that when I was a loader for many years, I had really good drivers that taught me things. Watching them week in week out getting tight turnings, you pick up things. So my fellow drivers were a big help."

Tracey: "The best car driver might be different, but he is being modest. Soon I might overtake him - that's my intention."

What's it like working together as drivers here?

Tracey: "I was concerned when I first started working here because it was Ian's place of work and he's been working here for 17 years, but he kept encouraging me to come here and I'm really glad I did. It's great, I work with a great bunch of people - they're a real craic. I never thought I'd love being a dustman, but I do. It's awesome!"

Ian: "I've been driving the HGV's for about eight years maybe a bit longer and I love it. I do really enjoy my job, and I wish Tracey would have joined sooner too."



MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN FELMORES

Our Safe and Sound Estates Programme is bringing major investment to our estates across the borough to make them places you can be proud to call home.

And it's not just us deciding what needs improving, it's all in collaboration with residents. That's through the engagement events we've had on the estates, as well as through partnership working with residents to improve them together.

Felmores was one of the first area of the programme, and lots of great work has happened on the estate already.

Trustlinks bringing the community together

Trust Links is a local mental health charity specialising in therapeutic gardening, and the team have been actively working with residents in Felmores to transform green spaces.

Their 'Greening Basildon' project has given residents the chance to connect with each other, take part in horticultural activities, as well as access wellbeing support.

Tree pruning across the estate is complete

During engagement events on the estate with residents, it was fed back to us that trees were overgrown and required pruning across Felmores. Tree surgery started across the whole estate last year back in October, with the works just being finished.

The works have included clearing foliage away from lamp columns to improve street lighting, cutting away from properties to benefit guttering systems and roof tiles, and allowing more light into properties, cutting back walkways to improve accessibility around the estate, and just generally making the estate more tidy and attractive.



New CCTV installations

As part of our Safe and Sound Estates Programme, £19,000 is being spent on new CCTV installations across targeted estates within the borough to help reduce the fear of crime and improve safety.

Elizabeth Way shops on the Five Links estate is a popular place for young people on their way to and from school, and brand-new and improved CCTV is being installed there.

A location that has not previously had CCTV, Ballards Walk shops is getting a comprehensive set of 15 new cameras after data analysis has suggested it would be of benefit to the area.

At Felmores shops, the four cameras currently there are being replaced by eight new CCTV cameras to cover the walkways adjacent to the shops and car park area.

The feeds will be viewed by the council's CCTV team for monitoring and retrospective viewing.



Meet tree surgeon Hemesh

Tree surgeon Hemesh is part of the team that have just completed works across the whole Felmores estate. He spoke to us about their work there and his role as an arboriculturist:

“This job is about so much more than just paying the bills – we really love what we do and I’m massively proud of the difference it makes to people’s lives.

“We’ve been getting lots of cups of tea from residents, which especially through the cold weather was gratefully received. It’s a really good feeling to know directly from the residents themselves that they appreciate our work.”

Piloting new bin sheds

Through engaging with residents on the estate, we understand the current communal bin arrangements on Felmores are not fit for purpose.

That’s why we’re currently running a pilot scheme on the estate, trialling new communal bins to see if we can find a more attractive solution.

If the pilot proves successful, it’s something we will be looking to roll out across the Felmores estate and potentially the wider borough.

“Everyone deserves to feel safe and proud of their area they live in. Our Safe and Sound Programme means we’re investing millions of pounds in our estates across the borough to make this a reality.”

Councillor Andrew Schrader
Cabinet Member for Housing and Estate Renewal

"We want our borough's young people to have the best play facilities available to them locally, and through our Play Review we're investing £100,000 a year over the next eight years to make that a reality."

Councillor Jeff Henry

Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing, Leisure, Arts, and Culture

EXCITING NEW PLAY AREAS FOR OUR BOROUGH'S YOUNGSTERS

We want to make sure our borough's youngsters have the best play facilities available to them locally.

The council's Play Review is a ten-year programme of approximately £9 million investment in our borough's play areas, to create a network of the high quality play facilities for residents across the borough.

2022 meant brand new and inclusive play areas opened and have been being enjoyed across the borough at flagship locations such as Wat Tyler Country Park, Langdon Hills Recreation Ground, and Swan Mead.

2023 is no different. Already we've significantly upgraded a number of our play areas to create diverse play spaces to cater for children of all ages and abilities.

HOLY CROSS

A complete transformation has taken place in Holy Cross Park, to transform a play area first installed over thirty years ago, into a brand new one that far increases the amount of equipment on the site. It was opened back in January – so go and check it out!

NORTHLANDS PARK

A fantastic new addition to Northlands Park is its new play area that opened earlier this month. It features 40 different play elements and includes varied equipment that will allow over 200 children to play together.

Alongside the play area stands a new games area, with 16 different activities including basketball, table tennis, and an outdoor gym. Other more localised play areas have opened in the last year at: Vange Hill Drive and Rowenhall.



Lake Meadows

Opened at the end of February – the new play area in Lake Meadows features more than 130 play opportunities and allows over 180 children of all ages and abilities to play together.

And one for the generations – who remembers the long-standing rocking horse in the play area? Well, with a completely new facility it's the time for the famous horse to retire. However, it's currently being stored elsewhere temporarily before it will soon return to the park as a piece of public art.



BRAND-NEW DIVERSE OPEN SPACES READY TO BE ENJOYED



Creating spaces where residents can get outside in the fresh air, explore, and experience nature is important to us as a council. So is creating spaces where our wildlife and plant life can thrive.

Legacy Park Nature Zone and Cranes Farm Nature Zone are two exciting projects that have transformed areas of underutilised land into diverse green spaces for the community to enjoy.

There have also been a new benches, new dog litter bins, and new footpaths installed to make the sites friendly and accessible. Both sites are now complete, open, and ready to be enjoyed by the local community, so why not pay them a visit?

The exciting elements of the new sites include:

- 50m of native hedgerow to create shelter and wildlife corridors for an array of species
- a pond with aquatic plants to create a food and drink source for wildlife and birds
- wildflower areas to add colour and vibrancy as well as further improve the site's biodiversity
- two bee posts
- a bee planter
- stumpery to provide further shelter and habitat for wildlife





CELEBRATING OUR BOROUGH'S DIVERSITY

We caught up with the team at South Essex Islamic Trust, the Islamic community-based venue in Pitsea, Basildon. It is a cultural centre for the young and old from all backgrounds to come together, support each other and learn about Islam. The premises were purchased in 2019 and working collaboratively with Basildon Council's Planning Team gained planning permission in September 2021.

The trust is primarily a place for Basildon's thriving Muslim community to come together with worships and facilities to learn Islam. They strive to foster multi-cultural contacts, making it a place where anyone can walk in and take part in the activities and learn more about the Muslim community. The space is for celebration and congregation; it marks the moments that matter for the Muslim community, including holding many marriages and festivals at the centre.

They have a full prayer schedule starting early morning, totalling five prayers a day. The children's club takes place after school and weekends to further their Islamic knowledge, including Arabic lessons, Islamic stories, prayers, and activities to support their confidence and wellbeing.



A group of volunteers help maintain the Islamic Trust each week, consisting of caretakers who clean the centre, and marshals for the parking area. If you would like to volunteer at the centre, please get in touch.

For more information contact South Essex Islamic Trust, High Road, Basildon, SS16 4ND
<https://www.seit.org.uk>



NEW ACCESSIBLE FEATURE ADDED TO BASILDON POOL

An inclusive new feature has been added to the pool at Basildon Sporting Village to improve its accessibility for pool users.

Known as a PoolPod, the submersible platform lift provides a flexible and more dignified means of entering a swimming pool for a person unable to walk or having limited mobility. It enables the user to enter and leave a pool with the minimum of assistance.

The lift is suitable for adults and children with disabilities, customers with young children, older customers who may not consider themselves disabled but who do appreciate easier access, as well as the weekly Sport for Confidence group users.

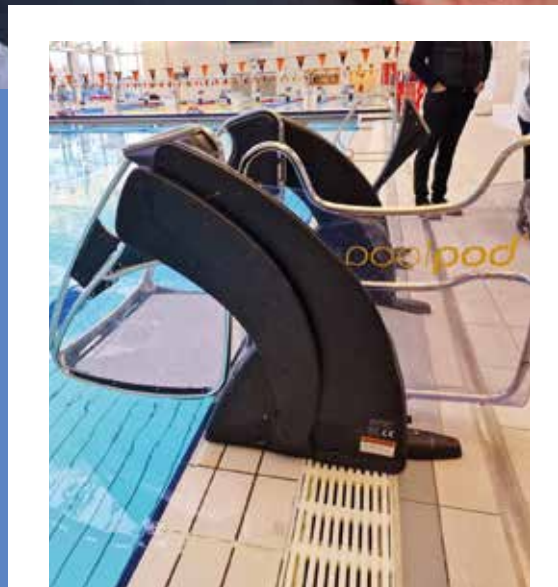
The lift can be operated by users themselves via a wristband, by the pool's lifeguards, as well as swim instructors.

The PoolPod was part-funded by both Active Basildon and Basildon Council.

How does it work?

If you would like to use it, please let one of the pool's lifeguards know and they will be happy to assist you.

If you are able to walk, then you start by just walking onto the platform and holding onto the rails on either side. The gate will then automatically close behind you. If you have more limited mobility, the two types of Poolpod wheelchair can be wheeled onto the platform, and from there the process is the same.



Once ready and comfortable, using the remote the lifeguard will press the button to activate the lift, and you will start slowly submersing from the surface to under the water.

The Poolpod will then stop once it gets towards the bottom. That's the time for you to exit - when you can step out and into the water, and enjoy your swim session.

If seeing a video demonstration of how to use would make you feel more comfortable, visit our Youtube channel at www.youtube.com/basildoncouncil where the brilliant Sport for Confidence group have helped us show you how it works.



MAKING OUR BOROUGH CLEANER AND SAFER

Community Safety Wardens making a difference

Our Community Safety Wardens work seven days a week to tackle anti-social behaviour across our borough's estates, town centres, and parks.

They conduct patrols across the borough to prevent and detect any incidents of anti-social behaviour, they respond to incidents of anti-social behaviour, and conduct targeted patrols in specific areas in the day's following incidents to make sure those areas don't become hotspots for nuisance activity.

Every morning they attend briefings with the Safer Basildon Partnership which is made up of organisations such as Essex Police and Essex County Fire and Rescue, as well as weekly meetings with council officers, to prioritise and information share to make sure the service is the best it can be.

Lewis was born in Pitsea, and now works as one of our wardens making an impact in the place he grew up.

"When we're out patrolling, our priority is to make sure residents are safe and to look out for anything that may be a problem. We deal with youngsters and people of all ages and all walks of the community.



"I had a chat with an older lady in Pitsea last week whilst patrolling, and she said it's nice having you around here. She said our presence was making a difference and seeing us made her feel safer. Things like that makes you feel like you're making a difference.

"If you see us out and about, we are approachable, we would like you to come and talk to us as we want residents to be more informed about what we do. At the end of the day, the clue is in the name - we're here for the community."

"To underline our commitment to Community Safety, we have Community Safety Wardens patrolling the borough seven days a week and we have a team of five new Enforcement officers. We are working alongside partner organisations each day to help keep our borough safe."

Councillor Andrew Baggott

Leader of Basildon Council, Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Public Order



New environmental enforcement officers helping to clean up our borough

In December last year, a new environmental enforcement contract started primarily to tackle issues such as flytipping, littering, and dog fouling.

The partnership means Basildon Council's Street Scene Education and Enforcement Officers now have five additional personnel working to clean up all areas of our borough.

Alexander is one of those five – and he's passionate about the work that he and his team do.

"We patrol all the borough's towns, the open spaces, and we target areas that have been highlighted in housing estates marked as hotspots for flytipping and littering.

"We're given jobs to investigate, we aim to attend within 24 hours, we look through bags or other items for evidence, we conduct doorstep interviews, and we issue fixed penalty notices when the evidence is there and when it's appropriate to.

"It's not always about enforcement though, sometimes it's just about education. There's a bit of a stigma that we're these unapproachable people – when in reality we're just normal residents doing our jobs trying and to make a difference."

BOWLS CLUBS ACROSS THE BOROUGH

Bowls has the great advantage of being a sport that people of all age groups can play. It's sociable, fun and an affordable sport that anyone can enjoy.

We have teamed up with bowls clubs across the borough, with an overview of what you can expect and how you can get involved in a team near you.



BILLERICAY BOWLS CLUB

The summer season commences Monday 1 May and finishes late September. Open 7 days a week, all ages and abilities welcome, with a free open day on Sunday 7 May. Equipment provided but please wear flat shoes or trainers. Pre-booking required via details given on website below.

Lake Meadows Park, Billericay, Essex, CM12 0AQ

www.billericaybowlingclub.co.uk



WICKFORD MEMORIAL PARK BOWLS CLUB

Come along every Wednesday evening at 5.30pm for a free roll up all ages and abilities welcome but please contact Yvonne beforehand (contact information below). Costs are £25 per member to join the club plus green fees charged by the council (approx. £95).

Memorial Park, Rettendon View, Wickford, Essex, SS11 8JE

Yvonne: **07742 897500** or **01268 767230** vonnienash@sky.com



FORD SPORTS BOWLS CLUB

A friendly, mixed club, all welcome, that offers the full range of bowls from beginners to league matches, friendlies plus internal competitions.

Membership fees are very competitive - £50 per annum for club membership, plus £65 affiliation fee, unless you work, or have worked, for the Ford Motor Company.

First session is free.

Gardiners Close, Basildon, SS14 3AW. Malcolm: **01702 713763**



CARRERAS BOWL CLUB

Try bowls for outdoor exercise and meeting new friends. Free taster sessions each Wednesday from 3 May, 2pm and 6pm (Taster sessions last 2 hours, from 2pm to 4pm, then 6pm to 8pm), in Whitmore Park.

All ages and abilities welcome. Equipment provided but please wear flat shoes or trainers.

Carreras Bowls Green, Whitmore Way, Basildon SS14 2TN

01268 454234 www.carreras.bowlsclub.info



SHORT MAT BOWLING AT LAINDON COMMUNITY CENTRE

Come along and give bowls a try! The first session is completely free. The membership fee is £20 per year and mat fee for the evening session will be £4 per night.

For further information, please call Carol Taylor on **07930 323514**

WHAT'S ON...



AFFORDABLE ACTIVITY CENTRES IN THE BOROUGH

Whether you just want a chat and a coffee or you want to get involved in the wide variety of daily activities, there really is something for everyone at our borough's activity centres.

Open Monday to Friday 9am to 4.30pm, with membership rates for each centre being:

£10 per annum - Laindon Activity Centre

£15 per annum - Pitsea Activity Centre, at The Place Pitsea

£52 plus £4 Committee fee per annum - George Hurd Activity Centre



NORSEY WOOD SPRING FAYRE

A fun day out for all the family! FREE entry with face painting, morris dancers and craft displays, with refreshments provided by the Scouts. Makes sure it's in your diary.

Sunday 30 April 2023, 11am to 4pm

Large picnic area, Norsey Wood, Outwood Common Road, Billericay CM11 1HA. For more information, visit: www.norseywoodsociety.uk



EASTER EGG ORIENTEERING TRAIL AT WAT TYLER PARK

Come along for an Easter Egg orienteering trail at Wat Tyler Park. Find 25 'design-egg' pictures tucked around the park and mark which egg was where on the map - winners get an easter egg! £7 per child/egg.

Find out more at www.wattylercountrypark.org.uk or on their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/wattylercp



HUMAN KIND CAFE

Come along to the Human Kind Cafe for free weekly community sessions for befriending services and group activities, with refreshments, board games, arts and crafts. Everyone is welcome.

Every Wednesday from 10am to 12pm

The Reading Rooms, 73 High Street, Billericay, Essex, CM12 9AS

07903 096157 hello@humankindcafe.co.uk



EASTER AT BARLEYLANDS

Step into Spring throughout the Easter Holidays at Barleylands Farm Park with baby animals galore.

With cute animal cuddles, springtime crafts, lamb bottle feeding, and lots more.

Saturday 1 to Sunday 16 April 2023

Make sure you book your tickets in advance:

www.barleylands.co.uk/events/

BILLERICAY WEST



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



Daniel Lawrence
01277 657480
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



Phil Turner
01277 633918
27 Cranmer Close,
Billericay
CM12 0YQ



David Dadds
01277 631811
The Farthings,
10 The Square,
Stock CM4 9LH



Andrew Schrader
07769 651708
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



Stuart Sullivan
07762 146251
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL

BILLERICAY EAST

BURSTEAD



Andrew Baggott
07905 761372
Leader of the Council
2 Raven Lane,
Billericay
CM12 0JD



Kevin Blake
01268 470597
Deputy Leader of the Council
66 Walthams,
Pitsea
SS13 3PN



Richard Moore
01277 627266
47 Laindon Road,
Billericay
CM12 9LG



Terri Sargent
01268 288766
81 Lower Street,
Noak Bridge,
Basildon
SS15 4BD

LAINDON PARK



John Scarola
01268 533333
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



Kevin Wingfield
01268 533333
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



Jeff Henry
07733 221362
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



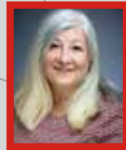
Davida Ademuyiwa
07811 137308
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



Maryam Yaqub
07393 967607
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL

ST. MARTINS

LEE CHAPEL NORTH



Susanna Caira-Neeson
07976 240459
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



Alex Harrison
07939 307727
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



Terry Webb
07305 319340
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL

LANGDON HILLS



Walter Brown
07833 335164
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



Val Robbins
07761 753718
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL

NETHERMAYNE



Hazel Green
07855 589064
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



Mo Larkin
01268 413936
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL

All councillors can be contacted via email:
firstname.surname@members.basildon.gov.uk

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

*Subject to change following the local elections in May 2023

COUNCILLORS OF BASILDON BOROUGH COUNCIL

2022-2023



CROUCH



Stuart Allen
07415 440873
62 The Upway,
Basildon
SS14 2JA

WICKFORD CASTLEDON



Alex Myers
07857 865598
c/o The Basildon
Centre, St Martin's
Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



Don Morris
07960 959689
24 The Hastings,
Wickford
SS11 7EQ



Peter Holliman
07956 395818
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



Carole Morris
01268 457488
24 The Hastings,
Wickford. SS11 7EQ



Eunice Brockman
07594 216528
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL

WICKFORD NORTH

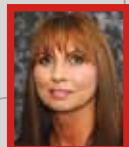


David Harrison
07305 614967
49 Alicia Avenue
Wickford
SS11 8PH



George Jeffery
07570 282997
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL

WICKFORD PARK



Adele Brown
07957 610371
99 Laindon Road
Billericay, Essex
CM12 9LG

FRYERNS



Allan Davies
01268 459285
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



David Kirkman
07887 775083
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL

PITSEA NORTH WEST



Stuart Terson
07723 612693
52 St Marys Crescent,
Pitsea, Basildon
SS13 2AS



Patricia Reid
07806 804299
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



Sam Gascoyne
07983 990929
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL

VANGE



Yetunde Adeshile
07956 390797
Deputy Mayor of Basildon
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



Melissa McGeorge
07545 237217
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL

Frame colour	Political group	Number of seats
	CONSERVATIVE	25
	LABOUR	10
	INDEPENDENTS	5
	WICKFORD INDEPENDENTS	2

PITSEA SOUTH EAST



Kerry Smith
01268 661812
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



Gary Canham
07736 930946
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



Luke Mackenzie
07483 276109
Mayor of Basildon
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



Craig Rimmer
07535 826481
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



MEASURES TO HELP PREVENT DAMP AND MOULD

Throughout the year, damp and mould may form around the home. It's important to know what damp and mould looks like and what to do if it arises.

Mould is a type of fungus that grows and develops in damp or humid conditions where condensation is present. Mould is reduced by keeping your home warm, well ventilated and minimising the amount of moisture that is released into the air within your home.

There are four main types of damp that could affect your home:

- rising damp caused by water rising from the ground into the home
- penetrating damp caused by a defect outside of the home
- defective plumbing caused by leaks from water and waste pipes
- condensation caused by moisture in the air turning into water.

There are many preventative measures you can take to reduce the risk of damp and mould forming in your home, such as keeping windows open for ventilation, keeping lids on pots and pans when cooking, wiping excess moisture from windows and drying clothes outside where possible.



If there is mould in the home, it is important to report it or remove and treat it as soon as possible. You can do this by wiping down the affected walls and window frames with a fungicidal wash or mould spray, and then redecorating using a good quality anti-fungal paint to help prevent mould from recurring.

Double glazed windows and insulation are effective ways to reduce the amount of heat that is lost from your home, having a huge impact on condensation and mould growth. There are also grant funding options available to support with bills and costs to insulate the home.

Find out more information on our website www.basildon.gov.uk - search 'damp and mould'



Paul Young
BEHIND THE LENS

THURSDAY 4 MAY, 7.30PM
BASILDON TOWNGATE THEATRE

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM
TOWNGATETHEATRE.CO.UK 01268 205 300

PAUL-YOUNG.COM



Have you witnessed Anti-social Behaviour in your area?

Please get in touch and report this confidentially to the council's Anti-social Behaviour team by either:

- Calling **01268 533333** option 4 then option 2
- Emailing a report to: **asb@basildon.gov.uk**
- You can also log a report at:

www5.basildon.gov.uk/report/AntiSocialBehaviour

Have you witnessed or been a victim of crime?

Report it as quickly as you can by:

- Calling **999** in an emergency or by calling **101** for a non-emergency; or
- Reporting it anonymously via Crimestoppers by calling **0800 555 111** or by doing so online at **crimestoppers-uk.org**

 **Basildon Council**

THE PERFECT SPACE FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT



WAT TYLER COUNTRY PARK
One great thing leads to another...

CYGNET ROOM

The Cygnet room is a new space for hire near to the Wat Tyler Centre, available 7 days a week. Perfect for 1-2-1 meetings, counselling space or just for a quiet getaway from a busy office. It is self-contained and has it's own facilities. Available hourly or long-term hire.

MID-WEEK WEDDING PACKAGES

For 2023/24 we have a special reduced rate for all mid-week wedding packages, available Monday to Thursday, day or evening. The stunning Dutch Barn and Nobel room are beautiful spaces. The Willow and The Ash come with seating, lighting, and electric points.

Enquire via email **wattylerenquiries@basildon.gov.uk**, or call us on **01268 208090**
www.wattylercountrypark.org.uk



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Visit us at
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Courtauld Road,
Burnt Mills, Basildon
SS13 1ND