

**GREAT BURSTEAD AND SOUTH GREEN VILLAGE COUNCIL**  
**CLLR MARIE DEAR - CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2025/2026**

Great Burstead and South Green Village Council is the first tier of local government, representing approximately 8,000 residents and 2,700 households. During the past year it has continued to work on residents' behalf to improve our Village. Cllr Carey was Co-opted onto the council last year. We now have a full complement of eight serving Village Councillors

**Local Community Tax – The Precept:** this is the local tax residents pay to the Village Council - known as the precept. This financial year, due to increased costs, the precept was increased by 3%. However, Great Burstead and South Green Village Council still has the lowest precept in Essex.

**Planning Applications:** The Village Council considers, and is a consultee, regarding all planning applications in our Parish. The Local Plan is being formulated for submission to the Planning Inspectorate in 2028. Due to the withdrawal of the previous Local Plan developers have made major development applications. Although the Village Council strongly objected, building has commenced on land at Southend Road, opposite the Duke of York, land at Kennel Lane abutting the the A176 and Maitland Lodge. Two other major developments plans have been submitted, one further along the Southend Road on agricultural land up to the Barleylands Road for 1,000 homes. The Village Council has made strong objections but we are only consultees. Basildon Borough Council has the final say. Plans for a care home at the junction of Coxes Farm Road and the Southend Road have been approved.

The Village Council has faced the challenges of strongly objecting to these developments as they were on green belt and provide no additional infrastructure. All these developments will put pressure on infrastructure that is already unable to cope, especially health provision, as the GP surgery at South Green closed in March 2025.

**Christmas Community Contributions** – were made to South Green Junior School and St Peters Primary School in the form of toy store vouchers and donations were made to Southwood Court and Allington Court for their festive celebrations

**Fun Day at St Mary Magdalene:** We had a change of venue for June 2025. The day was a success with all the usual attractions that could be accommodated in the Church grounds. The Barleylands bird of prey display was a particular favourite. Local retailers gave generously for the raffle run in aid of Church funds.

**Bollards at Grange Parade** - Unfortunately, the bollards have been knocked down by vehicles on several occasions. Essex County Council has not repaired them despite the Village Council requesting repair as holes in the pavement could be a trip hazard.

**New Bin:** The compactible bin has been moved to accommodate pedestrians, pushchairs and disability buggies. Unfortunately, rubbish has been left beside this bin on several occasions which is unsightly, is a health hazard and is fly tipping. The Village Council is working on a solution.

**Planting:** We continue to arrange planting under the notice board on the green and planting at the bell bollards and around the Village sign in Great Burstead.

**Garden Competition:** We have decided to run a garden competition in 2027. All our green fingered residents will have the opportunity to take part.

**New Residents:** We welcome the new residents of the Southend Road, Kennel Lane and Maitland Lodge developments. We hope our new residents enjoy living in our village.

**Communicating with Residents through our Media:** We continue to communicate through our website, Instagram, X (formerly twitter) and Facebook accounts.. The first Village Voice is delivered to all homes in the village and displayed on our website.

Lastly we thank our Village Clerk, Mrs Mel Linwood, for her work on behalf of residents. Thanks are also due to our Village Councillors: A Boyce, G Carey, L Cowles, S Crowe, R Jackson, D Sarbutt and L Thomas who are committed to working voluntarily for residents and organising events for the community.