

GREAT BURSTEAD AND SOUTH GREEN VILLAGE COUNCIL

CLLR MARIE DEAR - CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025

Great Burstead and South Green Village Council is the first tier of local government, representing 8,000 residents and 2,700 households. During the past year it has continued to work on residents' behalf to improve our Village.

Co-Option - Cllr Sarbutt was welcomed and co-opted onto the Village Council in 2024. We currently have one vacancy.

Local Community Tax – The Precept: Prudent management of our finances has ensured that the local tax residents pay to the Village Council - known as the precept - had not increased for several years. This financial year, due to increases in suppliers 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 The Local Plan was withdrawn by Basildon Borough Council and a new Local Plan is being formulated for submission to the Planning Inspectorate in 2028. Due to the withdrawal of the Local Plan developers made four major planning applications in our parish.

The Village Council has faced the challenges of strongly objecting to these developments as they were on green belt and provided no additional infrastructure. Approximately 500 extra homes are under construction in our parish - land opposite the Duke of York on the Southend Road, Maitland Lodge on the Southend Road, land abutting the A176 in Kennel Lane and a 70 bed care home in Coxes Farm Road.

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 with patients being transferred to the New Surgery in Billericay.

Christmas Lights: We continue to provide the pretty lights that adorned the green with the same design as last year. Lights also sparkled in the trees around the Village Sign in Church Street Great Burstead.

Christmas Community Contributions - The Village Council made Christmas a donation in the form of toy vouchers for the children of South Green School.

Fun Day on the Green: Despite bad weather The Fun Day was a success with all the attractions that could be accommodated taking place within South Green Memorial Hall. The Barleylands bird of prey display was a particular favourite. Local retailers gave generously for the raffle run in aid of Basildon Hospital.

Bollards at Grange Parade - New bollards have been erected at the Tesco Express side of Grange Parade to stop inconsiderate parking. The Village Council is grateful for the assistance of Essex County Council.

New Bin: The compactible bin installed last year at Grange Parade is keeping the area tidier. It has been moved to accommodate prams and disability buggies.

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.

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, 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.