

## GREAT BURSTEAD AND SOUTH GREEN VILLAGE COUNCIL

### CLLR MARIE DEAR - CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023

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.

This past year has seen some momentous, historic occasions. 2022 was Queen Elizabeth II 70th jubilee which we celebrated with Fun Day enjoyment on the green. This was followed later in the year by the sad passing of Queen Elizabeth II which was marked by the Village Council with a commemorative wreath at Great Burstead Church and a Book of Remembrance, The book was signed by many residents who added their personal condolences. In 2023 we have seen the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. In a very short time we have witnessed much pageantry and history.

**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 – has not increased this year.

**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 The Local Plan was withdrawn by Basildon Borough Council and a new Local Plan is being formulated for submission to the Planning Inspectorate in 2028. Village Councillors plan to take part in the Local Plan working party formed by Basildon Borough Council.

**Christmas Event Langham Hall 2022:** Father Christmas, elves, donkeys, stalls and refreshments created a real Christmas spirit at this event. The Village Council thanked the many local retailers who donated to a raffle stall run by a resident for the Food Bank. The event was attended by many residents and their children. Village Councillors were pleased their efforts created so much enjoyment for the community and raised £300 for the Food Bank.

**Christmas Lights:** A new supplier was appointed last year to install the Christmas lights. They attracted a great deal of positive comments from residents. The new arrangement on the trees around the green looked splendid. Additional plans are underway to light trees in Church Street in a matching style for Christmas this year.

**Coronation Fun Day on the Green:** The Coronation Fun Day was a great success with hundreds of residents attending and enjoying a family day out on the green. The entertainment stalls, bouncy castles, and other attractions were provided and organised by the Village Council free for residents. We have had much positive feedback from residents. Local retailers gave generously for the raffle run by a resident in aid of St Luke's Hospice. The event raised nearly £1,000 for St Luke's Hospice.

**Litter Picking:** We continue to organise litter picks which are attended by Village Councillors and residents to keep our village tidy.

**Passingham Park:** We are replacing the dilapidated bench in the park and arranging for fitments to enable the goal posts to be moved around the park to ensure even wear and tear of the ground.

**New Bin:** We have funded a new bin near the notice board on the green to replace the crumbling old bin. We are going to investigate a solar powered compactible bin for installation outside Tesco Express as that bin is so heavily used.

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

**South Green Shops Improvements:** We have started the process of investigating bollards being installed around the lay-by outside Tesco Express and outside the GP surgery to stop inconsiderate and dangerous parking on the pavement.

**Communicating with Residents through our Media:** We continue to communicate through our website, Instagram and twitter accounts. Due to Covid our newsletter, the Village Voice, was only published on our website. We are in the process of planning for the next Village Voice which will be delivered to homes within the parish.

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, R Chapman, L Cowles, S Crowe, R Jackson and L Thomas who are committed to working voluntarily for residents and organising events for the community.