

BILLERICAY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER NO. 205



REMINDER: THERE WILL BE NO MEETING ON OCTOBER 16TH SO THE
NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON NOVEMBER 20TH AT THE FOLD.
CHRISTMAS TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE AT THE NOVEMBER 20TH
MEETING. THE COST WILL BE £10 EACH. IF YOU WISH TO ORDER
YOUR TICKETS PLEASE TELEPHONE THE VICE CHAIRMAN.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Still nothing is resolved either in the country or with the local plan.

On 11th July 2019, John Humphries and David Bremner were invited to attend a “community engagement event” about the land south west of Billericay – a large scale map of Billericay was drawn by a firm called Feria Urbanism, from Bournemouth, Dorset. They produced the map on behalf of the four builders.

Wimpey & Gleeson. We were told that this was what “they” {the builders or Basildon} were asking for our input & views on how these areas should be designed. Our reply not here!

I have obtained a copy of this large- scale map should anybody wish to see it at a Wednesday evening meeting. “they” stated that Basildon and the four builders have agreed to coordinate their policy requirements and to engage closely with the local community; for them to better understand the community’s concerns and wishes setting aside the principle of development [whatever that is?] - addressed through the local plan. They wanted to examine critical issues affecting the site and the wider area.

They asked: why is Billericay a special place to live?

Billericay is a preserved historical environment due to the Billericay Society protecting some buildings from the 1500s and 1600s to make the High Street a unique and interesting place to visit. Our preservation of local green spaces and many green belt footpaths that are regularly maintained by us walking and reporting on their condition. Leading to a quality of life and access to the countryside and green spaces for recreation. This good environment has been created by the Billericay Society for the last 84 years.

I have listed below some of our very constructive comments:

- parking is a major issue => we need cycle paths to station and shops for residents to get to the station and the shops without using their car – as is common in the Netherlands == to minimise the use of cars and the need for parking in the High Street which is very limited.
- our public rights of way to be protected – foot paths and green belt land
- More doctors’ surgeries and medical services – for blood tests etc.
- better road layout to new build areas to avoid grid lock at junctions
- More schools => in line with building to be phased over the 20 years proposed timescale of the building!
- keep present sports sites intact and make the area into a Sports Village for the town
- need affordable care homes for the elderly
- need some form of local business so we are not just a commuter town=> business park ie to avoid commuters having no local interest in the community
- Electric cars will need a power charging grid == - this has never even been considered, although the future is electric cars needing overnight charging. They are just not planning ahead.
- can water and sewerage supplies cope with the much greater demand for water and sewerage management
- bus routes through sites needed

Will it be a phased construction of a single site or will all sites be constructed at once – this needs to be known. Buildings should only start after infrastructure completed.

- You may have seen the comments in The Resident == they seem to be avoiding any social responsibility.

Unfortunately, these practical points are likely to be ignored as the builders will not be living here. It is essential that we preserve our green spaces and local foot paths

The Greek physician Hippocrates said: walking is man's best medicine.

Early history of footpaths

Modern footpaths are the narrow- trodden paths that may have originated in antiquity.

Once our hunter-gatherer ancestors had settled in one place and adopted farming, their regularly walked paths, were the basis for modern footpaths.

The routes that our ancestors drove their cattle to their cattle pens were called "drove roads" – now, on modern maps called "Green Lanes". These can be identified by roadways having a ditch on either side with hedgerows. Another source of early routes, are the "salt roads", used to carry the salt from areas producing salt, such as Maldon to manor houses. The areas where the salt was evaporated from sea water are known as "red-hills".

PRoW

Today there are three categories of Public Rights of Way [PRoW] giving one access to the countryside - defined as:

- FOOTPATHS – a right to use the path on foot only – way marking arrow sign is yellow.
- BRIDLEWAYS - a right to use the path on foot, horseback and pedal cycle – way marking sign is a blue arrow &
- BYWAYS - a right to use the way by all of the above modes, plus the right to drive horse-drawn and motorised vehicles along it – way marking sign is a red arrow.
- There are also permitted paths that farmers allow one to use. These can be withdrawn by the farmer

Other types of country paths are identified by the initials: CRF; & RUPPs.

CRF – Combined Road & Footpath – replaced by: RUPPs = Roads Used as Public Paths. These were reclassified in 1971 as: BOAT – Byway Open to All Traffic.

In 2006 Rupp s were re-classified as restricted byways with a purple way marker.

This new class of way, is available to people on foot, horseback, pedal cycle and horse drawn carriage. By law, all PRoWs should be signed where they leave a road.

Once a PRoW has come into existence it cannot be moved ["diverted"] or closed ["extinguished"] except by formal order.

<The farmer may allow walkers to cross their fields for free, but the bull charges!>

The first provisional Definitive Map for Essex was prepared in 1953. A review map was prepared in 1963 and published in 1970. The Definitive Map & Statements show all the Public Rights of Way {PRoW} in Essex & is a legal document maintained by Essex County Council, ECC. A copy of this map is held by the Town Clerk.

In 1966 the Billericay Society published a Billericay Footpath Map showing and listing all of the footpaths in the countryside and town. Foot paths in the listing: 1,3 – 21, 23, 25-28, 30-31, 33-52,54-65, 67, 69-72, 74, 79, 157, 160, 164, 166, 168, 187, 200, 202.

These are defined in six pages in: Basildon District Definitive Statement for: Billericay dated 01/07/02.

CHRISTMAS SOIREE

We will be holding our usual popular fish or chicken and chips evening at the December meeting on the 18th December 2019. Please buy your ticket at the November meeting. The October meeting has had to be cancelled as the members of the committee are not available to put out the chairs and tables.

The Billericay Community Archive Group – the local history website – www.billericayhistory.org.uk – will be holding their annual local History Fair on Saturday 5th October 2019 in the library between 10:00am and 4 pm, when a number of the local heritage groups will be displaying information exploring the heritage of our town.

The annual Archive Group quiz night will take place on Friday 1st November 2019 in the W.I. Hall Billericay starting at 7:30 pm. Tickets are £5.00. For tickets telephone: 07802 154677. Teams of up to 8 people. Please bring your own nibbles and drinks. Prizes to be won. The funds raised are used to support the cost of maintaining the website.

REMINDER that there is no OCTOBER Billericay Society meeting at the FOLD. Tickets for the Christmas fish / chicken Supper in December 2019 will be available on sale at the NOVEMBER meeting. Ticket price is £10 as last year.

David Bremner

As a foot note to this, Basildon Council have removed the funding for the new swimming pool in Lake Meadows, no surprise there.

A Hip Problem

One Tuesday in November 2017, while one of our regular Billericay Society walks, a pain began in my groin after clambering over a stile. After a few months I decided to visit the doctor as it had not subsided. This resulted in me being sent for an X-ray of my hip and back in 2018.

The X-ray proved very revealing. They showed that my left hip joint was in a very bad condition and I also had a compression fracture in my lower spine. Thankfully the fracture was found to be relatively stable so could be ignored for now.

An appointment was made for me in 2018 to see a surgeon in Orsett Hospital, who confirmed that I would require a complete hip replacement. I was advised to take painkillers and a further appointment would be made for me later in the year at Orsett Hospital.

Just before Christmas 2018 I had a further appointment with the surgeon. This time I was put on the list for the operation. I was also sent for tests to ascertain my bone density. The test proved that I had Osteopenia (bone mass below normal) and was put on a weekly tablet to strengthen my bones.

I explained to the hospital that I would be going on holiday with my family in July 2019. On returning, I again called the hospital and they gave me a provisional date of August 20th 2019 for the operation to take place.

On the 25th July 2019 I was contacted by the hospital to say a cancellation had occurred and would I be willing to have my operation on 30th July 2019. I immediately said YES. The following day I went for my assessment and on the following Tuesday I went into Basildon Hospital. Horndon Ward for my operation.

The hospital staff were very considerate and attentive. This time even the food was good.

I was released from hospital but unfortunately my wound showed a possible infection so back to the hospital I went and was re-admitted by my consultant for yet another 6 days. Antibiotics were administered and more to be taken at home.

So here I am at home now recovering which will take at least 6 – 12 weeks. By the time you get to read this I should be back at the club meetings raring to go. I would like to say it was so nice being asked about my condition before and after and for all the help that I have received.

Doug Smith

Vice Chairman

Billericay Town Walks



During this summer David Bremner and I have been the Town Historic guides on behalf of the Billericay Town Council.

The tour starts at Billericay Station at 14.00 once a month on a Sunday culminating on Sunday 22nd of September.

Regardless of what the weather can throw at us the show must go on, the first walk took place in July, we were standing in the Station Foyer watching the rain pouring down David said I do not think anyone will turn out, how wrong we were.

At the stroke of 14.00 a young lady asked is this the Town walk, so off we set, the walks go around Grey Lady place (St Andrews Hospital and former work house) ending at Sun Corner by the Rising Sun which is now flats, as you can imagine David and I were a couple of drown rats.

The last tour was on Sunday 22nd September and what a great day that was, pouring down but this did not discourage seventeen folks from turning up (see photo)

Although we do these walks for free a couple of kind folks reward us with a handsome tip, well enough to have a drink that is.

As you can see by the photo we do get some good turn outs so we must be doing something right.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Billericay Society for the presentation of the certificate in thanks for being a member and on the committee.

Bob Reeves

Committee Members

President	Ian Fuller
Chairman	David Bremner
Vice Chairman	Doug Smith
Secretary	Lynne Beard
Treasurer	Julie Smith
Membership	Lesley & John Humphries
Social Secretary	Marian Thilo
Newsletter	Vacant
Publicity/Reception	Vacant
Website Manager	Mike Yates
Cater Museum	Katie Wilkie