

*Leigh-on-Sea Town Council*

# ANNUAL REPORT

*2019/20 Council Year*

## **LEIGH-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL**

*Leigh Community Centre  
71 - 73 Elm Road  
Leigh-on-Sea  
Essex  
SS9 1SP*

## **CONTACT**

*01702 716288  
council@leighonseatowncouncil  
.gov.uk*

## **TOWN CLERK**

*Helen Symmons PSLCC*





# LEIGH-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

## *About Us*

Back in 1996, a group of Leigh residents, worked hard to form a first tier of local government to have an overall responsibility for the well-being of the Leigh-on-Sea community, the result, was us Leigh-on-Sea Town Council. Southend Borough Council is the primary authority and responsible for matters such as waste collection, maintenance of the roads and pavements, providing street lighting and many other services which your council tax pays for. Our work falls into three main categories:

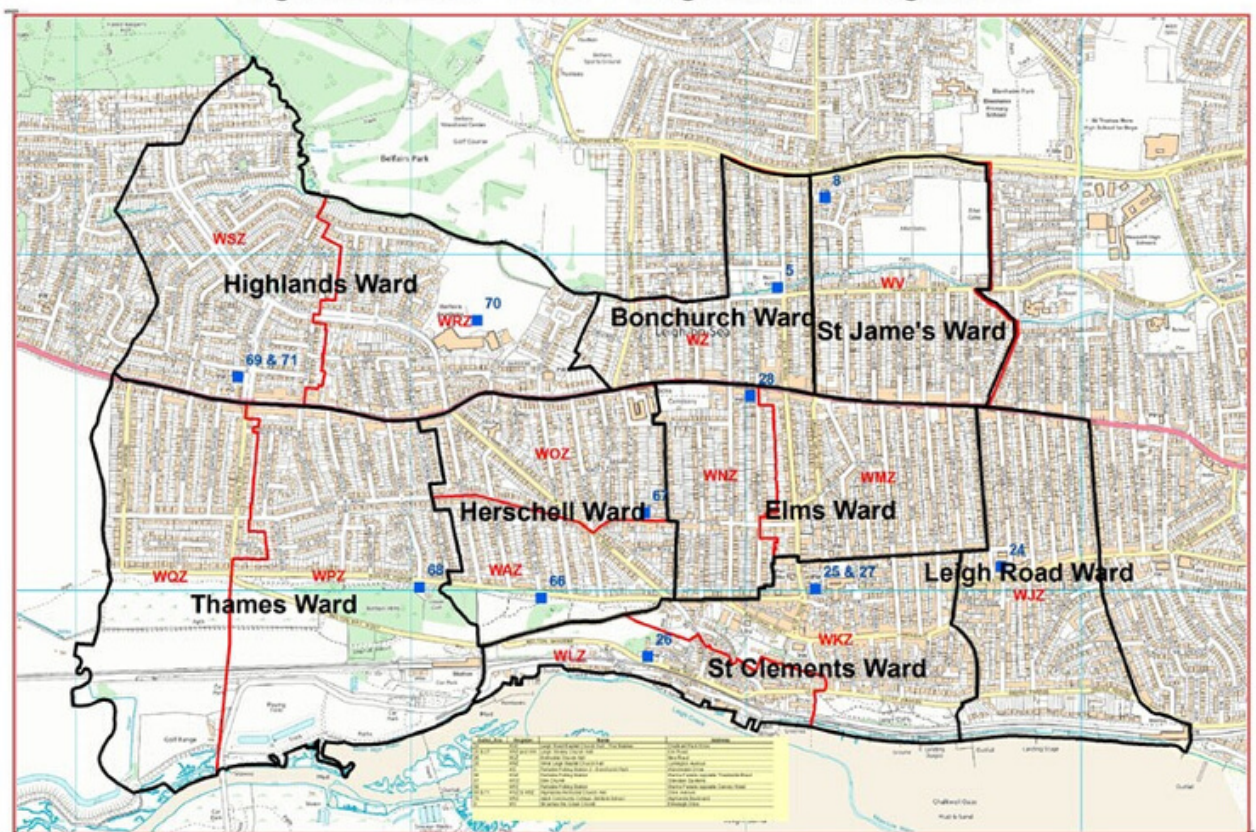
- Representing the Leigh-on-Sea community
- Delivering services to meet local needs
- Striving to improve the quality of life in the Town

The Council is made up of 16 elected councillors representing the 8 wards of Leigh-on-Sea. They are responsible to the residents they represent and can be contacted directly on any matter. They receive no allowance but have a passion to be involved in the community. Councillors have three main areas of work:

- Decision-making through attending meetings and committees
- Monitoring, making sure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services
- Getting involved with the local community

The Council work is split into three main committees; Community & Culture, Finance & Governance and Planning, Highways & Licensing, with an additional committee to manage staffing.

Leigh Town Council - Wards - Polling Districts - Polling Stations





# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

*By Council Chairman Jill Healey*

When I started to draft this report life was very normal and everyone was going about their business in a calm and ordered way. As I have come to complete the draft ready for publication everything has changed!

The Covid-19 pandemic has turned everyone's life upside down and as I write this report the Community Centre is closed, our fabulous team are working from home and all scheduled meetings have been cancelled for the foreseeable future. However, we have all found strengths that we have not used before and we, councillors and staff alike, are working together as a team to ensure that the residents of Leigh are as well provided for as we can possibly manage. Obviously we are working closely with all the other key authorities and agencies and we are endeavouring to provide support and signposting to those who need our help.

The Annual Town Electors Meeting will not take place, however all the reports will be available and we continue to be available to residents via the telephone, website and social media sites.

I have enjoyed my year as Chairman and I have been fortunate to be able to attend many civic and local events including the unveiling of the "Poppy Bus" dedicated to one of our local war veterans Charles Benford and the Remembrance service at the Cenotaph. I have also been able to support the Southend Borough Council Mayor, John Lamb at many of his fund raising events.

As many of you may be aware the Community Centre is undergoing a programme of improvements. The initial work was to undertake essential repairs to secure the building but now that it is complete we have started to bring the building up to scratch including the much needed refurbishment of the ground floor toilets!

My year as Chairman has been very enjoyable. It is an honour to be able to represent our wonderful town at meetings and events. The current situation has shown how, in times of emergency, friends and strangers alike work together to help the community and each other. Leigh certainly is a great place to live!





# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

*From 1st April 2019 - 31st March 2020*

|   | 2018/19        | 2019/20<br>BUDGET | 2019/20*       | 2020/21<br>BUDGET |
|---|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Band D precept figure per household     | 46.89          |                   | 47.70          | 50.58             |
| <b>INCOME</b>                           |                |                   |                |                   |
| Precept                                 | 411,692        | 421,625           | 421,625        | 447,392           |
| Local Council Tax Support Grant         | 6,860          | 3,910             | 3,910          |                   |
| Interest                                | 3,309          | 800               | 3,836          | 800               |
| Finance & Governance (inc Grant)        | 17,063         | 1,300             | 2,676          | 1,300             |
| Community & Culture                     | 190,500        | 189,240           | 184,489        | 186,000           |
| CIL                                     | 19,592         |                   | 11,079         |                   |
| <b>Total Receipts</b>                   | <b>649,014</b> | <b>616,875</b>    | <b>627,615</b> | <b>635,492</b>    |
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>                      |                |                   |                |                   |
| Finance & Governance                    | 107,361        | 105,100           | 95,027         | 108,100           |
| Capital Equipment                       | 45,774         |                   | 12,084         |                   |
| Community & Culture                     | 289,800        | 310,065           | 285,256        | 325,900           |
| Staffing                                | 99,214         | 105,308           | 99,753         | 111,900           |
| Planning, Highways & Licensing          | 10,454         | 12,145            | 10,858         | 9,200             |
| Resolved Capital Projects               | 119,071        | 95,000            | 74,781         | 75,000            |
| <b>Total Payments</b>                   | <b>671,674</b> | <b>627,618</b>    | <b>577,759</b> | <b>630,100</b>    |
| <b>SUMMARY</b>                          |                |                   |                |                   |
| Balance b/forward                       | 109,139        |                   | 90,026         |                   |
| Add receipts                            | 649,016        |                   | 627,615        |                   |
| Less payments                           | 671,674        |                   | 577,759        |                   |
| Transfer (to)/from Reserves             | -3,545         |                   | -59,293        |                   |
| Balance c/forward                       | 90,026         |                   | 80,589         |                   |
| <b>TOTAL NET ASSETS REPRESENTED BY:</b> |                |                   |                |                   |
| General fund                            | 90,026         |                   | 80,239         |                   |
| Earmarked Reserves                      | 180,943        |                   | 202,098        |                   |
| Capital Reserves                        | 185,139        |                   | 212,857        |                   |
| CIL                                     | 26,311         |                   | 35,595         |                   |
| Leigh Partnership Group                 | 9,028          |                   | 9,028          |                   |
| Overall Balances                        | 491,446        |                   | 541,304        |                   |

*\*Management Accounts prior to final year end procedures*





# COUNCIL ACTIONS & ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2019/20

## *Actions from Full Council*

- Installed new bins at the Skate Park and in Leigh Library Gardens
- Plans for a defibrillator to be installed on Strand Wharf have been agreed
- Introduced a new "Coffee with Councillors" event to allow the public to meet and discuss issues with councillors
- Two Spatial Plan projects have been identified
- An action plan to monitor and progress our 4 Year Strategic Plan has been devised
- Teamed up with Surfers against Sewage to help reduce plastic waste in Leigh
- Risk assessment and continuity planning for the COVID-19 pandemic have been completed
- Projects to combat social isolation have been implemented

## *Actions from the Community & Culture Committee*

- Renovation programme started at Leigh Community Centre, new ground floor toilets installed, flooring replaced, roof repaired, new windows in Room 1 and the commencement of the rear extension
- Decorating programme throughout all the rooms in Leigh Community Centre, with additional upgrades to the fire alarm system, emergency lighting, fire doors, external fire escapes and internal works to the Town Council Offices
- Completed Christmas Lighting refurbishment programme
- New sponsorship scheme for Hanging Baskets and Christmas Lighting Columns
- Funded a new see-saw for the playground in Leigh Library Gardens
- Banned bonfires and the use of incinerators at the Leigh allotment sites due to neighbour complaints and to help improve the air quality in Southend
- The Council held their first Thank You event as part of National Volunteers Week, inviting volunteers from across Leigh to an afternoon tea with entertainment
- Introduced a second Youth Club for 12 - 16 year olds
- Introduced more sessions of the Over 60's Social Club and at a more suitable time of day
- Improved the booking system at Leigh Community Centre, so availability can now be viewed by anyone at anytime on our website
- Removed asbestos and a delapidated building at the Allotment site
- Revised the allotment dispute procedure to a mediation process and reviewed policies
- Started work on a "Happy to Chat" Bench which will be adopted outside the Community Centre
- Agreed to provide skateboard lessons at the Skate Park once the extension is completed, and to install a graffiti art wall
- Launched a writing competition, of which entries will be displayed on our Art Wall and the winners printed in our magazine
- Planned our programme of events for 2020, although sadly some of these can no longer go ahead as planned due to COVID-19, we will try to reschedule where possible for later in the year



# COUNCIL ACTIONS & ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2019/20

## *Actions from the Finance & Governance Committee*

- Devised business continuity strategies and action plans
- Undertaken the budget process
- Reviewed the code of conduct policy
- Installed new IT servers and processors in the Town Council Offices
- Approved 14 grants totalling £4960
- Reviewed annual governance items
- Reviewed investment strategy

## *Actions from the Staffing Committee*

- Welcomed a new apprentice into our staff
- Revised the Staff Handbook

## *External Achievements*

- Awarded the Essex Association of Local Council's Innovation Award for our work with outside organisations
- Featured in a report entitled "Points of Light 2019" by the National Association of Local Councils for our innovation in Arts and Culture within the Town

## STRATEGIC PLAN 2019 - 2023

Last year Leigh-on-Sea Town Council released their Strategic Plan to help drive the Council's objectives for the next four years. The complex, challenging issues and changing circumstances faced by the local community require the Council to identify relevant, pertinent strategic objectives that will be understood by the residents and drive action in order to make progress towards the desired outcomes for Leigh-on-Sea. The four year plan has three core priorities and an overarching aspiration of "improving the quality of town life."

1. To be proactive in creating effective partnership working between Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and Leigh-on-Sea Town Council to ensure a shared vision for Leigh-on-Sea
2. To identify community facilities that would enhance the quality of life of local residents and to explore ways of securing the necessary resources with minimum impact on the precept
3. To raise awareness of local environmental issues and to create opportunities for residents to engage with Leigh-on-Sea Town Council in finding and implementing solutions

We have reviewed the first years progress of our strategic plan and noted the actions taken against each objective.



# STRATEGIC PLAN 2019 - 2023

## Progress Checking Report 2019/20

**1** *To be proactive in creating effective partnership working between Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and Leigh Town Council to ensure a shared vision for Leigh-on-Sea*

- Economic support for local business and traders through the Leigh Partnership Group
- Through the Old Leigh Spatial Plan aid development of SBC Local Plan and stakeholder's interests to attract future investment in Leigh Port
- Restoration of the Belvedere viewing platform in partnership with SBC
- Remain pro-active in assisting SBC with the rejuvenation of Leigh Library Gardens through the FOLLG Campaign
- Launch a Friends of Bonchurch Park campaign with the help of SBC
- Through Make Southend Sparkle support litter picking campaigns and awareness throughout the Town and find solutions to litter issue
- Proactive involvement in the emerging Local Plan by Southend-on-Sea
- Councillors to accept any training opportunities from SBC
- Foster good working relationships between LTC Officers and SBC Councillors and Officers.
- Business survey carried out in 2018 and Facebook group created. Action plan devised in 2019. Improved way finding to be installed May 2020. Web page within SBC tourism being developed. Fiverfest promotional campaign introduced in 2019. Christmas decorative window campaign for 2020
- Final Spatial Plan presented to Council July 2019 and distributed to SBC and stakeholders. Two projects identified in 2020 that will be initial focus, walking routes and speed control in New Road
- SBC have undertaken the initial survey. In March 2020 a design concept has been formulated by SBC and agreed by LTC
- Formal group created with an LTC representative on the Committee. Charity status granted in 2019, with an LTC Cllr as trustee. Support given with grants, promotion and facilities.
- Initial idea to be promoted at the 2020 Community Day (New date TBC)
- Good for Leigh awards presented to individuals who have litter picked around the town. 4 new bins purchased and installed, 2 for Library Gardens and 2 for the Skate Park
- Issues & opportunities consultation held in March 2019. SBC have confirmed due regard will be paid to the Spatial Plan when developing the Local Plan.
- Councillors have completed Local Plan training 01/19 & 01/20, Planning training 05/19 and CIL training 02/20
- Regular contact maintained between officers and councillors. Town Clerk and SBC CEO met in Jan 2020



# STRATEGIC PLAN 2019 - 2023

## Progress Checking Report 2019/20

**2** *To identify community facilities that would enhance the quality of life of local residents and to explore ways of securing the necessary resources with minimum impact on the precept*

- Ongoing repairs and remodel of Leigh Community Centre to create a better community facility
- Identifying and completing effective projects for the community that meet the Community Infrastructure Levy criteria
- Engage in opportunities to provide and/or promote community facilities for the youth
- Be open to community initiatives at the Allotment sites
- Create a programme of excursions through the Community Transport Scheme for disabled and elderly residents
- Raise awareness, promote and enhance Council events, activities and markets in the Town
- Refurbishment and extension of the Skate Park to provide better facilities
- Councillor led Art Group to organise Artist in Residence and art wall exhibitions
- Sponsorship of hanging baskets and Christmas lighting to enable improvements and extensions of the schemes.
- **New strategic action!** introduced in March 2020 - Implement Social Isolation Projects
- Since 01/19 the roof and lift have been replaced, new windows installed in Room 1, phase 1 remodel completed, phase 2 remodel commenced - including replacement of ground floor toilets. Decorative repair commenced.
- These will include repairs to Belvedere Viewing Platform, information boards on Belton Hills, new bins, new see saw at Library Gardens. Coffee with Councillors in 03/20 gave further suggestions.
- Additional Youth Club for 12 -16's started in 09/19. Monthly Youth Forum continues with a platform to promote their discussions in our Council magazine.
- No community initiatives have come forward at present
- Community Transport scheme continues, over 60's social club has been extended, partnership with Age Concern Southend has enhanced initiatives
- We continue to promote our different events and activities through social media, posters and banners, the local press and our website. Each year further events are added to our events programme.
- Facilities extended in an unused area, planning approved, local business support and funding secured
- Artist in Residence scheme continues, Art Wall exhibitions are booked back to back. Writing competition launched 04/20 and Skate Park Graffiti Wall planned for 2020.
- Schemes were introduced in 2019 and were well received within the business community. Will continue to build on this initiative in 2020.
- Happy to Chat bench agreed, awaiting approval from SBC. COVID-19 support offered to vulnerable residents, signposting on LTC website and information sheet in Leigh Times. LGBTQ support group in partnership with Southend YMCA.





# STRATEGIC PLAN 2019 - 2023

## Progress Checking Report 2019/20

**3** *To raise awareness of local environmental issues and to create opportunities for residents to engage with Leigh Town Council in finding and implementing solutions*

- Use the LTC Magazine to engage with residents and to promote and interact with external organisations
- Actively promote and be a part of the Friends of Leigh Library Garden initiative and create interest for a Friends of Bonchurch Park group
- Actively promote and be a part of litter picking campaigns
- Promote LTC and local environmental issues with engagement at events
- Art exhibitions to heighten awareness of environmental issues where appropriate
- **New Strategic Action!** introduced in July 2019 - Make Leigh, Plastic Free Campaign
- Magazine is produced on a bi-annual basis with further communications released in the local press. Collaborations with different charities & groups to produce articles and environmental issues effecting the Town are discussed. In 2019/20 we highlighted the airport issues, the Blue Crab campaign and #MakeLeighPlasticFree campaign to name a few.
- Supported FOLLG with £500 grant award, administration support, room hire for meetings, sponsorship brokerage, councillor and volunteer involvement, promotion in LTC magazine, hosting their public consultation and sharing marketing materials. Interest engagement for Bonchurch Park group will start in 2020.
- Councillor and volunteer involvement, ongoing social media campaigns, recognised local litter pickers with Good for Leigh awards
- Environment Agency & Anglian Water invited to Annual Community Meeting in 2019. Essex and Suffolk Water's Every Drop Matters campaign reps were invited to take part in several of our events. Council group being established in 2020 to establish Council position on Southend Airport. Coffee with Councillors sessions introduced to engage with community.
- Our Community Art Wall is open to everyone and we welcome a variety of artistic styles. Our Art Group instagram account also promotes awareness where possible
- Councillor representative on steering group. Promotion at Leigh Regatta in 09/19. Remove single use plastics from Council premises where possible/practical.



# COUNCILLORS BY WARD

|                   |                          |  |
|-------------------|--------------------------|--|
| BONCHURCH WARD    | <i>Jill Healey</i>       | <a href="mailto:cllrhealey@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk">cllrhealey@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk</a>       |
| ELMS WARD         | <i>Douglas Cracknell</i> | <a href="mailto:cllrcracknell@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk">cllrcracknell@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk</a> |
|                   | <i>Caroline Parker</i>   | <a href="mailto:council@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk">council@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk</a>             |
|                   | <i>Mike Wells</i>        | <a href="mailto:cllrwells@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk">cllrwells@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk</a>         |
| HERSCHELL WARD    | <i>Damian O'Boyle</i>    | <a href="mailto:cllroboyle@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk">cllroboyle@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk</a>       |
|                   | <i>Vacancy</i>           | n/a  |
| HIGHLANDS WARD    | <i>Mark Bromfield</i>    | <a href="mailto:cllrbromfield@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk">cllrbromfield@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk</a> |
|                   | <i>Vinice Cowell</i>     | <a href="mailto:cllrcowell@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk">cllrcowell@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk</a>       |
|                   | <i>Emma Smith</i>        | <a href="mailto:cllrsmith@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk">cllrsmith@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk</a>         |
| LEIGH ROAD WARD   | <i>Anita Forde</i>       | <a href="mailto:cllrforde@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk">cllrforde@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk</a>         |
|                   | <i>Paul Gilson</i>       | <a href="mailto:cllrgilson@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk">cllrgilson@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk</a>       |
| ST. CLEMENTS WARD | <i>Carole Mulroney</i>   | <a href="mailto:cllrcmulroney@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk">cllrcmulroney@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk</a> |
|                   | <i>Vivien Rosier</i>     | <a href="mailto:cllrrosier@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk">cllrrosier@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk</a>       |
| ST. JAMES WARD    | <i>Alan Hart</i>         | <a href="mailto:cllrhart@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk">cllrhart@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk</a>           |
| THAMES WARD       | <i>Keith Evans</i>       | <a href="mailto:cllrevans@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk">cllrevans@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk</a>         |
|                   | <i>Andrew Wilkins</i>    | <a href="mailto:cllrwilkins@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk">cllrwilkins@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk</a>     |

# COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE

*From 1st May 2019 - 17th March 2020*

| Councillor           | Full Council<br><small>7 meetings</small> | P, H & L<br><small>15 meetings</small> | C & C<br><small>5 meetings</small> | F & G<br><small>3 meetings</small> | Staffing<br><small>3 meetings</small> |
|----------------------|---|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Cllr Mark Bromfield  | 2   |  |                                    | 3                                  | 3                                     |
| Cllr Vinice Cowell   | 4*  | 3*                                     |                                    |                                    |                                       |
| Cllr Doug Cracknell  | 5   | 13                                     |                                    |                                    | 2                                     |
| Cllr Keith Evans     | 6   |  | 3                                  |                                    | 3                                     |
| Cllr Anita Forde     | 5   | 8                                      | 5                                  | 2                                  |                                       |
| Cllr Paul Gilson     | 7   | 12                                     |                                    | 1                                  |                                       |
| Cllr Alan Hart       | 4   |  | 2                                  |                                    |                                       |
| Cllr Jill Healey     | 7   | 12                                     | 1                                  | 2                                  | 2                                     |
| Cllr Carole Mulroney | 4   |  | 3                                  | 3                                  | 3                                     |
| Cllr Damian O'Boyle  | 3   | 1                                      |                                    |                                    |                                       |
| Cllr Caroline Parker | 5   | 13                                     | 5                                  |                                    |                                       |
| Cllr Vivien Rosier   | 7   | 13                                     | 4                                  | 3                                  | 2                                     |
| Cllr Emma Smith      | 2   |  |                                    | 2                                  |                                       |
| Cllr Mike Wells      | 7   |  | 4                                  |                                    | 1                                     |
| Cllr Andrew Wilkins  | 5   |  | 5                                  |                                    |                                       |

- Jill Adair, John Duprey, Patrick Fox, Gerry Glover, Fr. Clive Hillman, Ron Owen and Valerie Morgan stepped down from the Council at the end of the last Council year (18/19). We welcomed new councillors Doug Cracknell, Alan Hart, Laura Jordan, and Mike Wells after the local Elections in May 2019.
- Laura Jordan resigned from the Council in May 2019
- Cllrs Emma Smith, Andrew Wilkins and Damian O'Boyle were co-opted to the Council in June 2019
- Declan Mulroney resigned from the Council in February 2020
- Cllr Vinice Cowell joined the Council in September 2019 and joined the Planning Committee in January 2020
- All meetings were suspended after 17th March 2020 due to the Coronavirus pandemic



## COMMUNITY & CULTURE COMMITTEE

*Chairman Anita Forde*

- 2019/2020 has been a busy year, in June we saw the start of the refurbishment and remodelling of the Community Centre.
- We welcomed our new Artist in Residence, Kerry Doyland, and have organised many exhibitions for our Community Art Wall, which have been well attended and appreciated by the public.
- Our Community Day in June '19 and our Youth Market in July '19 were both highly successful, and Merchant Navy Day was celebrated for the second year in a row on the 3rd September.
- The Leigh Lights was a huge success as always and stalls sold out at our Winter Fayre.
- The committee oversees three allotment sites and works closely with the Allotment Societies on maintenance and any issues that arise.
- Our Community Transport Scheme provides outings and a social club for our older residents. Unfortunately, the provision of these activities was suspended due to the Coronavirus, but staff are making regular contact with our members.
- The Skate Park extension is being planned, however we are waiting until the COVID-19 Pandemic has passed to set a date for the works to commence.
- Our monthly Youth Forum is going strong, it allows young people in Leigh to have a voice. We have dealt with many requests, ideas, concerns and comments. One of which was to run a Youth Club which we have successfully implemented. with the help of Southend YMCA.
- Our Community Partnership Programme is developing with the Friends of Leigh Library Gardens, where we are supporting projects and helping them with their work to maintain and enhance the unique qualities of a wonderful green space in our community.
- Just a word of thanks to all the dedicated Leigh-on-Sea Town Council committee members who serve the community to establish and develop new and existing projects. And to the Town Clerk and officers for their continued hard work.

## PLANNING, HIGHWAYS & LICENSING COMMITTEE

*Chairman Jill Healey*

- The Planning Licensing and Highways Committee have met 15 times this year. As a committee we decided to trial meeting every 3 weeks instead of fortnightly and this appears to work well for everyone.
- Since May 2019 we have considered 280 planning applications, 9 licensing applications and 2 highways applications.
- Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the committee are no longer meeting, however under delegated authority the Town Clerk and Chairman are discussing licensing and planning applications and making delegated decisions for submission to Southend Borough council.
- It has been encouraging to have members of the public at many of our meetings. Some planning applications have come before us many times and the committee welcome the comments and discussions from the local residents.

## FINANCE & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

*Chairman Mark Bromfield*

- The Finance and Governance Committee oversee the policies and finances of the Council. Policies are reviewed as appropriate, and the budget and expenditure is monitored in line with the financial regulations.
- The committee has worked on business continuity strategies and action plans and reviewed investment strategies.
- This year we approved 14 grants totally almost £5000 to help a number of charities and community groups in Leigh





# CHAIRMAN'S CHARITY 2019/20

## *Age Concern Southend*

Cllr Jill Healey was elected as Town Council Chairman on 14th May 2019. Her chosen charity for the year was Age Concern Southend. The Council have supported Cllr Healey's chosen charity through a variety of events including a Summer Puppet Show and a Wine Tasting Event. We are pleased to announce that this year we raised £948.58 for Age Concern Southend.



Leigh-on-Sea Town Council have formed a good relationship with Age Concern Southend over the last year and have helped to promote each other's events as well as utilising the Age Concern Southend minibus for the Council's Community Transport Scheme.

Age Concern Southend has been helping older people in the Southend area since 1974, that's over 40 years of expertise in providing support, advice and services to our community. They provide advice, support, befriending, transport, wheelchair hire, community clubs and leisure/social activities. Registered charity number 1160916

Find out more by visiting [www.acsos.co.uk](http://www.acsos.co.uk) or calling 01702 345373.

## DONALD FRASER VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2020

### *Christine Daniels*

In 2019 the Council launched their Volunteer of the Year Award in memory of longstanding past Councillor Donald Fraser, who had served on the Council since its inception in 1996. Donald was an avid volunteer and helped many organisations during his lifetime, so the Council thought this award a fitting tribute.

This year's chosen winner is Christine Daniels, who was nominated by Sandra Allen at Cruse Bereavement Care where Christine does amazing work, volunteering on a regular basis as a Bereavement Support Counsellor for people in Leigh-on-Sea.

Sandra said "Christine lives on her own and has ill health, but she never moans and gets on with her volunteering. I love Christine she is a true asset in our community that needs support and help." The councillors thought that her dedication to helping those that have lost loved ones, was a remarkable thing to do on a voluntary basis, so she was chosen as this year's recipient.

We have been informed that since the Coronavirus pandemic started, Christine has been able to continue to support bereaved people over the phone. She supervises several other bereavement volunteers, keeping regular contact with them and encouraging them to take on more clients that need support, and has assisted with the application process for nine new bereavement volunteers.

# 2020 'GOOD FOR LEIGH' WINNERS



## *Barbara Armitage*

Barbara has worked tirelessly for the community since she moved to the Southend area in the 1950's. Barbara worked nearly her entire life in government service as a social worker for Southend and Essex County Councils. She was on many local committees until the end of last year when her ill health, at the age of 90, led her to step down. She was instrumental in the opening of the Pier Museum and Barbara has kept a keen and active involvement to this day. She has run the Belfair's Residence Association as the chair since 1973. She has been an active member of Southend Older People's Assembly and The Southend Area Bus User Group and for many years has helped with the Welfare for the Blind campaigns.

## *Friends of Leigh Library Gardens (FOLLG)*

The Council wanted to recognise FOLLG for their continued hard work and the time they have spent rejuvenating the Leigh Library Gardens. Their work was sorely needed, and it is fantastic to see such progress in such a small amount of time, and all done voluntarily!

## *Jessica and Gracie*

Jessica and Gracie were recently featured in the local papers for their eco-warrior efforts to litter pick around Leigh-on-Sea, the Council felt they deserved proper recognition for their hard work to make Leigh a better place. They are thrilled and incredibly proud to have two young people from Leigh who care so much for their local environment.

## *John Cannon*

John is an all-weather street cleaner, residents have noted his polite and friendly nature and a tirelessly diligent worker who keeps the Broadway free of litter.

## *Kim Wilkins & Viv Porthouse*

The Council wanted to recognise the hard work and dedication that these two ladies have put in over the years to fundraise and organise events at St. Clements Church.

## *Russell Hallmark*

Not only is Russell a key member of the Friends of Leigh Library Gardens Group, but he is also a dedicated volunteer for the Town Council's Over 60's Social Club and Community Transport Scheme.

## *Sacha Edwards*

Sacha from the Southend YMCA runs the Town Council Youth Club, and tirelessly works to create positive activities for children and teenagers in the Town.





# MEETING SCHEDULE 2020/21

*All Council meetings are held on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm in Room 6 at Leigh Community Centre, Elm Road. Please note that meetings are currently suspended due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Meetings will resume once safe to do so.*

|                                 |                     |                                 |                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Full Council</i>             | 19th May 2020       | <i>Planning &amp; Licensing</i> | 12th May 2020       |
|                                 | 21st July 2020      |                                 | 2nd June 2020       |
|                                 | 22nd September 2020 |                                 | 23rd June 2020      |
|                                 | 17th November 2020  |                                 | 14th July 2020      |
|                                 | 19th January 2021   |                                 | 4th August 2020     |
|                                 | 23rd March 2021     |                                 | 25th August 2020    |
|                                 |                     |                                 | 15th September 2020 |
|                                 |                     |                                 | 6th October 2020    |
| <i>Finance &amp; Governance</i> | 5th May 2020        |                                 | 27th October 2020   |
|                                 | 8th September 2020  |                                 | 10th November 2020  |
|                                 | 3rd November 2020   |                                 | 1st December 2020   |
|                                 | 2nd March 2020      |                                 | 22nd December 2020  |
| <i>Community &amp; Culture</i>  | 16th June 2020      |                                 | 12th January 2021   |
|                                 | 18th August 2020    |                                 | 2nd February 2021   |
|                                 | 20th October 2020   |                                 | 23rd February 2021  |
|                                 | 15th December 2020  |                                 | 16th March 2021     |
|                                 | 16th February 2021  |                                 | 6th April 2021      |
|                                 | 20th April 2021     |                                 | 27th April 2021     |

## 2020 EVENTS PROGRAMME

*Unfortunately due to coronavirus our events have currently been postponed, where possible we will endeavour to still hold our events at a later date. Check our website and social media pages for updates.*

- VE DAY 75 AFTERNOON TEA CELEBRATION AT LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE (DATE TBC)  
\*VE day celebrations have been cancelled across the country as lockdown is still in place. We are reminding the community to still take place in the National Toast at 3pm on 8th May, and take part in other activities to mark the day.
- COMMUNITY DAY AT BONCHURCH PARK (DATE TBC)
- YOUTH MARKET ON STRAND WHARF (DATE TBC)
- 20TH ANNIVERSARY FARMERS' MARKET ON STRAND WHARF (DATE TBC)
- SUMMER EVENTS PROGRAMME AT LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE (DATES TBC)
- MERCHANT NAVY DAY ON STRAND WHARF - 3RD SEPTEMBER
- OCTOBER HALF TERM EVENTS PROGRAMME (DATES TBC)
- LEIGH LIGHTS THROUGHOUT LEIGH - 27TH NOVEMBER
- WINTER FAYRE AT LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE - 5TH DECEMBER
- CAROLS ON STRAND WHARF - 12TH DECEMBER
- CHRISTMAS FARMERS' MARKET - 19TH DECEMBER





## STAFF DETAILS

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <i>Helen Symmons</i>         | TOWN CLERK & RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER |
| <i>Abbie Cotterell</i>       | ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK                       |
| <i>Emma Stratton</i>         | ASSISTANT RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER    |
| <i>Graham Davison</i>        | FACILITIES MANAGER                         |
| <i>Emily Dean</i>            | EVENTS & PROJECTS OFFICER                  |
| <i>Francesca Smith</i>       | MARKETING & PROFILE OFFICER                |
| <i>Sophie Partridge</i>      | BOOKINGS ADMINISTRATOR                     |
| <i>Linda Mitchell</i>        | RECEPTIONIST                               |
| <i>Ingmar Lindberg-Jones</i> | APPRENTICE RECEPTIONIST                    |
| <i>Richard Flint</i>         | SENIOR CARETAKER                           |
| <i>Mark Doolan</i>           | CARETAKER                                  |
| <i>Graham Lock</i>           | CARETAKER                                  |
| <i>David Skeels</i>          | CARETAKER                                  |

## CONTACT INFORMATION

*Town Council Offices and  
Community Centre Address* LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE  
71-73 ELM ROAD, LEIGH-ON-SEA, SS9 ISP

*Council Offices* COUNCIL@LEIGHONSETOWNCOUNCIL.GOV.UK  
*Community Centre* BOOKINGS@LEIGHONSEATOWNCOUNCIL.GOV.UK

*Council Telephone* 01702 716288  
*Community Centre Telephone* 01702 477248

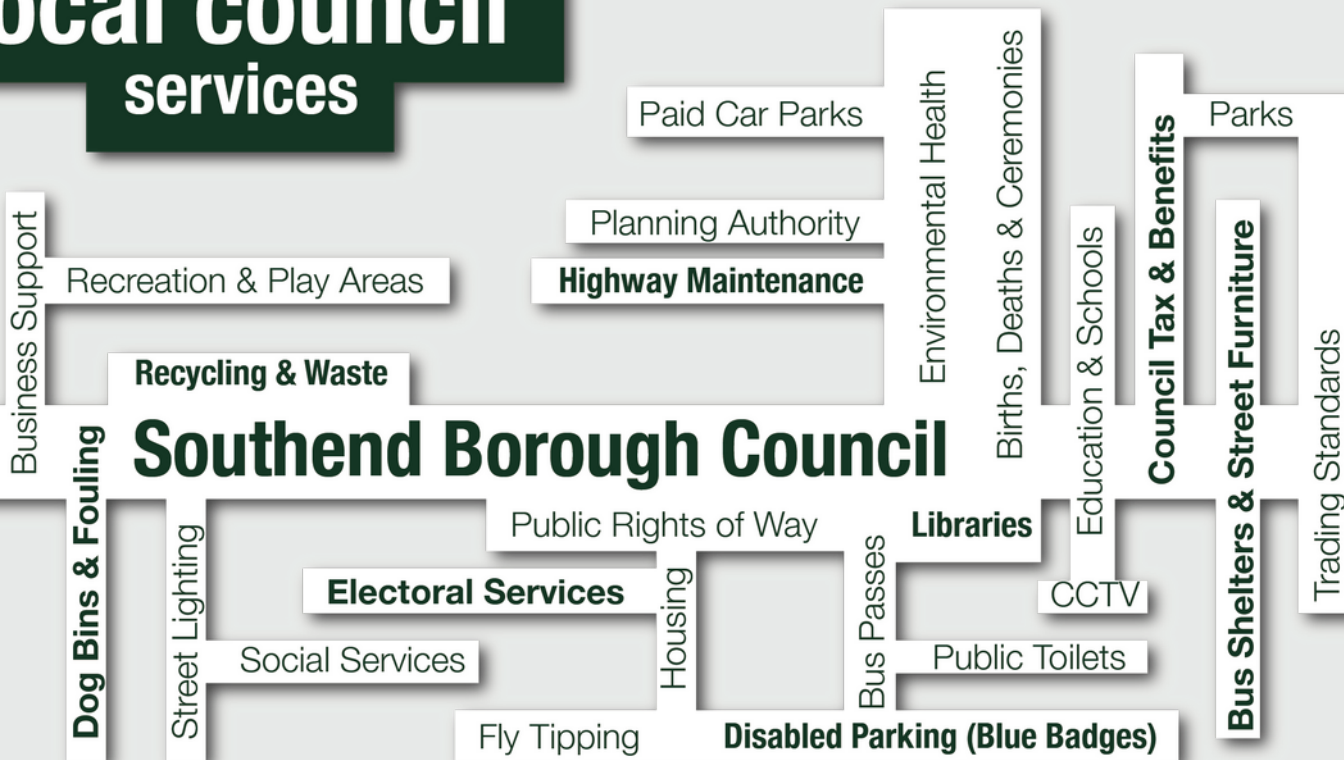
*Council Website* WWW.LEIGHONSEATOWNCOUNCIL.GOV.UK  
*Community Centre Website* WWW.LEIGHCOMMUNITYCENTRE.COM

*Council Facebook* WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/LEIGHTCEVENTS  
*Community Centre Facebook* WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/LEIGHCOMMUNITYCENTRE

*Council Twitter* @LEIGHTCEVENTS  
*Community Centre Twitter* @LEIGHONSEACC

*Council Instagram* @LEIGHTCEVENTS  
*Council Arts Group Instagram* @LEIGHTOWNCOUNCILARTSGROUP

# your local council services



## Police Fire & Crime Commissioner for Essex

- Essex Police
- Essex County Fire & Rescue Service

## Citizen's Advice

Free advice & information on financial, legal & consumer problems

## Environment Agency

- Flooding

