

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council

2021/22 Council Year

LEIGH-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

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

CONTACT

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TOWN CLERK

Helen Symmons PSLCC



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 Leigh-on-Sea Town Council. Southend-on-Sea City 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.





CHAIRMAN'S REPORT *By Council Chairman Doug Cracknell*

When I was nominated and elected to be Chairman of Leighon-Sea Town Council in May 2021 it was with a sense of optimism that we had overcome the worst of Covid-19 and, as a community, we could now look forward to safer and happier times. As I sit here now writing my Chairman's Report, I have to conclude that I was over-optimistic. As a community we have continued to struggle through the difficulties that Covid-19 brought upon us; we were then rocked by the senseless killing of our much loved and respected MP, Sir



David Amess; and we are now witnessing the devastating effects of the invasion of Ukraine.

If there is one thing I can draw upon after the dire events of the past few years, it is the resilience and compassion shown by so many in our community. So many individuals and groups within Leigh-on-Sea have pulled together and supported one another during the pandemic, following the death of Sir David, and now in support of the victims of the Ukrainian war. It has been uplifting to see so many volunteering and donating to help those in need – thank you. We should all be proud to be part of such a warm and caring community – I know I am. I am also very proud to have served as Chairman for the past year.

Over the last I2 months I have had the honour and pleasure of attending a wide variety of events on behalf of the Council. These included occasions which I could never have foreseen when I took on the role of Chairman, including attending a Requiem Mass for Sir David Amess at Westminster Cathedral and attending the Southend City Ceremony where HRH Prince Charles presented the letters patent from the Queen. While these were both significant and memorable events, I have also had the pleasure of attending many smaller but equally significant local events, such as the Dunkirk Memorial Service in June, Punch & Judy shows at Strand Wharf in August, the Merchant Navy Day in September, the 'Good for Leigh Awards' in October, the Festive Library Gardens Evening in December and the joyous Southend Scout and Guide Gang Show in February, as well as attending the regular Over 60's Social Club's lunches and the Farmers' Markets at the Community Centre. I have been contacted by both local and national news reporters seeking comments on many subjects, from local licensing issues to squirrels targeting the festive lights – it's been quite surreal at times!

As my term of office now comes to an end, I would encourage residents of our town to look out for opportunities where they can support their fellow residents in our community. Thank you everyone for continuing to make Leigh-on-Sea a town we are proud and happy to live in.



An overview of the work undertaken by Council & Committees, in addition to the running of Leigh Community Centre, allotments and other regular facilities and services.

DECISIONS AND ACTIONS OF BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY

- Held an online Community Engagement forum with residents and councillors
- Began negotiations to take on a new community building in Library Gardens
- Granted II Coronavirus Community Recovery Awards to help our regular hirers at Leigh Community Centre relaunch their sessions after restrictions had lifted, providing 103 sessions
- Celebrated 2I years of the Leigh Farmers' Market, trialled the addition of monthly Saturday Farmers' Markets, moving to Seasonal Saturday Markets in 2022
- Held a variety of free events for children over the school holidays, including arts and crafts at Leigh Community Centre and a puppet show on Strand Wharf in the summer
- Held a flag raising ceremony on Strand Wharf in honour of Merchant Navy Day
- Relaunched the Over 60's Social Club and introduced lunches
- Launched monthly councillor litter picks around the Town, with a view to tackling problem areas as chosen by residents
- The Council's Arts Group launched monthly poetry nights at the Community Centre
- Held a Good for Leigh Awards event, honouring all winners from the past two years, as our 2020 and 2021 Annual Community Meetings could not go ahead
- Welcomed the Town Council's first special constable for Leigh, William Imbush. LTC fund the scheme for our area.
- Hosted a variety of art exhibitions on our Community Art Wall at the Centre and supported the Leigh branch of Royal British Legion with their Leigh Poppy Trail throughout the Town
- Held an Evening of Reflection in honour of Sir David Amess
- Held our Winter Fayre at Leigh Community Centre, supporting small local businesses
- Set up a donation point in Leigh Community Centre at Christmas time in partnership with Leigh Tin Teams for food and winter coats
- Funded a free lantern-making workshop for families in the Town, to add to the lighting display in Leigh Library Gardens at Christmas
- Installed a Community Larder at Leigh Community Centre in partnership with Leigh Tin Teams
- Commenced work on Safe Sun Partnership project
- Introduced the "Happy to Chat" bench to help combat social isolation
- Provided Leigh Community Centre as a drop-off point for supplies for Ukraine, sorting, organising and storing an overwhelming number of donations for onward transportation.

DECISIONS AND ACTIONS REGARDING POLICY AND PROCEDURE

- Carried out the annual budgeting process and prepared the 2022/23 Council Budget
- Approved two rounds of grant applications, with 18 successful recipients
- Reviewed and updated I3 Council policies and procedures
- Carried out quarterly finance checks and bank reconciliations
- Commenced planning for the 2023 2027 Strategic Plan
- Reviewed the Spatial Plan



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS 2021/22

An overview of the work undertaken by Council & Committees, in addition to the running of Leigh Community Centre, allotments and other regular facilities and services.

IMPROVEMENTS TO FACILITIES

- Installed a table tennis table and picnic activty table in Bonchurch Park and an activty picnic table in Library Gardens
- Installed a new scheme of hanging baskets
- Carried out further renovations at Leigh Skate Park and installed a Street Art Wall
- Installed new information boards on Belton Hills
- Replaced all the timers for the Christmas lighting and added additional displays in Leigh Library Gardens
- Applied for a grant to Enovert Community Trust to refurbish the Leigh Beach Paddling Pool with works being completed by the end of 2022.
- Replaced rotten window frames and emergency external staircase at Leigh Community Centre
- Created more allotment plots at Manchester Drive Allotment Site

LOBBYING AND CONSULTATIONS

- Lobbied regarding breaches of the Section 106 agreement at Southend Airport
- Lobbied regarding speeding on New Road, Cliff Parade and Two Tree Island
- Discussions have been held and letters sent to Southend-on-Sea City Council on the number of licensed premises in Leigh-on-Sea
- Responded to lobbies on Boundary Commission Reviews
- Responded to consultations on the new Local Plan, Public Spaces Protection Order, draft Air Quality Action Plan, Southend Bus Service Improvement Plan, Parking Strategy and Parks and Open Spaces

PLANNING AND LICENSING FOR LEIGH

- The planning committee met 14 times, with 3 meetings still to happen before the end of the Council Year.
- 215 planning applications and 13 licensing applications have been considered in this Council year correct as of 8th March 2022
- Conservation area appraisals for Chapmanslord, Leigh, Leigh Cliff and Leigh Old Town were completed and submitted to Southend-on-Sea City Council



Councillor Litter Picks



Street Art Wall at Leigh Skate Park



Happy to Chat Bench



	2020/21	2021/22	2021/22	2022/23
	AUDITED	BUDGET	FORECAST	BUDGET
Band D precept figure per				
household	£50.58		£50.58	£50.94
INCOME				
Precept	£447,392	£443,217	£443,217	£452,880
Grants Received	£13,000			
Community Centre	£7,414	£70,000	£80,000	£100,000
LCC Grants received	£71,511			
Allotments	£21,784	£20,650	£19,200	£19,325
Other income	£3,280	£9,150	£14,000	£9,800
Community Infrastructure Levy	£21,911		£2,558	
Total Receipts	£586,292	£543,017	£558,975	£582,005
EXPENDITURE				
Finance & Governance	£51,590	£84,000	£55,000	£82,250
Capital Projects	£259,899	£43,620	£27,000	£40,000
Community Centre inc. Staff	£154,459	£177,400	£157,000	£201,150
Allotments	£27,209	£28,700	£22,500	£29,200
Health & Wellbeing Programmes	£34,874	£35,900	£33,500	£37,225
Council Staff	£117,194	£104,500	£106,000	£97,000
Other Facilities & Services	£32,994	£66,712	£56,000	£85,525
Community Infrastructure Levy	£11,767		£27,000	
Total Payments	£689,986	£540,882	£484,000	£572,350
SUMMARY	·			
Balance brought forward	£80,239		£100,446	
Add receipts	£586,292		£558,975	
Less payments	£689,986		£484,000	
Transfer (to)/from Reserves	£123,901		(£65,421)	
Balance carried forward	£100,446		£110,000	
TOTAL NET ASSETS REPRES	ENTED BY			
General Fund	£100,446			
Earmarked Reserves	£289,723			
Capital Reserves	£47,440			
Community Infrastructure Levy	£45,740			
Overall Balances	£437,609			





Susan Allen

Susan was appointed as our Artist in Residence and moved into the studio space in the attic of Leigh Community Centre in April 2021.

She was selected due to her established career tutoring art to all ages and abilities. We felt that she was well known in the area and would be able to bring her expertise to the community of Leiah. Susan has not disappointed and as this year's Artist in Residence, despite starting out when restrictions were still in place, she has been able to carry out a variety of free events for the community, sharing her love of the local landscape with on-location drawing and painting groups, as well as free development groups for more dedicated students. Making these skills accessible regardless of age or ability sits at the core of Susan's teaching philosophy and approach to art.

Susan has also offered a Life Drawing Scholarship for students and adults to learn and experience life drawing, which over 40 secondary school students and 175 adults of all ages have participated in.

Susan moved to Leigh at the end of the 80's from Toronto, Canada, falling in love, not only with her husband, but with the town itself. Welcomed in by the community of artists Leigh is home to, she began exhibiting as part of the Leigh Art Trail in 1999 and has never looked back.

Susan also helped to establish, and exhibits at, the Two Tree Gallery in Leigh and has provided exhibitions for us at the Community Centre and also the cover artwork of our recent magazine.

2021/22 CHAIRMAN'S CHARITY Phab Life

Our Chairman Cllr Doug Cracknell has worked hard over the year to raise funds for his chosen charity "Phab Life", who run the Phabulous Café on Leigh Road and the Phab Shop Charity Shop on Rayleigh High Street.

Phab Life is part of a wider network of Phab Clubs across England and Wales, that inspires and supports disabled and nondisabled children, young people and adults to make more of life together - breaking down community barriers, reducing social isolation, and creating opportunities for all involved to enjoy the same activities and challenges side by side.

With that in mind, the local Southend branch of Phab uses their shop and café as an opportunity to provide adults with additional needs work experience, helping to build their confidence, social skills, gain qualifications in a supportive and inclusive environment.

Fundraising has taken place at Council events including the monthly poetry nights. Cllr Cracknell has also raised money by taking part in the Leigh Brica-Brac trail and selling handmade cards at the Farmers' Market.

In the 2021/22 Council Year we have raised £907.17 so far for this good cause.

A formal presentation will be made at the Annual Council Meeting in May.

2021/22 GRANT RECIPIENTS 18 Grant Recipients

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council established their Grant Award Scheme in 2016 to help local groups and charities in the area to provide positive projects for the people of Leigh. Applications can be made for up to £500 for either cash or a bursary for room hire at Leigh Community Centre.

There are two rounds of applications each year, and this year we provided funding to 18 different groups.

- Leigh-on-Sea SEND Families - £326.40 Bursary
- Beat It! Cancer Rehab Sessions - £500 Bursary
- PEACe (Parents of Estranged Adult Children) Support Group - £300 Bursary
- Counselling and Support Services - £200 Bursary
- Active Life £200 Bursary
- Endeavour Trust £200 Bursary
- Carers First £250 Bursary
- Southend Drama Society -£100 Grant
- Leigh Folk Arts Association -£500 Grant
- Yantlet Community Group -£250 Grant
- Lita Freegard Fitness £250 Grant
- The Art Ministry £500 Grant
- The Hoy at Anchor Folk Club - £500 Bursary
- Phoenix Rangers £330 Grant
- Royal British Legion Leigh Branch - £500 Grant/Bursary
- Lower Thames Rowing Club -£500 Bursary
- Four Oars Rowing Club -£500 Grant
- Incredible Edible £250 Grant
- Southend in Sight £500 Grant



2022 'GOOD FOR LEIGH' WINNERS

The Good for Leigh Awards were launched by the Town Council over a decade ago to highlight the work of individuals and groups throughout the Town who do their best - often without having to be asked - to make Leigh a better place. Thank you to this years winners.

Jack and Theo Chapman

Jack and Theo sent round notes to all their neighbours during lockdown offering their help to collect shopping, walk dogs or to provide friendly phone calls. This launched a messaging group for their street and they still keep in touch with their neighbours regularly. Jack was the recipient of our Belfairs Citizenship Award in 2021.

Debbie Fox

Debbie can often be seen litter picking throughout Leigh and we want to recognise her for her efforts to make Leigh a cleaner and tidier place.

Friends of Love Leigh Cliffs

Since the FOLLC group was established there have been many hundreds of man hours put into rejuvenating the area, and we wish to recognise the members for their hard work.

Rose Johnson

Rose was a nominee for our Citizenship Award that we run through Belfairs Academy. She is a fully committed art student, who has raised money for art enrichment projects and has volunteered for two years at Create 98 to help teach younger children to draw.

James Paul

James, an excellent student from Belfairs who was nominated for the Citizenship Award, is dedicated to making a difference to climate change and plays a huge part in the school's eco warrior club. He inspires his peers and leads by example.

Carolyn Sherwin

Carolyn was the founding member of the Friends of Love Leigh Cliffs Group and has worked hard to build the group membership up, making a real difference to the Cliffs area.



DONALD FRASER VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2022

Bob and Jill O'Leary

Every year we ask for members of the public to nominate a hard-working volunteer that lives or volunteers in Leigh-on-Sea. The award is held in memory of the late Donald Fraser, one of our founding councillors. Donald was an avid volunteer and helped many groups and charities throughout his long life, and this award was created to keep his memory alive, and honour those who do so much for our town.

We are pleased to announce that this year's award is actually for joint winners Bob and Jill O'Leary. Bob and Jill are both invaluable members of our local Royal British Legion. Not only do they complete all the Branch admin voluntarily, they have also raised thousands over the years for the Poppy Appeal, they support local veterans, and pulled off some amazing events for the RBL Centenary in 2021, including the Leigh Poppy Trail. They are also very active in supporting the Town Council at our events. Bob and Jill are both so hardworking and deserve so much recognition for all the work they put in to helping others in Leigh.



STRATEGIC PLAN 2019 - 2023

Final Council review prior to work on the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan

In 2019 Leigh-on-Sea Town Council resolved their Strategic Plan to help focus on the Council's objectives for the next four years. During that time, there have been changing circumstances faced by all in our local community, but we have never lost sight of the desired outcomes for the Town. The four year plan had 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 City 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

Under each of the core priorities we had specific strategic actions to focus on. Many of these actions will naturally evolve, be continued and won't be forgotten. However, for the purposes of moving from one plan to another many actions within the current plan have been completed.

Some of the actions completed in 2021/2022, which go towards fulfilling the plan, include:

- Through the Leigh Partnership Group being involved in the TotallyLocally Southend online shopping initiative created and launched in April 2021
- Launching Councillor led litter picks
- Additional equipment and resources for the Town for all to enjoy table tennis table and activity picnic tables in the parks, Skate Park Street Art Wall and further refurbishment of the Skate Park and the installation of new information boards on Belton Hills
- Consulting on the next Local Plan stage
- Being a part of the stakeholder group on Southend Police Operation Union
- Continuing with the refurbishment of Leigh Community Centre to restore the building to its full potential
- Working in partnership with Southend YMCA to promote community facilities for the youth
- Expanding our Over 60's Social Club to provide lunch
- Working in partnership with the Leigh Branch of the Royal British Legion on the Leigh Poppy Trail
- Creating "The Listening Room" monthly poetry evenings to support our arts programme further
- Introducing our Happy to Chat Bench to help combat social isolation

These actions went alongside our daily provision to residents of our regular facilities and services. 2021 remained a challenge, as it did for everyone, with the slow emergence from the lockdown and Government recovery programme.

Although this will be the final review of the current plan, work will still continue towards all of the core priorities and objectives in 2022. As we develop the new Plan for 2023 - 2027, we will return to the previous objectives to establish which will continue to be a focus for the new Strategic Plan and help shape the new priorities and what should become a focus for the Council to achieve.



COUNCILLOR NAME	FULL COUNCIL *5 meetings	COMMUNITY & CULTURE *5 meetings	FINANCE & GOVERNANCE *2 meetings	PLANNING & LICENSING *14 meetings	STAFFING
Dr. David Bowry	5	5	2	11	5
Katie Cohen	3				
Vinice Cowell	4		1	6	1
Douglas Cracknell	5	5	1	12	5
Keith Evans	5	2	2	4	4
Anita Forde	4	3	1		
Paul Gilson	3			10	
Alan Hart	1			4	
Jill Healey	5		0		5
Emma Mills	5	4		10	
Carole Mulroney	4		1		
Damian O'Boyle	1				
James Preston	3	2		10	
Emma Smith	4	4			4
Mike Wells	3	0			2
Andrew Wilkins	3	5			

Notes

- Chairman Cllr Doug Cracknell and Vice-Chairman Cllr Keith Evans are ex-officio members of all committees
- Cllr Katie Cohen was co-opted to the Council in July 2021.
- Highlighted squares show the committees that Councillors are a part of, however all councillors can attend any committee meetings.
- During the remainder of this Council Year, there is one Full Council, Community and Culture and Finance and Governance meeting yet to happen, and 3 Planning and Licensing Meetings.

MEETING SCHEDULE 2022/23

Dates are all provisional until the Annual Council Meeting in May. All Council meetings are held on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm in Room 6 at Leigh Community Centre.

Full Council	24th May 2022	Planning &	10th May 2022
	19th July 2022	Licensing	3lst May 2022
	20th September 2022		21st June 2022
	29th November 2022		12th July 2022
	24th January 2023		2nd August 2022
	28th March 2023		23rd August 2022
			13th September 2022
Finance &	6th September 2022		4th October 2022
Governance	lst November 2022		25th October 2022
	7th March 2023		15th November 2022
	9th May 2023		6th December 2022
			20th December 2022
Community &	14th June 2022		10th January 2023
Culture	l6th August 2022		31st January 2023
	llth October 2022		21st February 2023
	13th December 2022		I4th March 2023
	14th February 2023		4th April 2023
	18th April 2023		25th April 2023

16th May 2023



- April 2022 Free Bunting Workshops at Leigh Community Centre
- 29th May 2022- Jubilee Picnic in Bonchurch Park
- August 2022 Children's summer holidays events at Leigh Community Centre

As well as our regular events at Leigh Community Centre, which include...

- Leigh Farmers' Market Third Friday of the month, with additional Seasonal Saturday markets throughout the year, 9am - Ipm.
- "The Listening Room" Monthly Poetry and Open Mic Nights, held in the café on the second Wednesday of the month, 7.30pm - 9.30pm.
- Our Youth Forum, giving a voice to the young people of the Town, takes place on the second Thursday of the month, 5pm - 6pm.
- The Over 60's Social Club, lunch and an activity twice a month for £5, on the first and third Wednesday of the month, I2 noon - I.30pm.
- Also keep an eye out for the changing exhibitions on our Community Art Wall at the Centre and monthly Councillor Litter Picks around the town.

COUNCILLORS **BY WARD** Jill Healey

BONCHURCH WARD ELMS WARD

HERSCHELL WARD

HIGHLANDS WARD

LEIGH ROAD WARD

ST. CLEMENTS WARD

Douglas Cracknell Vacancy James Preston Dr. David Bowry Vacancy Vinice Cowell Emma Smith Katie Cohen Anita Forde Paul Gilson Carole Mulroney Emma Mills Alan Hart Keith Evans

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THAMES WARD Andrew Wilkins STAFF DETAILS

ST. JAMES WARD

Abbie Cotterell Francesca Smith Ingmar Lindberg-Jones David Skeels, Luke Russell, Samee Khan., Stephen Rymill. Andy Knowles

Helen Symmons TOWN CLERK & RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER **ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK Emma Stratton** ASSISTANT RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER **MARKETING & PROFILE OFFICER** Rachel Cook ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Kristine Boicuka ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Maggie Dumanska RECEPTION AND ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT **Richard Flint** SENIOR CARETAKER **CARETAKING STAFF**

CONTACT INFORMATION

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LEIGH-ON-SEA JUBILEE PICNIC

SUNDAY 29TH MAY 2022 12 NOON - 3PM BONCHURCH PARK

COMMUNITY EVENT. SHARING FOOD AND FRIENDSHIP

FOOD | CHARITY STALLS | NETWORKING | MUSIC | GAMES