



Leigh-on-Sea Town Council

ANNUAL REPORT

2022/23 Council Year

Photo by Jeff Sawkins

LEIGH-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

*Leigh Community Centre
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CONTACT

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TOWN CLERK

Helen Symmons PSLCC



LEIGH-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

About Us

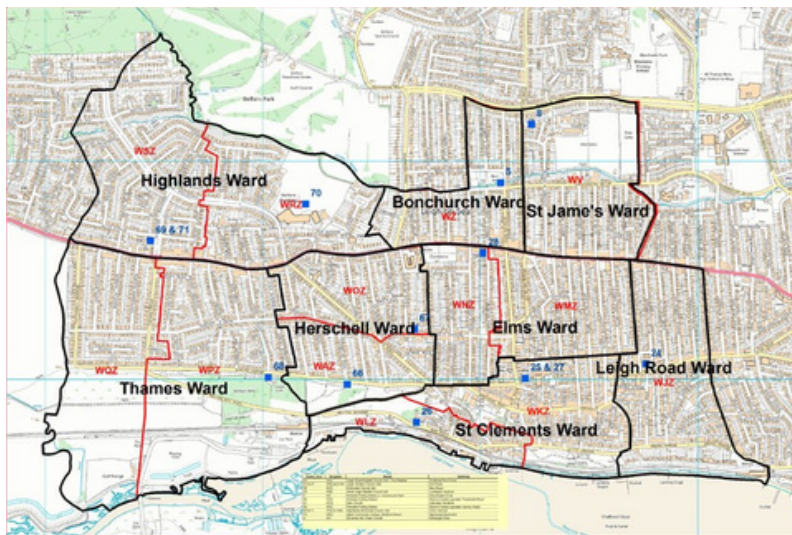
Back in 1996, a group of Leigh residents worked hard to form a first tier of local government to have an overall responsibility for the well-being of the Leigh-on-Sea community. The result, was Leigh-on-Sea Town Council. Southend-on-Sea City Council is the primary authority and responsible for matters 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.



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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

By Council Chairman Keith Evans

It was both an honour and privilege to have been elected as Chairman of Leigh-on-Sea Town Council in May 2022 and it's certainly been an honour and privilege of which I am very proud of to have represented the community in this role.

I, like my predecessors expected that previous challenges were behind us and life was getting back to the 'new normal' after the pandemic restrictions. Once again it seems that whatever life throws at us, the community come together to support the local residents or the worldwide community.

The war in Ukraine saw people moving into the area and a social hub was made available within the community centre whilst they settled into their new surroundings.

When a cost of living crisis was declared in Southend, we immediately supported the City Council and still do, in signposting residents to 'warm hubs' and other key authorities and agencies who can provide support.

The Community Centre is thriving with many activities, groups and clubs going on. Some of these activities and events are Council led and some provided by outside agencies who are hiring the space.

It would be remiss of me not to say thank you to all the staff who work at the Council and facilitate and support all these initiatives and events and make them happen. During the past Council year, we have welcomed 4 new Councillors on to the Council. Cllrs Craig Watt, Leslie Parris, Rory Windass and Bernard Arcscott.

I would personally like to thank the outgoing councillors Cllrs Damian O'Boyle, Mike Wells, Emma Smith and Katie Cohen for their service and giving up their time freely, as none of our Councillors receive an allowance.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my year as Chairman and I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you when attending various civic and local events, whilst representing you the residents. I would like to thank you for the support you have given me during this year and with my chosen charity, Gold Geese, which I have written about in a separate article. I would also like to thank the Vice Chairman, Cllr. Dr. David Bowry, my fellow councillors, The Town Clerk Helen Symmons, and LTC staff for all their support.

We are coming to the end of another busy year for Leigh Town Council and with this comes the end of the term of office of 4 years that your Councillors were elected for. The May elections will inevitably see some changes as some Councillors may not seek re-election but I hope the new Council, with both some old and some new members, will be able to continue to work together, bringing some new ideas, and uphold the integrity and ethos of the Town Council.





COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS 2022/23

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

- Bunting workshops that were held in April were a huge success
- Jubilee Picnic took place at Bonchurch Park with approx. 1000 people in attendance
- Jubilee tea party for the over 60's Social Club with the Ray Miso Trio providing the musical entertainment
- A number of Christmas events took place throughout December including Carols around the Christmas tree in Leigh Library Gardens, Window WanderLeigh and the Advent Giving Hamper which were all a great success.
- Festive afternoon tea party for the over 60's Social Club with music, quiz and a raffle. We also welcomed the Leigh North Street Primary School choir to sing carols.
- Hosted a variety of children's themed craft events including Halloween, Christmas and Valentines
- Held a seasonal Festive market supporting over 25 local businesses
- Sponsored Herd in the City
- Created additional allotment plots
- Two bee-hives have been reinstated on the Leigh-on-sea side of the allotment site
- Community Transport trips take place once a month with recent trips to the theatre, and a country pub lunch with our next trip to the Tiptree Museum and Tearooms taking place this month.

DECISIONS AND ACTIONS REGARDING POLICY AND PROCEDURE

- Carried out the annual budgeting process and prepared the 2023/24 Council Budget
- Approved two rounds of grant applications, with 17 successful recipients
- Carried out quarterly finance checks and bank reconciliations
- Reviewed and updated 13 Council policies and procedures
- Held two councillor workshops to create the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS 2022/23

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.

IMPROVEMENT TO FACILITIES

- Installed 5 brand new notice boards and placed around the town
- Installed a target game in Bonchurch Park and the skate park.
- Community plot created at the allotments for distribution to the food bank and night kitchen.
- The Council has taken on ownership of the café which has been rebranded to 'Cup of Leigh'
- Brand new Christmas lighting scheme around the town
- The Community Centre railings colour changed to help those who are visually impaired.
- Installed new Christmas lighting scheme in library gardens
- Installed defibrillator at Manchester Drive allotments
- Redecoration of rooms at the Community Centre
- Fence repairs at Manchester Drive allotment site and Community Centre
- Safe Sun, free sun cream dispenser placed in the old town
- Repaired the tidal pool at Bell Wharf beach
- Refurbishments to the café
- Planters at the Community Centre
- Installed a new scheme of hanging baskets

LOBBYING AND CONSULTATIONS

- Lobbied First Buses regarding bus routes in Leigh-on-Sea.
- Responded to Leigh Traffic Calming Pilot
- Responded to Boundary Commission Reviews

PLANNING AND LICENSING

- The Planning Committee met 13 times, with 3 meetings still to happen before the end of the year.
- 178 planning applications and 12 licensing applications have been considered in this Council year
- The Committee discuss all applications in the conservation area.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

From 1st April 2022 - 31st March 2023

LEIGH-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

| | 2021/22 AUDITED | 2022/23 BUDGET | 2022/23 FORECAST | 2023/24 BUDGET |
|--|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Band D precept figure per household | £50.58 | | £50.94 | £50.58 |
| INCOME | | | | |
| Precept | £443,217 | £452,880 | £452,880 | £462,056 |
| Insurance claims | £3,640 | | | |
| Community Facilities | £91,319 | £103,900 | £112,000 | £131,250 |
| Grants received | £7,014 | | £15,735 | |
| Allotments | £19,262 | £19,325 | £22,250 | £20,070 |
| Other income | £10,264 | £5,900 | £8,150 | £6,250 |
| Community Infrastructure Levy | £2,558 | | £37,679 | |
| Total Receipts | £577,274 | £582,005 | £648,694 | £619,626 |
| EXPENDITURE | | | | |
| Finance & Governance | £23,735 | £37,550 | £37,550 | £33,750 |
| Capital & Strategic Projects | £29,579 | £55,000 | £11,000 | £30,000 |
| Community Facilities inc. Staff | £182,092 | £224,425 | £219,425 | £241,000 |
| Allotments | £24,679 | £29,200 | £20,000 | £31,300 |
| Health & Wellbeing Programmes | £32,953 | £36,850 | £37,246 | £46,900 |
| Office & Council Administration | £42,258 | £52,700 | £42,000 | £50,650 |
| Council Staffing | 109,853 | £97,000 | £92,000 | £122,500 |
| Community Programmes | £37,678 | £47,625 | £39,000 | £53,200 |
| Community Infrastructure Levy | £13,209 | | £17,333 | |
| Total Payments | £496,066 | £580,350 | £515,554 | £609,300 |
| SUMMARY | | | | |
| Balance brought forward | £100,446 | | £139,286 | |
| Add receipts | £576,696 | | £648,694 | |
| Less payments | £495,539 | | £515,554 | |
| Transfer (to)/from Reserves | (£42,368) | | (£97,426) | |
| Balance carried forward | £139,286 | | £175,000 | |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS REPRESENTED BY | | | | |
| General Fund | £139,286 | | | |
| Earmarked Reserves | £303,522 | | | |
| Capital Reserves | £64,975 | | | |
| Community Infrastructure Levy | £34,611 | | | |
| Overall Balances | £542,394 | | | |



2022/23 CHAIRMAN'S CHARITY

Gold Geese

I chose Gold Geese as my charity for this year as it is a small local charity based in Leigh-on-Sea which supports children and local families fighting childhood cancers.

One of the aims of Gold Geese is to raise awareness of childhood cancer signs and symptoms and to encourage those who can, to donate blood and register as stem cell donors. The charity supports under 18s facing a cancer diagnosis and their family. Care and support are tailored to each family needs, and this includes help for siblings and parents. The support ranges from funding for mental health therapy, food shop vouchers, toys and gifts, respite weekend trips away and practical help including travel to and from hospitals.

Fundraising has taken place at various Council events. I held a Barn Dance in October, with the Famous Potatoes performing, which in addition to raising funds was a great community event attended by 120 people.

I'm also looking forward to a successful German Band Oompah Night on 25 March 2023. Further fundraising events have taken place with one of the bands I play in, The Ray Miso Trio, performing in various locations and collecting donations.

Other initiatives have included the selling of little geese with the Gold Geese ribbon and making donations from the money I received from speaking at various clubs on my previous life as a musician in the Welsh Guards.

The total raised so far is in excess of £2000 for which I am very grateful to people for their support and generosity.

A final figure will be published, and a presentation will be made to the charity at the Council Meeting held in May.

Keith Evans

2022/23 GRANT RECIPIENTS

17 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 17 different groups.

- Friends of Love Leigh Cliffs - £500
- Musicality CIC - £500
- U3A - £320
- Leigh Folk Arts Assoc - £500
- Friends of Leigh Library Gardens - £144
- Lions Club of Leigh - £500
- Cake Club - £100
- Lower Thames Rowing Club - £287.50
- Artist in Residence - £500
- RBL Leigh Branch - £126
- Yoga4all - £225
- Yantlet Residents Association - £150
- Lady McAdden Breast Cancer - £500
- LOS SEND Families support - £210
- 4th/6th Leigh Scouts - £500
- Southend Area Bus Users Group - £224
- Izzy Bee Studios - £500



2023 '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.

Maddie Crease

Maddie has brought the Listening Room to life where she hosts it monthly and finds featured Artists

Dave Watson and LOS Skate Park Community

For supporting the Council to develop the skatepark extension & develop the park as a hub for lessons with donations towards the upkeep of the park. Creating a community group to support all ages of skaters and users of the park.

Karran Prince

For developing and running the Community Larder hosted at LCC.

Ann Cushion

For supporting the Leigh Community with animal welfare specifically (Tilly's Angels) for lost dogs and being the "bird lady" of Leigh for injured birds.

Sam Bennett

As Group Leader of Leigh's St John Ambulance Cadets. Increasing membership and supporting and leading cadets of all ages, particularly during the Covid pandemic.

Leigh Lions

For funding public defibrillators, organising the Leigh Regatta and supporting the Town Council and other community groups.



Annie Smith

For her volunteering services to help out in the Badgers Den, a special needs community respite club for youngsters with down syndrome.

Jessica Halls

For seeing the value in friendships and always being kind.

Elizabeth Lilian Blahakova

For her student ethos of always being ready for school, checking her homework provision daily and enjoying the learning process.

Guy Russell

For being such a strength to his family during a long period of family illness. For being independent and strong during that very difficult family time especially as he was unable to visit his mother and for making his parents so proud.

George Furness

For being an invaluable friend to Guy Russell during an incredibly difficult time for him and for being kind and caring.

Sophie Clark

For her commitment to helping the community and less-abled. For her volunteer work at Foresters to pack food parcels for the homeless, soldiers away on duty and for those less fortunate in society. For her involvement in many aspects of school life and most recently her help at One Love Project and Soup Kitchen in Southend.



DONALD FRASER VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2023

Jo Brown

Jo is a selfless individual who dedicates much of her spare time to volunteering in the Town. She supports many musical and theatrical events providing numerous opportunities for young people, many of whom would not otherwise get these opportunities.

Jo is an active volunteer within Girlguiding running a Brownie unit which meets weekly at St Michael's Church and has over 40 young members and a leadership team of 8. She is also a District Commissioner looking after 8 other Girlguiding Units and providing monitoring and practical support for the leadership teams.

Her energy and enthusiasm is infectious and she dedicates a lot of time to organising and running additional activity days and evenings for young people and adults including weekends away.

Her volunteering doesn't end there. A great passion of hers is Southend Scout and Guide Gang Show where she has been the Musical Director for many years. With a team of approx 100 volunteers, she produces a week long variety show at the Palace Theatre, Westcliff for approx 70 young people every two years. This also involves 2 rehearsals each week for six months. As a member of the Southend Musical Festival committee, Jo again volunteers her time freely to provide opportunities for the young people of the town. It is also one of her great beliefs that people should be thanked and recognised for what they do and she puts a lot of effort into nominating fellow volunteers for awards such as these and encourages others to do the same.

Jo is truly an inspirational person whose selfless volunteering is applauded by numerous parents, friends and colleagues across the town..



COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE

From 3rd May 2022 - 7th March 2023

| | FULL COUNCIL *Meetings 5 | Community & Culture *Meetings 4 | Finance & Governance *Meetings 4 | Planning & Licensing *Meetings 13 | Staffing *Meetings 4 |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------|
| Bernard Arscott | 2 | | | | |
| Dr. David Bowry | 5 | 4 | 4 | 12 | 4 |
| Vinice Cowell | 5 | 2 | 3 | 11 | 4 |
| Douglas Cracknell | 4 | | 4 | 13 | |
| Keith Evans | 4 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 4 |
| Anita Forde | 5 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Paul Gilson | 4 | 2 | 1 | 8 | |
| Alan Hart | 2 | | | | |
| Jill Healey | 3 | | 4 | | 2 |
| Emma Mills | 5 | 2 | | 6 | |
| Carole Mulronev | 4 | 3 | 1 | | 2 |
| Leslie Parris | 3 | | | | |
| James Preston | 3 | 2 | | 11 | |
| Craig Watt | 2 | | | | |
| Andrew Wilkins | 4 | 3 | 3 | | 2 |
| Rory Windass | 3 | | | 2 | |

Notes

- Chairman Cllr Keith Evans and Vice-Chairman Cllr Dr. David Bowry are ex-officio members of all committees
- Cllr Leslie Parris was co-opted to the Council in July 2022
- Cllr Rory Windass was co-opted to the Council in July 2022
- Cllr Craig Watt was elected to the Council in August 2022
- Cllr Bernard Arscott was elected uncontested to the Council in November 2022
- 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.



2023 EVENTS PROGRAMME

Coming up this year...

- April 2023 - Easter Children Half term events and Children Coronation events
- July 2023 - Herd in the City comes to Leigh-on-Sea
- August 2023 - Children's summer holidays events at Leigh Community Centre
- September 2023- Merchant Navy Day ceremony on Strand Wharf

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

- "The Listening Room" Monthly Poetry and Open Mic Nights, held in the café on the second Wednesday of the month, 7.30pm - 9.30pm.
- Youth Club for 11-16 year olds every Thursday in term time only at Leigh Community Centre between 5pm and 8pm
- The Over 60's Social Club, lunch and an activity twice a month for £5, on the first and third Wednesday of the month, 12 noon - 1.30pm.
- Also keep an eye out for the changing exhibitions on our Community Art Wall at the Centre

COUNCILLORS BY WARD

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|--|
| BONCHURCH WARD | <i>Jill Healey</i> | cllrhealey@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk |
| ELMS WARD | <i>Douglas Cracknell</i> | cllrcracknell@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk |
| | <i>Leslie Parris</i> | cllrparris@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk |
| | <i>James Preston</i> | cllrpreston@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk |
| HERSCHELL WARD | <i>Dr. David Bowry</i> | cllrbowry@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk |
| | <i>Rory Windass</i> | CllrWindass@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk |
| HIGHLANDS WARD | <i>Vinice Cowell</i> | cllrcowell@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk |
| | <i>Bernard Arscott</i> | cllrarscott@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk |
| | <i>Graig Watt</i> | cllrwatt@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk |
| LEIGH ROAD WARD | <i>Anita Forde</i> | cllrforde@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk |
| | <i>Paul Gilson</i> | cllrgilson@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk |
| ST. CLEMENTS WARD | <i>Carole Mulroney</i> | cllrmulroney@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk |
| | <i>Emma Mills</i> | cllrmills@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk |
| ST. JAMES WARD | <i>Alan Hart</i> | cllrhart@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk |
| THAMES WARD | <i>Keith Evans</i> | cllrevans@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk |
| | <i>Andrew Wilkins</i> | cllrwilkins@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk |

STAFF DETAILS

| | |
|--|--|
| <i>Helen Symmons</i> | TOWN CLERK & RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER |
| <i>Emma Stratton</i> | ASSISTANT RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER |
| <i>Francesca Smith</i> | ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT |
| <i>Rachel Cook</i> | ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT |
| <i>Ingmar Lindberg-Jones</i> | ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT |
| <i>Kristine Boicuka</i> | ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT |
| <i>Maggie Dumanska</i> | ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT |
| <i>Greta Smith</i> | ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT |
| <i>David Skeels, Luke Russell, Samee Khan, Paul Fitzgerald</i> | CARETAKING STAFF |

CONTACT INFORMATION

| | |
|--|--|
| <i>Town Council Offices and Community Centre</i> | LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE |
| <i>Address</i> | 71-73 ELM ROAD, LEIGH-ON-SEA, SS9 1SP |
| <i>Council Offices</i> | COUNCIL@LEIGHONSEATOWNCOUNCIL.GOV.UK |
| <i>Community Centre</i> | BOOKINGS@LEIGHONSEATOWNCOUNCIL.GOV.UK |
| <i>Council Telephone</i> | 01702 716288 |
| <i>Community Centre Telephone</i> | 01702 477248 |
| <i>Council Website</i> | WWW.LEIGHONSEATOWNCOUNCIL.GOV.UK |
| <i>Community Centre Website</i> | WWW.LEIGHCOMMUNITYCENTRE.COM |



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the
footprints

The Herd in the City
is coming
to
Leigh-on-Sea
this Summer



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