

# Annual report 2025



## Town Mayor's Report -Here's what has happened in the last year!



I write this at the end of a very enjoyable and varied year as your Mayor representing you, the residents of our Town. At the same time, I have been

representing the Town's interests in other parts of the county and appraising people of what collectively this Town has to offer.

Firstly, I would like to thank my predecessor Cllr. Eley for the sterling job she did as Mayor together with her deputy Cllr. Perham-Lake. Luckily Cllr. Perham-Lake agreed to stay on in that role and become my deputy and I thank her for her unfailing support.

I have very much enjoyed meeting many of you, our residents, both formally whilst chairing Council meetings and less formally at various events. What has been especially pleasing this Mayoral year are the invites to visit our schools, both primary and secondary. Councils are often seen as the preserve of older people and not relevant to younger people. It is now that we need to work with the younger generation, our future, to ensure that there will be

people to succeed us as councillors. It is important that we, as a council, represent all ages and that younger resident's voices are heard. If you wish to follow my Mayoral activities go to the new page on the Town Council's web site.

I would especially like to thank the numerous voluntary groups that contribute so much to the South Woodham Ferrers community. They are too numerous to mention but you know who you are, however, I would like to make a special mention of the litter pickers and the toddler group that work with your Town Council.

As you are aware my special Mayor's Charity this year was the RNLI, and I thank you for all your support for this fine charity.

Thanks for all the support of my fellow councillors and the incredible Town Council staff; Karen, Debbie, David, Shaun and John. Finally, my thanks to you our residents of this wonderful Town.

TOWN MAYOR COUNCILLOR ALAN  
SHEARRING

### This Annual Report will cover:

Town Mayor's Report

Planning & Environment Committee

Events, Community & Leisure Committee

Champions Manor Hall

Finance & Projects Committee

Councillors and Council



# PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**Chairman: Councillor Darren Thompson**  
**Vice Chairman: Councillor Scott Wilson**

The following matters are reserved and delegated to the Environment Committee: Issues in and around South Woodham Ferrers to include the following: Traffic Management, Litter Control, Roads, Pavements and Footpaths, Signage, Public Transport, Garden of Remembrance, Millennium Place and the town sign, Woodham Fenn, hanging baskets and sponsored roundabout.

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS & CONSULTATIONS

Monthly meetings to discuss local planning applications put through to Chelmsford City Council average to about 9 applications every meeting. Response was also sent to Chelmsford City Council's third and final stage of public consultation on the final draft Local Plan before they submit it for Independent Examination by a government-appointed Planning Inspector.

## WOODHAM FENN

OPM Caterpillars were identified on Woodham Fenn which could be hazardous to health, as a result these were swiftly removed.

## JOHN COX

A new gate was installed to the new entrance footpath of the John Cox area and ongoing improvement works continue.



## TREE SURVEY

The works required following a tree survey undertaken of all trees situated on Town Council owned land last year has now been completed.



## Enhanced Service

The Town Council will be providing an enhanced service so if you see any areas, alleyways or issues that need attention in town please report to the Town Council and we will schedule the work or if not possible ourselves we will signpost for attention of others.

## ALLOTMENTS

The Allotments continue to be well subscribed with a healthy waiting list. Our thanks go to The Allotment Association for their hard work.

## HANGING BASKETS AND PLANTERS

Floral displays are provided in the town centre & other retail locations. Hanging baskets also provide a lovely colourful display around town.



## Garden of Remembrance

The Garden of Remembrance continues to be popular with residents and their families. If you would like any information on the Garden please contact the office on 01245 321817.

New gates have been installed to replace the old ones and the benches and rotunda have also been painted.

New roses have been planted and are already being adopted.



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# EVENTS, COMMUNITY & LEISURE COMMITTEE

**Chairman: Councillor Russ Crosbie**

**Vice Chairman: Councillor Annie Humphrey**

The following matters are reserved and delegated to the Events, Community & Leisure Committee: Children's Play Area and Blue Cage Hullbridge Road, the Bowling Green, Allotments, the Bandstand, leisure facilities and delivery of the Town Council's annual programme of events.

## SWIMMING POOL

The Town Council contributed £10,000 towards the running of the swimming pool at the Leisure Centre.

## PLAY IN PARK

The Town Council fund the Play in the Park schemes organised by Chelmsford City Council in South Woodham Ferrers. These free sessions are provided during the summer months and held at Saltcoats Park. Details of the sessions are available on the Town Council's website.



## SUMMER YOUTH EVENTS

The summer of 2024 saw the return of summer youth activities which took place over the Summer holidays. 8 events were held with thanks to the Bowls Club, EKA Martial Arts, Essex Kids Camp and Meadow Croft Garden Centre.



## D DAY 80 ANNIVERSARY

The Town Council acknowledged the 80th Anniversary of D-Day in June 2024 with two events. The first saw a beacon lighting at the Village Hall Playing Fields where a big band was enjoyed by the 500 or so attendees. The Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Essex was also in attendance alongside the Deputy Mayor of Chelmsford and her Consort. The second event was a larger town event held in the town center. Both the Bandstand and a Main Stage saw acts all day with displays from Essex HMVA and local uniformed youth.



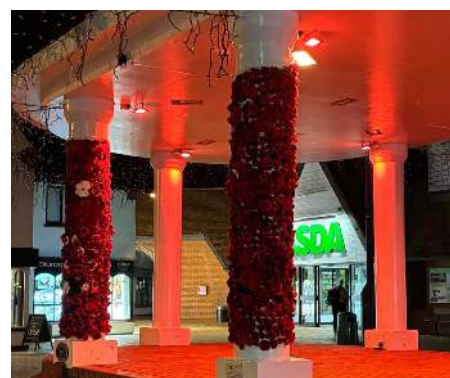
## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS & CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Christmas lights were erected in the town centre by the Council with a contribution from Asda and Chelmsford City Council. The Christmas Fayre went ahead as usual with a great turnout from residents. In addition the annual Senior's Christmas Lunch was also well attended with fun had by all. Following the success of the Pantomime held last year, another (Jack and the Beanstalk) was arranged for Christmas 2024 at William de Ferrers to which over 175 tickets were sold.



## OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

2024/25 saw the continuation with; the Toddler Group on a Monday morning, the monthly Seniors Film Club, a Childrens' Halloween Party and Summer Fun at Champions Manor Hall. The Youth Club on a Tuesday evening run by YMCA on behalf of the Town Council has continued to be a success. In addition this year, a 'Carers Film Club' was trialed. Also new for this year was an incredible display of hundreds of hand knitted and crocheted poppies all kindly donated by the residents of South Woodham Ferrers. These were on display at the Bandstand for Remembrance Sunday and will be making an appearance this coming Remembrance Sunday too.



# FINANCE & PROJECTS COMMITTEE

**Chairman: Councillor Murrough O'Brien**  
**Vice Chairman: Councillor Donna Eley**

The Finance & Projects Committee is responsible for Town Council land and premises as well as civic affairs and public relations, including;

- Agree and review council policies and procedures for full council to consider
- Agree financial policies and budgets for full council to consider
- Consider new projects to enhance the local community

The Committee co-ordinates the budgetary process and recommends a precept to cover the annual expenses of the Council, which is determined at a Council meeting in January each year. For the financial year 2025/2026 the Band D Precept has increased by £2.82 to £76.27 an increase of 3.8%. The precept for 2025/26 is £465,465.

PRECEPT 2024-2025

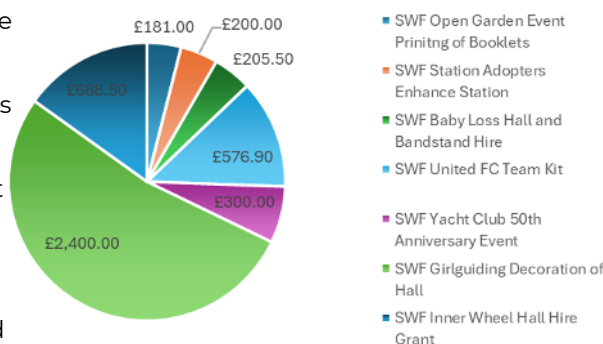


## GRANTS AWARDED

For the financial year ending 31 March 2025 the grants shown on the chart were awarded under the Town Council's Grants scheme.

If you have a project that you think may meet the Town Council's criteria please contact the office on 01245 321817 or visit our website to download an application form.

Grants Awarded 2024-25



## COUNCILLORS BY WARD

### CHETWOOD WARD

Councillor Bob Massey  
Councillor Ashley John  
Councillor Alan Shearring  
Councillor Russ Crosbie  
Councillor Annie Humphrey

### ELMWOOD WARD

Councillor Jackie Birch  
Councillor Murrough O'Brien  
Councillor Lisa Kelly  
Councillor Terry Sherlock  
Councillor Glenn Piesse

### COLLINGWOOD WARD

Councillor Peter Ferry  
Councillor Scott Wilson  
Councillor Malcolm Sismey  
Councillor Darren Thompson  
Councillor Mia Barnett

### WOODVILLE WARD

Councillor Keith Bentley  
Councillor Donna Eley  
Councillor Ian Roberts  
Councillor Toni Perham Lake  
Councillor Pauline Price

## THE COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SYSTEM

The Town Council's Committees meet throughout the Council year to assist in progressing the Council's business. Notices of all meetings are published on the Town Council website, noticeboards and in the Focus column.

## PROJECTS

- Installation of Solar Panels at Champions Manor Hall.
- Upgrades to the intruder alarms at Champions Manor Hall.
- New VOIP telephone system for the office.
- Lease of new electric van for use by Town Council along with install of electric charge point.
- New benches installed at Champions Manor Hall.



## Champions Manor Hall

### PARTY BOOKINGS & REGULAR HIRE

As is previous years, this year was no different and saw a large number of party bookings, usually at weekends. As well as usual celebration parties, the hall has also been hired for other events such as charity fundraising evenings. Champions Manor Hall will always try to accommodate any booking requirements and staff are always happy to answer any queries etc. please call 01245 321817 for further information. We have had regular hirers in all year this year with more and more groups booking the facility. We hope to welcome more and more regular hirers, providing various activities for our residents.