



## SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

### TOWN MAYOR COUNCILLOR BOB MASSEY



You won't be surprised if I start this report by saying this has been a year unlike any other any of us have experienced; Town, City and County Council meetings have

been held online through the year, although we all hope that we can return to meeting in person again before too long.

Through those online meetings, and the efforts of our excellent Clerk and Officers, the Town Council has continued to work close to 'business as usual'.

The Environment and Open Spaces Committee - chaired by Cllr. Keith Bentley - has continued to improve facilities at the riverside, and at the Garden of Remembrance. The committee were key in this council declaring a climate emergency. The Leisure Committee - chaired by Cllr. Russ Crosbie has been unable to deliver much of what it had hoped but did secure the rather splendid new Christmas lights, even if the

'switch on' had to be virtual and we delivered Christmas boxes to our Town's older residents rather than holding the traditional Christmas lunch. Certainly the Leisure Committee is looking forward to restarting the youth and cinema clubs when we're allowed.

The Planning committee - chaired by Cllr Ian Roberts - has been able to continue responding to planning applications.

The Policy & Resources Committee - which the Town Mayor chairs - has been able to support free school meals during school holidays, in partnership with Essex County Council, and agreed the latest 'flat' precept.

Elsewhere, specific committees have been preparing the local Neighbourhood Plan and comprehensive responses to the Masterplan for the proposed development north of Burnham Road and the proposals for the new power station at Bradwell.

The various lockdowns have meant that the Mayoral 'bling' has been kept under lock and key for much of the year, but hopefully that will change before long. It would also be nice to be able to raise funds for my chosen charity, the local branch of

Parkinson's UK. Parkinson's is a cruel and debilitating disease, for which there is still no cure.

Town and Parish Councils have been in the news of late and I would like to remind residents that all Town Council meetings, whether online or at Champions Manor Hall, are open to residents. We have a number of vacancies on the Town Council, two caused by the loss of Councillors Ian Hammond and Peter Wyatt, both of whom will be sadly missed by the whole council. I would welcome residents to sit in on our meetings, either online or at Champions Manor Hall and ideally, consider joining us.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Town Councillors for their contributions, in particular Cllr. Murrough O'Brien as Deputy Mayor for his support, and the Town Council's staff for their efforts, during this very difficult year.

Best regards

Bob Massey

**PARKINSON'S<sup>UK</sup>**  
**CHANGE ATTITUDES.**  
**FIND A CURE.**  
**JOIN US.**

### WELCOME BACK TO CHAMPIONS MANOR HALL

THE TOWN COUNCIL LOOKS FORWARD TO  
WELCOMING REGULAR AND ONE OFF HIRERS  
BACK TO THE COVID  
SAFE CHAMPIONS MANOR HALL.

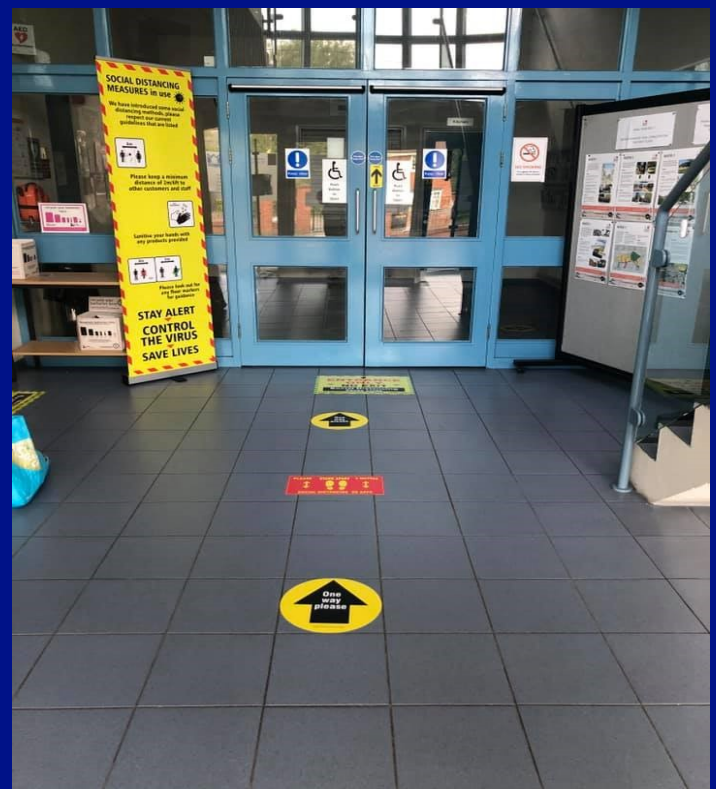
BOOKING SLOTS AVAILABLE TO HIRE AND DETAILS  
ABOUT THE HALL

CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE -

[WWW.SOUTHWOODHAMFERRERSTC.GOV.UK](http://WWW.SOUTHWOODHAMFERRERSTC.GOV.UK)

OR CONTACT 01245 321817

**WE ARE CURRENTLY TAKING BOOKINGS AND NO  
CHARGE IS MADE UNTIL IT IS CLEAR THAT  
GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES ALLOW FOR THE  
EVENT TO TAKE PLACE. SHOULD GUIDELINES  
CHANGE AND CANCELATIONS HAVE TO BE MADE A  
FULL REFUND WILL BE GIVEN**



# ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**Chairman:**  
**Councillor Keith Bentley**

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.

**GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE—NEW ARCHWAY FERRERS ROAD ENTRANCE**

This project completed July 2020.



## COVID MEMORIAL

The Environment Committee will be arranging to place a Covid memorial at the Garden of Remembrance in Memory of the residents of South Woodham Ferrers.



## THE RIVERFRONT

This year new signage has been placed in Town for the Riverfront and a new bench and maintenance of existing riverfront benches will be completed.

## HANGING BASKETS AND PLANTERS

Floral basket displays are provided in the town centre and other retail areas of the town.



Flower displays will brighten the town this summer. The Town Council continue to sponsor planting of the roundabout at the junction of Inchbonnie Road and Ferrers Road.



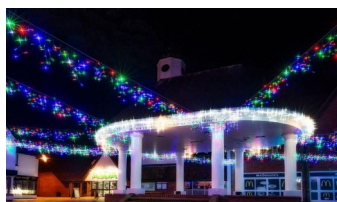
# LEISURE COMMITTEE

**Chairman: Councillor Russ Crosbie**

The following matters are reserved and delegated to the 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 which sadly did not happen due to Covid in 2020.

## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS & CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Seasonal lighting for the town centre is provided during the Christmas festivities



by the Town Council. This year we had a new improved Christmas lighting scheme. Financial contributions to the lighting scheme are received from Asda and Chelmsford City Council.

The Town Council organised a Christmas Card competition for children of the Town, Letters to Santa and Cake Boxes were delivered following Covid guidelines to our elderly residents. Chetwood Centre also received presents and chocolates for sixty five children and their families.



## PING PONG TABLE AT CMH

Chelmsford City Council provided the residents with an outdoor ping pong table which will be placed at the front of Champions Manor Hall in the summer once restrictions are lifted



## ONLINE SUMMER FUN

This year due to Covid summer activities were held online with party entertainers providing fun for all while we were in lockdown.

**SWIMMING POOL:** The Town Council make an annual contribution of £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 Easter and the summer months and held at Saltcoats Park. The April 2021 dates have been booked. Details of the sessions are available on the Town Council's website.

## BOWLING GREEN AT CHAMPIONS MANOR HALL

The artificial green at Champions Manor Hall Community Centre is regularly maintained to keep the green in tip top condition. South Woodham Ferrers Bowls Club manage the green on behalf of the Town Council and information on bowling or joining the Club can be obtained direct by calling 07974 995041.



## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN COMMITTEE



**Chairman:**  
**Councillor Murrough O' Brien**

The combination of Covid and the stage we have reached in developing our Neighbourhood Plan ensured we had a quite year as a committee. We handed the Neighbourhood Plan over to Chelmsford City Council, who have to do their bit. The City Council performs fact-checking and appoints an inspector to examine the plan. Following a successful inspection and any changes required, the Neighbourhood Plan is put out for referendum in the local community. This whole process has been delayed due to Covid, but we are hopeful it will occur in the next 12 months so we can bring our final proposals to you for your decision.

## MASTERPLAN COMMITTEE

**Chairman:**  
**Councillor Murrough O'Brien**

The Masterplan Committee has had an active year, doing extensive research and due diligence on the Masterplan for South Woodham Ferrers which is effectively the plan that sets out the new development site along the Burnham Road around the North of the town. From listening to residential opinion, through to analysing the official information presented, the Masterplan Committee have made submissions at every stage of the Masterplan process. The Masterplan for South Woodham Ferrers was finally approved by Chelmsford City Council in March this year.

## PLANNING COMMITTEE

**Chairman:**  
**Councillor Ian Roberts**

The following matters are reserved and delegated to the Planning Committee:

To consider and comment on all plans, development briefs, planning, and tree applications submitted for development within and around South Woodham Ferrers or in areas that could affect South Woodham Ferrers. To respond to any issues regarding the development of land and property within and around South Woodham Ferrers. The Committee meets every month to agree comment on the various planning matters that arise.

During the last year the committee submitted comments to Chelmsford on over 100 various local planning applications from around SWF.

We also carried out planning consultations on many aspects of wider Chelmsford and national planning matters, including

- Environmental Assessments - Bradwell, Countryside and Bellway developments
- Sainsburys section 106 agreement and Pedestrian crossing works
- National Planning white paper
- RAMS (Essex Coast Recreation Disturbance Avoidance & Mitigation Strategy Supplementary Planning Document)
- Making Places Supplementary Planning Document
- Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document

It has been a busy year for planning and next year we expect it to remain so with planning applications on the proposed developments to the North of SWF.

# POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

## Chairman: Councillor Bob Massey

The Policy and Resources Committee is responsible for Town Council land, premises and staff, as well as civic affairs and public relations. 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 2021 / 22 the Band D Precept has remained the same, despite the lack of income from Champions Manor Hall and the unclear future with regard to the releasing of lockdown. Town Councillors were conscious that reserves should be used for the 2021 /22 to fund the shortfall to support resident in what is already a difficult time.

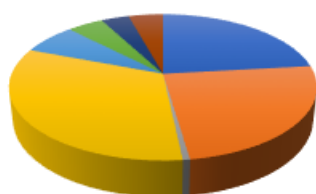
SWF Railway Adopters Group	£200
SWF Health & Social Care Group	£200
Action for Family Carers	£1815
Royal British Legion—wreaths	£100
SWF Bowls Club	£2,500

## GRANTS AWARDED

For the financial year ending 31 March 2021 the grants above were awarded under the Town Council's Grants scheme, with the Covid restrictions there has been fewer grant applications than usual. In addition to the grants awarded above the Town Council were successful in applying for free school meal support from Essex County Council, Supermarket market vouchers were distributed to parents and guardians who applied via the school or through the Town Council.

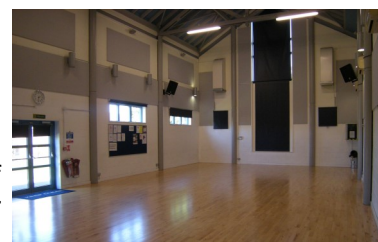
If you have a project that you think may meet the Town Council's criteria please contact the office on 01245 321817 or visit our website to download an application form.

## Precept Breakdown for 2021/22



General Admin 23%	Environment Initiatives 24%
Garden of Remembrance 1%	Recreation and Leisure 33%
Community Events 7%	Loan Repayment 5%
Grants 3%	Civic Expenses 4%

# CHAMPIONS MANOR HALL COMMUNITY CENTRE



We have missed seeing our regular and one off hirers at Champions Manor Hall during the closure.

Very early on, the Hall was



made Covid-secure, ready to welcome hirers back after the 1st lockdown. Then came the 2nd and 3rd lockdowns. Following the success of the vaccination programme and easing of Government restrictions, we are looking forward to welcoming our existing and new hirers to Champions Manor Hall.

For further details of prices etc. please contact 01245 321817

## CHETWOOD WARD

Councillor Bob Massey  
Councillor Ashley John  
Councillor Alan Shearring  
Councillor Russ Crosbie  
Vacancy

## ELMWOOD WARD

Councillor Jackie Birch  
Councillor Murrough O'Brien  
Councillor Lisa Kelly  
Councillor Martyn Lobar  
Vacancy

## COLLINGWOOD WARD

Councillor Peter Ferry  
Councillor Anne Humphrey  
Councillor Malcolm Sismey  
Councillor John Miller  
Councillor Darren

## WOODVILLE WARD

Councillor Keith Bentley  
Councillor Donna Eley  
Councillor Ian Roberts  
Councillor John Burman  
Vacancy

# COUNCILLORS BY WARD

## THE COUNCIL AND ITS COMMITTEE SYSTEM

The Town Council's Committees meet throughout the Council year to assist in progressing the Council's business. Committee and Council. At the current time meetings are held via zoom and the link to these are published on the agenda and also in the Focus column.

## SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL

CHAMPIONS MANOR HALL  
HULLBRIDGE ROAD  
SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS  
ESSEX  
CM3 5LJ

Please note whilst staff are working from home the calls are being diverted to a mobile, please if you get the answerphone please leave a message and someone will come back to you

Hall enquires: 01245 429442

Garden of Remembrance enquiries: 01245 429446

General enquiries: 01245 321817