



Springfield *pump*

Annual Report/Newsletter Spring 2021



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REPORT
year-end
2020/21

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Dear fellow Springfield Resident,

Welcome to the 2020/2021 Annual Report for Springfield Parish Council, incorporating our Spring/Summer Newsletter.

During this civic year the Parish Centre has been severely impacted by the unprecedented pandemic and subsequent lockdowns. I know that this much appreciated community facility has been missed and it will re-open as soon as is possible. However, our office has been here to serve you, our residents, and I would like to offer a sincere thankyou to all our parish staff for their support during this difficult period.

Information about all our activities is in the reports on the following pages.

This publication has been put together in conjunction with Community Ad Web Ltd at no cost to the Parish due to advertising revenue.

The front cover picture by Isla from Barnes Farm Infants School is one of the winning entries of our competition.

Cllr Ms Susan Sullivan

Chairman, Springfield Parish Council



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Chairman's Report

We had continuity in our membership this year, with no changes to councillors to report.

Due to COVID the parish Council was unable to hold its annual Parish Assembly last year, and will not be able to do so again this year.

For the first time ever we had to hold our annual Council meeting as an on-line event due to the Covid restrictions. All our scheduled committee meetings have had to move to virtual on-line events too but are open meetings as usual. I am pleased to see that residents have continued to join meetings when they had something to ask the Council or to contribute to discussions.

Your Council has continued to monitor and control all aspects of expenditure with a sharp focus on value for money. As a result of a massive reduction in income from the parish centre, we have had to apply a small increase to our precept this year and dip into our reserves. More details are available from the Finance & Policy Committee later in this publication.

The number of residents in the Parish continues to grow as a result of the development of Beaulieu.

We welcome all our new neighbours and hope that they quickly settle in and build friendships. As a result of the new homes, we have received funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy and are working on projects that will enhance our Parish offerings.

This year will see a change in staff as our much-valued Deputy Clerk Mary Martin retired at the end of March 2021 and John Revill our senior handyman will be retiring in June 2021. I would also like to welcome new staff member Robert Evans who has filled the vacant Services Supervisor position.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Clerk Mrs Barbara Larken and her team. My fellow Councillors join me in paying tribute to their hard work and support. We especially thank them for their flexibility in continuing to work during the lockdown to ensure continued support to all our parishioners.

Cllr Ms Susan Sullivan

Chairman Springfield Parish Council

To All Our Volunteers a BIG 'thank you'

Every year many people offer their support by assisting the Parish Council in various ways; by becoming part of a working group, helping at events or volunteering in the Springfield library or Community Garden.



others to mention by name, but your help is greatly appreciated and is very valuable to the Parish.

The Parish Council would like to extend a big "THANK YOU" to you all!





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Parish Councillors

Chelmer Village & Beaulieu Park



Cllr Miss Shelley Bryne-Lagrué
6 Salter Place, CHELMSFORD, CM2 6UU



Cllr Anthony Chong
Elm Cottage, 81 Sandford Mill Road,
CHELMSFORD CM2 6NT



Cllr Neil Gulliver
25 Henniker Gate, Chelmer Village,
CHELMSFORD, CM2 6QH



Cllr Richard Lee
(Address in Chelmsford)



Cllr Mrs Rose Moore
Dairy Farm Cottage, Chelmer Village Way,
CHELMSFORD, CM2 6TD



Cllr Mrs Yvonne Spence
Cuton Hall, Chelmer Village Way,
CHELMSFORD, CM2 6TD



Cllr Ms Susan Sullivan - Chairman
3 Milson Bank, Chelmer Village,
CHELMSFORD, CM2 6QD

Springfield North



Cllr Guy Brazendale
6 Rubens Gate, CHELMSFORD, CM1 6GN



Cllr Richard Carson
25 Candytuft Road, Springfield,
CHELMSFORD, CM1 6YS



Cllr Ian Fuller
8 Jasmine Close, CHELMSFORD, CM1 6XL



Cllr Mrs Christine Garrett
14 Daffodil Way, Springfield, CHELMSFORD,
CM1 6XB



Cllr David Havell
41 Bonington Chase, CHELMSFORD, Essex,
CM1 6GG



Cllr Brian Jeapes
14 Burnell Gate, Beaulieu Park,
CHELMSFORD, CM1 6ED



Cllr Andrew Potts
62 Trenchard Crescent, CHELMSFORD, CM1
6FG



Cllr Mrs Mandy Girling
15 Cowdrie Way,
CHELMSFORD, CM2 6GL

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Kirsty Roberts

Administrative Assistant

Linda Simpson

Handyman in Charge

John Revill

Assistant Handyman

Ryan Vaughan

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Premises & Facilities Manager

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Springfield Library

This year has been unprecedented. The Covid pandemic has altered our lives since March 2020. This meant that Springfield Library closed its doors to physical customers until July 2020.

The library wasn't dormant though as we introduced Libraries from Home and many of our customers logged into Borrowbox and RbDigital to read e-books and listen to e-audio books. There are 1000's of titles available to read, both fiction and non-fiction with stock suitable for adults, young adults and children. RbDigital also offers magazines and comics to download and read.

Comprehensive instructions are found on the Essex Libraries website that are compatible with many devices. Word spread via our social media pages and this was shared by the volunteers to friends and family which saw the e-book loans soar to record loans.

We also used our social media channels to promote our online Rhyme times for our younger customers. These were delivered by library staff across the county and watched by many families. Staff also supplied book recommendations of their favourite reads that are available electronically to borrow. These one-minute book reviews proved very popular.

In July we reopened Springfield library in a Covid safe way – limiting the number of customers in the building and using Track and Trace and copious amounts of hand sanitiser along with antibacterial surface cleaner. All returned stock was quarantined for 72 hours before processing to ensure the safety of the volunteers. The volunteers have been absolutely wonderful greeting customers within the Covid guidelines and ensuring that everyone could visit the library and feel safe.

The footfall at Springfield library was at about 25% of our average for the previous years but when you take in account the e-loans which peaked at around 46,000 (for the county) loans in June 2020 customers were certainly using the library services.

In December Springfield Library closed its physical doors again to comply with the National Lockdown and customers returned to the e-library to borrow their books.

We are working towards reopening the library to the public in April. The library hasn't been dormant as Essex Libraries have been working hard in the background investing in a new Library Management System and new improved Self-Service kiosks. The volunteers are keen to learn the new systems and will be back in the library greeting their customers very soon.

We are planning for the Summer Reading Challenge and it is hoped that this will be run in person albeit at a distance and in a revised format so keep an eye out for more information on this soon. We will soon be looking for volunteers to help with this so if you are aged 14 or over, check our website and Facebook page for details.

It is hoped we will be able to welcome our regular groups back soon too. Don't forget that even when our doors are open you can still access our e-offers for e-books, e-audible, magazines and newspapers. There are 1000's of titles to suit any age and genre.

For all the latest information please check our website for details of our opening hours and service offers. libraries.essex.gov.uk/ You can also follow us on our Facebook pages too.

Springfield library wouldn't be the fantastic library it is without the dedication and hard work by the team of regular volunteers. We always welcome new volunteers so if you can spare a few hours a week and are interested in joining the team please get in touch. We ask for a regular commitment of 2-3 hours a week and will support you with the training package. To apply for this role you do need to be over 18 but there is no upper age limit! Pop into Springfield Library when it is open or visit our website and search libraries.essex.gov.uk/ Volunteering with Essex Libraries page.

Viv Wortley

Face to Face Supervisor
Chelmsford Central, Galleywood and Springfield Libraries



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Springfield Parish Council has a Community Special Constable who gives their time to the community.

Community Special Constables undergo Police recruitment processes and training to enable them to patrol our parish. They are entitled to claim any expenses they incur whilst on patrol in the parish helping the community along with like-minded colleagues.

We are always looking for more volunteers so if you care for the place you live and want to make a difference, please go to the recruitment website:

www.essex.police.uk/Specials/Springfield

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Experiences being a Volunteer at Springfield Library

This year was a year like no other for the Volunteers, the beginning of the year started as any other, then the impact of Covid -19 hit and the Library was either closed or restricted use.



As lockdown was lifted in the summer some Volunteers were able to provide a limited service, all within the permitted guidelines. We embraced the new ways of working with limited Library users in the building at one time, self-service, quarantining of books being returned, wiping of equipment, taking contact details of Library users and the wearing of masks.

This year was also very different for children as there was no Summer Reading Challenge. Books for very young children could be selected in bundles of ten so the children would experience new books they might not have chosen.

All the changes throughout the year were embraced by the Volunteers, adapting to the different ways of working, keeping within the new guidelines to balance giving access to some Library services and maintain a safe environment for all. Despite the changes it was rewarding to get feedback from our customers who valued the opportunity to leave their homes and choose books to keep them going

in these difficult times.

It's a very rewarding experience being one of the Volunteers at Springfield Library. We work together as a team to actively help our customers and each other resolve issues ranging from finding books, loaning books, returning items to the shelves and setting up for community activities. Being on the computer system (which is linked to the main central Library in Chelmsford) we can help with many areas; enrolling new members, help with membership card issues, updating personal details. We show customers how to use the self- service machines, assisting with a variety of other requests such as how to access the internet on the computers to help with printing of items.

Behind the scenes we are kept busy keeping the bookshelves stocked with books being returned and fulfilling customer requests for reservations from our shelves to send to other libraries around Essex.



The library volunteers enjoy a warm friendly atmosphere and gives each of us the opportunity of meeting with a wide range of customers old and new. At the end of the day we feel a general sense of personal satisfaction and achievement by helping as an active member of the community, whether in person or remotely - such as finding items customers have requested as reservations and sending onto other libraries for collection. Once safe to do so and restrictions are lifted we hope to welcome back all our Volunteers, new & existing, to recommence a more normal Library services once again.

Anne Spearman
Library Volunteer

This year has been so different from last. As volunteers we have faced a steep and always changing Learning Curve as regulations re Library Opening changed to meet changing developments. It has been a pleasure to continue to be supportive of Springfield Residents wanting to make us of the Library even when the offerings have been limited. Volunteers had to don masks, use sanitizer sprays on equipment after use and wash hands over and over again.

The layout of the library had to be changed, movement and numbers had to be controlled and 'track and trace' routines had to be followed through. Returned books had to be isolated for 72 hours and Junior Picture Books were made available in 'bundles' only. This latter met with approval by many who enjoyed taking 'potluck' with their choices and met new favourites. At one time we could only operate a 'click and collect' service. It was good to be of service searching through our shelves and locating books reserved by members throughout the entire county.

At the moment the library is closed again with all currently borrowed books on extended loan. We look forward to the time when we can open again, offer our full service, including 'Rhyme Time', and once more engage with our fellow readers.

Sue Almond
Library Volunteer

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Premises Committee

Members of the Committee: Councillors Ms Susan Sullivan (Chairman), Richard Carson, Anthony Chong, Ian Fuller, Richard Lee, Mrs Rose Moore.

The Premises Committee oversees the Parish Centre in North Springfield. Unfortunately, the Covid lockdowns have had a significant effect on the Centre this year and the majority of its activities have been curtailed. Social distancing measures were introduced to protect our staff and visitors to the centre. With a very restricted income however, we had to put some of the staff onto the government furlough scheme.

The reduction in footfall meant that the Heaven Scent café was not financially viable, and its proprietor decided to withdraw at the end of 2020. We recognise that this facility is much appreciated by users of the Centre and the council will be advertising for a new business to take it over as soon as practicable. We did continue to maintain and upgrade the Centre's facilities. During the year the major project was to replace the plant room, which had reached the end of its practical lifespan.

Other works undertaken were the replacement of the external doors to the Daffodil room, new flooring in the Chelmer room, upgrades to the emergency lighting and the main hall has been painted and stage curtains professionally cleaned and



repaired. Future improvements will include the installation of new air conditioning to commence in March 2021. Investigations have been completed regarding cracking to the main hall which have been confirmed to be decorative only.

The Parish continues to support the weekly afternoon clubs for senior citizens. In normal circumstances we subsidise the Indoor Bowls Club, Bingo and the regular Tea Dances. If you have a spare afternoon, live in the parish and would like to join in with any of these social activities once we are able to re-start them, please call the Centre for details.

Lastly, thanks are due to our services supervisors and cleaning staff for the excellent work they do in maintaining your Centre to a high standard of cleanliness and functionality.

Cafeteria Facilities At The Parish Centre

Unfortunately, with the reduction in footfall due to the COVID restrictions resulting in the community centre having to close the cafeteria was not financially viable and the franchisee decided not to continue.

The parish council recognises that this facility was welcomed by users of the centre and those passing by and will be advertising for a new proprietor to take it on as soon as restrictions are lifted. The Cafeteria has free Wi-Fi and is easily accessible by wheelchair, mobility scooters and for those with pushchairs.





Chelmers Village Hall Trustees Management Committee

Members of the Management Committee: Councillors Mrs Yvonne Spence (Chairman), Anthony Chong, Brian Jeapes, Richard Lee.



Springfield Parish Council continues to manage Chelmer Village Hall through a management committee of parish councillors. The hall is a registered charity and is for the benefit of all parish residents.

This has been a quiet year for obvious reasons at Chelmer Village Hall. Sadly with COVID restrictions many of the activities had to stop for a large part of the year, with continuing limited sessions Rainbows Preschool. It has been a case of keeping the hall secure and ensuring all routine maintenance is carried out to meet our Health and Safety and Insurance requirements during closure whilst keeping expenditure to a minimum.

Despite this, improvements have taken place in the building - assisted by a £10,000 National Lottery Grant and £2,000 from Community Initiative Fund - replacement of all fire doors and upgrading of fire signage have been carried out. The committee are very grateful for the support of these two grant makers and to the staff at the Parish Council for their work in applying successfully for these substantial amounts of money.

We have also fitted a new heater in the bar area and outside preventative surveillance equipment has been installed to deter antisocial behaviour.

All in all we have continued to look after this community asset in the centre of Chelmer Village ready for the time when it can be used for the wide variety of leisure and social activities. The Roy Smith Room is an ideal space for small meetings or events, whilst the main hall is an excellent venue for its regular activities, children and adult parties, A pre-booked licenced bar is available, and the bar manager can provide buffets on request. Hall bookings can be made by contacting the booking administrator on **07716790510** or email **cvhbookings@hotmail.co.uk**. Just leave a short message and the booking clerk will get back to you.

Finally, the management committee would like to thank all the parish council staff for their hard work, in ensuring the improvements to the hall's facilities continued despite COVID. Thanks also go to the booking administrator and caretaking staff for their contribution in making sure that this valuable asset in Chelmer Village remains available for all the community to use.



Booking the Halls

Please note that both halls are open to the public for hire. Under strict government guidelines we operate COVID secure venues to provide rooms for Health and some educational purposes. The following information is provided for general guidance and prospective hirers are requested to contact the booking offices for up-to-date information on conditions of hire, bearing in mind government restrictions at the time of enquiring.



Springfield Parish Centre

The Springfield Parish Centre is located in St Augustine's Way, North Springfield and is available most weekends for functions, parties, and events.

Although at the moment we are not taking bookings, future government guidelines may allow the centre to hire out rooms during the week and at weekends and have licensed functions on Saturday evenings, where the Bar Manager will be able to provide buffet refreshments, etc., for pre-booked events. For further information and availability email enquiries@springfieldpc.org.uk or call Sharon on **01245 464583**.

In the past a wide range of activities have taken place at the Centre each week such as pre-school, Afternoon Clubs (Bingo, Indoor Bowls, Tea Dance), various types of fitness classes for all ages, language classes, Tai-Chi, Brownies, Guides, Springfield Art Group, Springers A.O.D.S., Badminton, Aerobics, Lace making, Tumble Tots, Kumon, Springfield Camera Club, Knitting Machine Club, Pilates, Line Dancing, Children's Ballet, Sounds Right Phonics, Little Stars Theatre, Tokon Kai Karate and Freestyle Rock n Roll. It is hoped that these clubs/organisations will return once restrictions are lifted.

Contact details for these clubs/organisations can be found later in this publication, on the Parish Council notice boards or look at our web site: www.springfield-pc.gov.uk



Chelmer Village Hall

Charity No. 281535

Chelmer Village Hall, located in the Village Square, Chelmer Village is also normally available for hire most weekends for functions, parties, and events. Although at the moment the village hall is not taking bookings, future government guidelines may allow the centre to hire out rooms during the week and at weekends and have licensed functions on Saturday evenings, where the Bar Manager will be able to provide buffet refreshments, etc., for pre-booked events. For further information and availability please call the booking line on **07716 790510** and leave your details with a short message or email cvhbookings@hotmail.com. The booking clerk will get back to you.

Currently a pre-school hires the hall during the day, Mondays to Fridays. In the past various groups have hired the hall in the evening and at weekends such as carpet bowls, dance clubs, various types of fitness and exercise classes, a karate club and a drama group and it is hoped that these clubs/organisations will return once restrictions are lifted

Contact information for all the groups/organisations who hire the hall can be found later in this publication, on the notice board outside the hall or look on the web page chelmervillagehall.co.uk

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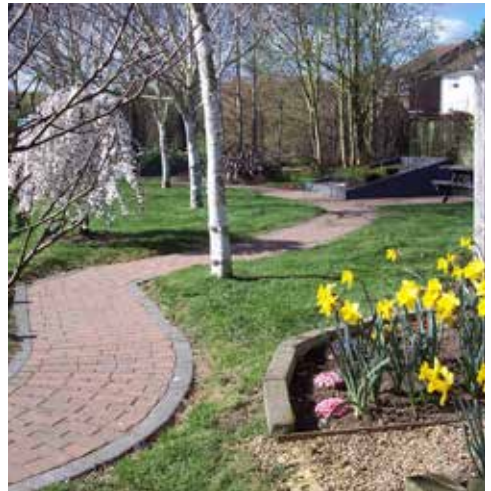
Community Garden

Situated at the rear of the parish centre car park is the Springfield Parish community garden. Like all keen gardeners we are looking forward to leaving the cold of winter behind and welcoming in the warmer weather so that we can start to enjoy the outside again. The winter months make it difficult to do much in the garden, as we all know, but some weeding was done before the colder weather set in.

We are looking forward to seeing all the spring bulbs which are starting to pop up everywhere and soon our volunteers will be kept very busy.

Grateful thanks and much appreciation goes to our volunteer gardeners.

Along with the financial support of the parish council and the assistance of the parish council handymen the garden continues to flourish. The warmer weather brings an increase in the maintenance of the garden and as they say 'many hands make light work' so should you have any spare time come along!



Any help would be greatly appreciated from just sweeping to light weeding, helping with planting to some light digging.

Recycling

Items that can be recycled at the Springfield Parish Centre and in the Springfield Library.

However, please note that whilst the Centre and library are closed, we are unable to receive any items. Collections of household batteries on behalf of Chelmsford City Council. Just hand your used batteries in at the reception in the parish centre.





Recognitions

The Parish Council would like to recognise all NHS staff and COVID volunteers for their unwavering and continuing dedication during the current climate. A big THANK YOU to you all!

Springfield Parish Council

In this Annual Report we recognise the following staff members.

This year will see some changes within the parish council staffing team. This is due to two of our long-standing staff members bidding

us farewell. John Revill, who has been a loyal parish handyman for 26 years and Mary Martin, Deputy Clerk, who joined in March 2009.

Every good wish goes to Mary and John along with enormous thanks to them both for the contribution they have made to the community.





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Environment & Leisure Committee

Members of the Committee: Councillors Mrs Christine Garrett (Chairman), Guy Brazendale, Neil Gulliver, David Havell, Brian Jeapes, Mrs Rose Moore.

It has been a very different year for everyone, and we have had to change the way we work in the Parish and get familiar with zoom meetings, but thanks to the parish council staff, we have managed to continue with our meetings throughout the year.

We managed, before the first lock down, to complete the adult outdoor gym on Chelmer Village Green which we understand from residents has been well received. The funds to cover the cost of the outdoor gym came via the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Tax. We have also put in a request to Chelmsford City Council to have some trees planted on the Green.



An additional adult gym has been agreed and this is being installed in the park at Boleyn Gardens on the Beaulieu estate. Again, the cost of this will be met via the CIL Tax along with a grant from Essex County Council via their Locality fund.

The gym will be easily accessible for residents around Springfield and care was taken to ensure that it could be reached close to the pedestrian lights on White Hart Lane. Again, we are sure this will be a well-used facility once things get back to normal.

The Parish obtained permission to install three memorial benches to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day on 8th May 2020.

Two of the benches are of a World War II design and are located on Chelmer Village Green and



the green space along Lawn Lane opposite Springfield Hospital. The third bench is of a World War I design and is in Beaulieu Park.



The allotment site in Brookend Road South, Chelmer Village, comprises 22 plots which can be hired from the council, and offers a relaxing environment in which to cultivate fresh home produce. The committee seeks, through regular monitoring, to ensure that the plots are kept neatly tended. The allotments continue to be well used and we are sure that they have been a source of healthy outside exercise and enjoyment throughout this pandemic. We have a waiting list for people requesting plots and when a plot becomes available, those on the waiting list will be contacted.

Our garden at the Parish Centre continues to be looked after by local volunteers who are ably assisted by the parish council handymen. We are always looking for volunteers to help, so if you would like to offer, we would be very grateful. Contact the parish council if you would like to volunteer.

Each year the Parish Council asks for people to enter our photographic competition, we ask for photographs of Springfield, so one can be chosen as the front cover of the Springfield Pump. This year we also contacted the local schools and asked if the students could draw pictures, etc, relating to the environment. This year we have had a lot of entries making the judges task very difficult.

Dates for the Play in the Park have been provisionally booked for 2021 and fingers crossed that these events will be able to go ahead. At the time of writing the first date was 6th April 2021. Dates for the summer are given later in this publication.



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Public Rights Of Way Report

Regular inspections of footpaths within the Parish to identify issues such as broken stiles, restricted access, etc, have taken place throughout the year.

In October 2020 a collapsed fence was identified on the north east edge of Beaulieu Park, near the Oak tree at the path that goes to New Hall School. The fence was impinging on the path, with nails protruding. It was established that the fence was not the responsibility of the Parish Council, but our handymen tidied it up so that it was not a danger to the public. The ownership of the fence is being determined.

In January 2021 I reported the need for extra waste and dog bin collections on the Beaulieu Estate to Chelmsford City Council. With the increased number of occupied dwellings in the area and more people taking exercise locally because of the COVID 'lockdown', both types of bin have been overflowing regularly. This was a particular problem between Christmas and the New Year. A response is awaited.

Also in January, I reported the lack of lighting on the section of perimeter path around Beaulieu Park that runs adjacent to White Hart Lane, to Essex County Council. At night, when crossing the pedestrian crossing close to the roundabout at the bottom of New Bowers Way and turning right onto the perimeter path, there is a complete lack of street lighting. The area is totally black and requires a torch to see

until the lit area is reached. ECC has responded stating that, '...it is not as serious as many other issues we are aware of, so we won't be taking any further action on it..'

During the last year of 'lockdowns' and home working it is pleasing to see that there has been a significant increase in the amount of footfall on the Parish's Public Rights of Way. On the downside, this has led to an increase in the amount of litter that has been carelessly disposed of.

Russell Richards

Public Rights of Way Officer Volunteer



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Springfield District Neighbourhood Watch

Springfield District Neighbourhood Watch is one of the most successful watches in Chelmsford.

We reach over 1600 households distributing a hand delivered newsletter to every member. Newsletters along with a police weekly crime report are also delivered to online members and key individuals by email.

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR FAMILY PEDAL BICYCLES

The theft of bikes nationwide is at an all-time high. Some bikes are stolen from outside shops, from schools, and from council provided cycle racks. Many stolen bikes were locked up and secured, but not secured correctly. What can you do to prevent the theft of your prized possession?

- Take a photograph of all family bikes.
- Write down the colour, model and make.
- Take a written note of any frame number. (found underneath the crank housing)
- Get your bike security marked and registered at Bike Register. It is a highly effective, visible deterrent to bike thieves. They know that if they are caught with a registered bike, the owner can be traced, and they will be arrested.

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When parking your bike for long periods, consider removing any valuable accessories, like saddles, lights, perhaps a quick release wheel can be temporarily removed. If your bike is expensive, check with your Home Insurance Company to see if you are insured against the theft of your bike. Thieves carry their own tools and can cut through cheap locking devices very easily.

When securing your bike use two good quality locks, make sure one lock is an approved D lock. Always secure around the frame and wheels, back and front. Make sure you pass around any provided anchorage.

Try and get tight to the anchorage, leaving minimum room for the thief to work. Use the same bike security in the garden shed or at home.



Try and park under CCTV camera and in a well-lit busy area. If you intend being away from your bike for a lengthy period, try and periodically check the bike and consider moving it to another location. If your bike gets stolen report it ASAP to the police online or via 101 and obviously inform the Bike register. You can also use the Stolen Bike free website: - <https://stolen-bikes.co.uk/> Please contact neighbourhoodjim@virginmedia.com if you require any advice or information on NHW.

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Planning Committee

Members of the Committee: Councillors Guy Brazendale (Chairman), Ms Shelley Byrne-Lagrué, David Havell, Brian Jeapes, Andrew Potts.

As with all the other Council's meetings, those for the Planning Committee have been held via Zoom since June last year. As always, residents are invited to participate, and details of how to access meetings can be found on the agendas that appear on the Council's website and notice boards around a week before. The Committee meets fortnightly throughout the year, usually on alternate Mondays, to discuss planning applications ranging from residential alterations to large scale commercial and infrastructure projects, and our comments, along with those from other consultees, are then considered by the City Council to decide whether to approve or refuse applications. During the last 12 months, the Committee has considered 112 applications.

The most significant proposal discussed this year has been for a new LIDL store, to be located off Chelmer Village Way close to the Cuton Hall roundabout, which could also include the provision of community facilities on land immediately to the east linking in with the adjoining Springfield Lyons Bronze Age enclosure. Consultants attended the Committee's meeting on 16 November for a question and answer discussion, and the formal planning application was considered on 11 January this year. Whilst recognising the economic benefits that could be generated for the local area, Members also took into account the large volume of objections that had been received by the City Council and by those residents who attended our meeting. As a result, the Committee submitted an objection based around the following concerns:

- Designation of the entire site in the Local Plan as public open space.
- Any loss of open space could not be replaced by equivalent or better in terms of quality or quantity.

- The environmental impact of the proposals, such as loss of a well-used recreational facility which provides a habitat for wildlife, plant species and protected trees.

- The generation of additional traffic on an already busy road and the suggested layout of entrance and exit points.

At the time of writing, this application is still pending a decision by the City Council.

During the Autumn, the Council was invited to comment on Central Government's proposals for reform of the current national planning system. Published as a White Paper called 'Planning for the Future'. The stated aim is to streamline and simplify a cumbersome set of regulations that are seen to slow down decision making for large scale residential and infrastructure developments. The suggested changes are in some parts quite radical and have generated considerable unease across all levels of local government. The main issues identified by the Committee were:

- Reduced community involvement with the planning process and less input into preparation of the Local Plan.
- Changes to the provision of developer funding for infrastructure (currently known as Section 106 and CIL), bringing greater uncertainty to the timing and location of, for example, new roads and schools.
- Housing numbers and their location would be determined by Central Government.

Finally, during such a turbulent time, thanks are due to Council Members and Officers for their much-appreciated contribution in enabling the Committee's work to continue.



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volunteers and members. CCM prides itself on maintaining a warm and welcoming community for everybody we work with. Our trustees are an important part of the 'family' and are encouraged to be as involved as possible!

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Our Board meets monthly, in the evening, and currently via Zoom. We welcome all backgrounds and no prior experience of people with learning disabilities is expected. All we need is passion, enthusiasm and the desire to make a real difference.



laws and regulations. They are responsible for setting the strategy and managing the assets of the charity whilst ensuring a safe environment for our staff,

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Springfield United Charities

The Springfield United Charities was set up in 1911 and since then has provided help to residents in the Springfield area who are in need, hardship or distress.

The Springfield United Charities was set up in 1911 and since then has provided help to residents in the Springfield area who are in need, hardship or distress.

The Trustees are appointed from membership of the Chelmsford City Council, the Springfield Parish Council and the Parish of All Saints' Springfield.

The current Trustees are:

Ex Officio:

The Reverend Susan Iskander (Rector, All Saint's Church)

Appointed by the Chelmsford City Council:

Councillors Ian Fuller, Chloe Tron and Robin Stevens

Appointed by Springfield Parish Council:

Councillors Yvonne Spence (Chair) and Richard Lee

During the last financial year, the Trustees approved grants of £2,866 for Trinity School for timber framed outdoor equipment and £39.40 for emergency shopping for a family in need.

Applications for grants are considered by the Trustees and applicants must live within the boundary of the original Springfield Parish. This includes the Parishes of All Saints', Holy Trinity, St Augustine's, the Church of Our Saviour and the new Beaulieu development.

Roger I Shilling

Honorary Secretary

Play In The Park

This is Chelmsford City Council's free play scheme that visits venues across the city during the Easter and Summer school holidays.

The sessions taking place at Springfield Parish Centre and on Chelmer Village Green are subsidised by Springfield Parish Council.

Although the sessions scheduled to take place during last Easter break were cancelled the activities that took place in the summer were very well attended. In all 10 sessions took place with 217 children attending. The feedback received was very positive with many saying the playworkers worked very hard resulting in the children having the 'best time ever'.

For 2021 the parish council has agreed the following dates with Chelmsford City Council, although they may be subject to change and are dependent on government guidelines nearer the time.

On Chelmer Green:

Tuesday 27th July - am & pm
Wednesday 28th July - am & pm
Thursday 29th July - am & pm
Friday 30th July - am & pm

At Springfield Parish Council:

Monday 16th August - am & pm
Tuesday 17th August - am & pm
Wednesday 18th August - am & pm
Thursday 19th August - am & pm
Friday 20th August - am & pm

All attendees need to book a slot prior to attending. Further details and information will be available via the parish council's noticeboard, web site and Facebook page.



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Finance & Policy Committee

Members of the Committee: Councillors Mrs Yvonne Spence (Chairman), Ms Shelley Byrne-Lagrué, Mrs Christine Garrett, Neil Gulliver, Richard Lee, Ms Susan Sullivan.

The Finance & Policy Committee monitors the income and spending requirement of the Council. A proportion of income is derived from what is known as the precept; this is a percentage of Council tax paid to us by each household in our parish.

The past financial year has been very challenging, and the forthcoming year will be no less so. Income streams from other sources have been significantly reduced, which will lead to the committee giving extra focus on monitoring spending without compromising the level of service.

The committee also review and monitor internal and external audit processes, with PKF accountants providing an external audit service to the authority. Other items that the committee focus on are staffing levels, management legislation such as standing orders and financial regulations, which ensure the Council functions within correct procedures.

In addition to the budgeting process undertaken by the Finance & Policy Committee a sum of money known as CIL tax (Community Infrastructure Levy) is received by the council for each new residential unit built in the parish. As a result of this the parish has been able to bring new facilities and upgrade existing ones. A new outdoor gym for adults has been installed at Chelmer Village Green and a second facility has been installed in Boleyn Gardens. Three memorial benches have also been funded through this tax levy and the Council very much hope you will enjoy using these facilities.

This has been a very challenging financial year for the parish council and there will be some years of financial recovery to come. The Council secured a sum of just over £17,000.00 in support grants that were distributed to us via Chelmsford City Council.

The parish employee team consists of 13 regular members of staff with a further 4

FINANCIAL YEAR 2020 - 2021

Figures are based on unaudited accounts

INCOME

Precept	£387,242.00
Finance & Policy (Interest & Misc)	£7,627.00
Premises	£39,805.00
Allotments	£408.00
Comm Infra Levy	£31,843.00
Events	£0.00
TOTAL	£466,925.00

EXPENDITURE

Finance & Policy (Interest & Misc)	£243,850.00
Premises	£166,804.00
Allotments	£77.00
Comm Infra Levy	£72,857.00
Events	£0.00
Loan Repayments	£66,080.00
Environ & Leisure	£9,302.00
TOTAL	£558,970.00

INCOME

Precept	£383,146.00
Finance & Policy (Interest & Misc)	£9,603.00
Premises	£183,182.00
Allotments	£389.00
Comm Infra Levy	£60,594.00
Events	£663.00
TOTAL	£637,577.00

EXPENDITURE

Finance & Policy (Interest & Misc)	£230,476.00
Premises	£337,498.00
Allotments	£315.00
Comm Infra Levy	£17,232.00
Events	£899.00
Loan Repayments	£68,592.00
Environ & Leisure	£7,850.00
TOTAL	£662,862.00



support employees who are called to help from time to time. Grateful thanks go to them all.

Grants & Donations

The Parish Council can make small donations to local charities. If you are a charitable organisation you can ask for further details about the application process by contacting the Clerk to the Council.

Room hire for the Afternoon Clubs (Bingo, Bowls, Tea Dance) and Springfield Youth Group are subsidised.

Beaulieu Community Trust

Three members of Springfield Parish Council sit as trustees of Beaulieu Community Trust.

They are Cllr Susan Sullivan, Trust Chairman, Cllr Ian Fuller, Trust Secretary and Cllr Yvonne Spence. Six other Trustees complete the Board of Trustees: three from Beaulieu church and three local residents. Meetings were held regularly by all Trustees and the Centre Manager Ruth Gibson to monitor the governance and financial performance of the Centre. A report from Ruth is included in this annual report that covers the activities held over the past year. Trust income has been severely affected due to the national Covid restrictions. The Trustees applied to Springfield Parish Council for a payment from its ear-marked reserve to enable the Centre to continue to serve the local community, which was granted. The Trust is grateful to the Parish Council for its understanding and support in this difficult time.



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Springfield Youth Group

Springfield Parish Council is pleased to support the Springfield Youth Group that meets at the Parish Centre on a Friday evening, 7.15pm to 10pm.

The Springfield Youth Group (SYG) has been established for nearly four years. It is governed by a committee and volunteers.

The groups mission is to:

1. Provide an enjoyable, social space and support for young people.
2. Encourage young people to engage with their community.
3. Be inclusive and respectful of young people teaching them respect of the wider community.
4. Encourage young people to be the foundation of a better Springfield Parish.

The youth group serves a dual purpose of accommodating unstructured social interaction among different age groups providing structured classes on various topics in a safe environment offering advice and support to all. It is somewhere young people can gain confidence and self-esteem, building tolerance of other people's beliefs offering alternative education to enhance their leadership and development.

Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions, the

past year the SYG has been unable to meet on a Friday evening. It is, however, hoped that with the proposed forthcoming lifting of restrictions the SYG will again be able to meet. Although there is no definite date when this will happen information will be available via the groups Facebook page (www.facebook.com/springfield.youthgroup.3)

Before last year's lockdown events that took place were:

- An informal visit from the local police who engaged in a game of basketball and played with the VR system.
- Poppies were made to remember those service men and women who lost their life in the various conflicts around the world.
- Volunteers from the youth group assisted the parish council at its pantomime.
- A group of members went to the Cliffs Pavilion to watch Diversity in the Robin Hood Pantomime.

More events will be organised once the restrictions have been lifted.

For further information go to the groups facebook page or telephone **07359 066130**.

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Beaulieu Community Centre

Like all community centres the centre was closed with the first lockdown in March last year, although we were able to run foodbank collections every Friday morning.



During the first weekend in August an exhibition was organised of art created in lockdown or that reflected feelings of lockdown. A DJ played really moving atmospheric music and a lot of positive feedback was received.

The centre reopened in September and was very busy. An interest in art brought new art classes to the centre which we helped grow by offering free room hire to an art teacher for the first term. (We were due to receive council funding to continue this and offer free places for underprivileged children, but this will now not be possible due to lockdown).

A huge amount of work was carried out to ensure the centre was 'COVID secure' upon reopening in September, such as introducing mask wearing in communal areas (and offering free masks to class-goers that had forgotten), hand sanitiser on entry, reduced capacity and floor stickers at 2m apart, and introducing the track and trace system.

Although not able to allow parties due to Tier 2 restrictions the centre managed to host St Francis Church's annual 'Hidden Saints Trail' and 320 children took part.



The centre also accommodated collections for the Women's Refuge, CHESS homeless charity and Kids Inspire as well as donating free and discounted room hire to a disabled dancer.

The centre had to close again in November for one month due to lockdown and reopened in early December with a hugely successful Christmas 'Mini Market' supporting local and small businesses and ensuring all government guidelines were adhered to.

Mid-December saw Essex move into Tier 3 which resulted in only children's classes going ahead. However, just over a week later we moved into Tier 4 and the centre was forced to close.

The centre has continued to act as a foodbank donation point on Mondays and Fridays and has a private physiotherapist on site on Thursday and Fridays. The centre is also raising money to 'twin our toilets' - by collecting to build toilets in the third world. Donations are welcome via St Francis Church at: www.paypal.com/pools/c/8v72UHLrWW (or email the centre at secretary@beaulieutrust.co.uk to ask for the link).

At the time of writing we are hoping to co-host a Beaulieu Scarecrow Trail with Beaulieu Estate Management around Easter-time should restrictions be lifted.

Ruth Gibson, Centre Manager



Springfield Parish Council Meetings

All meetings are open to members of the public and press and are held at:

Springfield Parish Centre
St Augustine's Way
North Springfield
CM1 6GX

01245 466313

clerk@springfield-pc.gov.uk



May 2021—July 2021

May

Tuesday 4	6.45pm	Planning
Monday 10	7.30pm	Annual Council Meeting
Monday 17	6.45pm	Planning
Monday 17	7.30pm	Premises

June

Tuesday 1	6.45pm	Planning
Tuesday 1	7.30pm	Environment & Leisure
Monday 7	7.00pm	Finance & Policy
Monday 14	6.45pm	Planning
Monday 14	7.30pm	Full Council - Year End A/C
Monday 28	6.45pm	Planning

July

Monday 5	7.30pm	Full Council
Monday 12	6.45pm	Planning
Monday 26	6.45pm	Planning
Monday 26	7.30pm	Premises

CHESS seeks to ensure those who find themselves homeless in Essex are supported in ways that enable them to move forward purposefully and in good health.



We want to bring an end to homelessness for good. We are working with local councils and organisations to find ways of engaging with those on the streets and offer longer term solutions to help them gain access to a permanent home of their own.

If you would like to support our work with the homeless you can donate online at www.chesshomeless.org/donate

Keep up to date with our work on Facebook, Instagram & Twitter @chesshomeless



www.chesshomeless.org



What's On at Springfield Parish Centre

Please note that below is a list of regular clubs and activities that were running at the Parish Centre prior to lockdown. From the 12th April 2021 we are starting a phased return as per Government guidelines. Please contact the class organiser to find out when the class you are interested in will be returning.

Day/Times	Club Name	Contact Details
MONDAY		
8.00am – 4pm	TIDDLYWINKS PRE-SCHOOL	Zoe Perry - 01245 463245 Tiddlywinks123@btinternet.com
7.00pm-9.30pm	POLE-ABILITY FITNESS	Tamsin Hills tamsin.l.hills@gmail.com
7.30pm -9.30pm	SPRINGFIELD ART GROUP	
8.00pm – 10.30pm	SPRINGERS Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society	
TUESDAY		
8.00am – 4pm	TIDDLYWINKS PRE-SCHOOL	Zoe Perry - 01245 463245 Tiddlywinks123@btinternet.com
1.30pm - 3.45pm	BINGO SPC Afternoon	Duncan Lumley Samcat11@virginmedia.com
7.15pm – 8.10pm	HI-LOW AEROBICS	Jose 07876016943
8.00pm – 10pm	WING CHUN KUNG FU	Mark Solomans marksolomonssifu@gmail.com
8.15pm – 9.10pm	INSANITY fitness	Jose 07876016943
WEDNESDAY		
8 am – 4.00pm	TIDDLYWINKS PRE-SCHOOL	Zoe Perry - 01245 463245 Tiddlywinks123@btinternet.com
9.30am - 12.00pm	SOUNDS RIGHT PHONICS CLASS	Kelly - 07786988487
10am – 11am	WOMEN'S WALK	Meet in the car park at 10am–free to join.
1.00pm - 4.00pm	CARPET BOWLS SPC afternoon club	Duncan Lumley Samcat11@virginmedia.com
3.15pm – 6.45pm	KUMON after school Maths and English	Eirini - 07534 812489 Chelmsfordnorth@kumoncentre.co.uk
6pm – 10.45pm	SPRINGERS Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society	Jackie Bates - rjbates@gmail.com
8pm-9.30pm	SALSA D'LITE	Alexandra Woodcock - 07831 650618
THURSDAY		
8 am – 4pm	TIDDLYWINKS PRE-SCHOOL	Zoe Perry - 01245 463245 Tiddlywinks123@btinternet.com
4.15pm – 6.45pm	LITTLE STARS (4.30pm – 6pm) LAMDA (6pm – 6.30pm)	Vicki - 07743 650845 backstage@littlestarsuk.co.uk www.littlestarsworkshops.co.uk
7.45pm – 9.15pm	LINE DANCING (beginners/mixed ability)	
Day/Times	Club Name	Contact Details
FRIDAY		
8 am – 4pm	TIDDLYWINKS PRE-SCHOOL	Zoe Perry - 01245 463245 Tiddlywinks123@btinternet.com
9.00am - 1.00pm	BABY COLLEGE ***NEW CLASS****	Tegan Maguire tegan@babycollege.co.uk
9.30 – 11.45am	BABY BALLET	Laura Watkins - 07534260067 babyballet.co.uk



What's On at Springfield Parish Centre

FRIDAY (cont)

1.30pm - 4.00pm	TEA DANCE SPC Afternoon Club	Duncan Lumley Samcat11@virginmedia.com
4.00pm - 7.15pm	CHILDREN'S BALLET Weston School of Dance	01245 287638 office@theweston.dance
4.30pm - 8.30pm	HIP HOP (12 to 18 years) Weston School of Dance	Elisabeth Weston - 01245 287638
7.15pm - 10.00pm	SPRINGFIELD YOUTH GROUP (11YRS - 17YRS)	07561842070 Club mobile

SATURDAY

NO BOOKINGS AT PRESENT 18.03.21

SUNDAY

9.30 am - 1.30pm	BELIEVERS LOVE WORLD UKZN2	
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St. Augustine's Way, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 6GX. Tel. (01245) 464583

The Springfield Parish Centre is also available for functions and parties. For further information, please call 01245 464583. Please note that some activities do not run during the school holidays.

What's On at Chelmers Village Hall

Please note that below is a list of regular clubs and activities that were running at Chelmer Village Hall prior to lockdown. From the 12th April 2021 we are starting a phased return as per Government guidelines. Please contact the class organiser to find out when the class you are interested in will be returning. Unfortunately, Chelmer Village Hall isn't currently open for party bookings.

Day	Times	Club Name	Contact Name	Contact Telephone No
Mon-Fri	9am - 3.30pm (Term time only)	Rainbow Nursery	Monica Burdett	07901 886488
Mon	4.15pm-5.15pm (Temporary basis)	Architects Dance Company	Mr Mathew Jones	07794 447904
Mon	7.15pm-8.15pm	Bowls Club	Mr John Matthews	01245 256 611
Tues	6.45pm - 9pm	Stretch	Carolyn Pink	07789 811067
Weds	7.15pm - 8.15pm	Zumba	Gemma Cook	07917 458958
Thurs	4pm - 6.45pm	Weston School of Dance	Ms Elisabeth Swan	01245 287638
Fri	7.15pm-8.15pm	Bowls Club	Mr John Matthews	01245 256 611
Saturday	9am-12.00pm	Bulgarian Class	Mrs Iliana Smith	07432 370534
Saturday	9.30am - 12.30pm	Shinkyu Ltd(Karate)	Amandeep Chodha	07496 095851
Sunday	9am - 12.00pm	Bulgarian Class	Mrs Iliana Smith	07432 370534
Sunday	10.30am - 11.30am	Aerobics	Mrs Jose Childs	07876 016943

**Booking clerk can be contacted on: 07716 790510 or email cvhbookings@hotmail.co.uk
Website www.chelmervillagehall.co.uk**

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HARLOW TO HATFIELD PEVEREL

B to C = 26 miles (52,000 steps)

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SOUTHEND ON SEA TO LONDON

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Sandwich/Snack Menu 12:00-5:30pm

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Sunday Lunch Menu 12:30pm-6pm

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