



# Annual Report

*The Annual Report of South Woodham Ferrers Town Council*

## Introduction to the 2015/16 Report

Once more I am pleased to present our Annual Report from the Town Council for the year ending 31 March 2016. This year was, of course, an election year with Parliamentary, City Council and Town Council elections all taking place. Unusually we also had two Town Council by-elections during the year and we are pleased to welcome 17 Councillors back to continue supporting our residents and 3 new Councillors. Please do not hesitate to contact any of us if you require information or advice.

Inside this report you will find an illustration of the changes to council Tax for the coming year and we use those funds to provide and support services in South Woodham Ferrers.

The Town Mayor's charity for 2015/16 - South East and Central Essex MIND has been well supported through a series of fund raising activities. As a local mental health charity, South East and Central Essex Mind is one of 160 affiliated members of Mind, each being an independent charity run by local people, for local people and responsible for its own funding and the services it provides.

Mental health is very often the 'elephant in the room' but many of us will have friends and relatives who have suffered from stress, depression, anxiety or the feeling that they can't cope with the stresses of modern life.



*Councillor Christine Weir-Ewing*



Recently held fund raising Race Night

### **Gardener's Panel**

Wednesday 13 April 2016  
At RHS Garden Hyde Hall  
Gates open at 6pm  
Panel starts at 7pm  
Meet the BBC's  
Ken Crowther  
Free Admission



**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**  
**FRIDAY 8 APRIL 2016**  
at  
Champions Manor Hall  
Community Centre  
Hullbridge Road  
Displays from local groups from  
7pm  
Main meeting starts at 8pm  
Guest Speakers  
Chelmsford City Council  
Rural Community Council of Essex  
'Developing South Woodham  
Ferrers Neighbourhood Plan'

# Town Council Funding in 2016/17

## **Council Tax & your Town Council**

Payments to the Town Council are included in the Council Tax paid by local residents, forming a small part of the total charge which includes charges for Essex County Council, Essex Police and Chelmsford City Council.

For the year ahead, (starting on 1 April 2016), the Town Council has set a budget that both reduces its expenditure and increases its income. Therefore there will be no increase in our element of the local Council Tax.

## **How much will I pay?**

For a Band D property in the town the charge for 2016/17 (for the Town Council element) will be £59.40 for the whole year.

## **What does the Town Council spend this on?**

The Town Council owns, maintains and runs;

- Champions Manor Hall Community Centre,
- The Garden of Remembrance on Burnham Road,
- Woodham Fenn,
- John Cox and Victoria Fields recreational sites (near Ferrers Road),
- The Blue Cage and children's play area at the Village Hall,
- The Bandstand in the town centre and
- Millennium Place (where the war memorial and town sign stand).

The Council also provides a public events programme (including the Christmas Fayre and the popular cinema club), provides a local grants programme and helps to fund the local swimming pool. In summer the Council provides the hanging baskets around the town and in winter lights up the town centre for Christmas.

There are plenty of other items on the full list and if you want to know more about the Town Council's work and finances the office team at Champions Manor Hall Community Centre would be pleased to provide more information.

## **It's Your Council.....**

The Office of the Town Council is on the first floor at Champions Manor Hall Community Centre, Hullbridge Road, South Woodham Ferrers, Essex CM3 5LJ. You can call us on **01245 321817** or email us at, **enquiries@southwoodhamferrerstc.gov.uk**

Meetings of the Town Council are held at Champions Manor Hall and are open for you to attend and speak on any item on the agenda before the formal meeting gets underway.

The calendar of meetings is on display in the Town Council's noticeboards around the town and along with Agendas and Minutes shown on the Town Council's website:

**[www.southwoodhamferrerstc.gov.uk](http://www.southwoodhamferrerstc.gov.uk)**



## **Champions Manor Hall Community Centre**

Champions Manor Hall is a community building, owned and managed by South Woodham Ferrers Town Council. It is a distinctive, ideally located venue, with a free car park and close to bus and train links.

The ground floor is fully accessible with disabled facilities. If you are looking for a venue to hold your function or training session, why not try one of our Halls or Meeting Rooms? For a birthday party, anniversary celebration, quiz night etc;

training sessions, a conference or local group meetings. The Halls have a projector/screen and music systems and a purpose built stage in the Main Hall. All rooms are fully air-conditioned with hearing loops fitted. There is a fully equipped kitchen on the ground floor and baby changing facilities.

For further information regarding charges and availability, please contact the Town Council office on 01245 321817 or email [enquiries@southwoodhamferrerstc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@southwoodhamferrerstc.gov.uk)

## Council Grants Scheme

### *Can we help you?*

The last 12 months has seen the Council support a wide range of local groups and worthy causes.

The full list of grants provided since April 2015 is shown below:

|                           |        |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Bar 'N' Bus               | £1,000 |
| Childcare BCCS            | £1,000 |
| Royal British Legion      | £ 800  |
| Station Adopters          | £ 100  |
| SWF Bowls Club            | £ 800  |
| SWF Horticultural Society | £ 250  |
| William de Ferrers School | £1,000 |

|                          |        |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Girlguiding SWF          | £ 866  |
| St Mary's Churchyard     | £1,200 |
| Swift Singers            | £1,000 |
| SWF Yacht Club           | £1,300 |
| Paul Bonham              | £ 144  |
| SWF Playing Fields Cttee | £ 193  |

For further information on the scheme contact the Town Council office on 01245 321817. The scheme provides both for larger grants and loans or a simpler small grant application process exists if a small sum can make all the difference to your project.

## Community Events

Last year was a busy year for events provided by the Town Council.

- Gardeners Panel held at Meadowcroft Garden Centre (*in partnership with the RHS and Meadow Croft Garden Centre*)
- Bandstand Fun in Trinity Square throughout August, (*in conjunction with Asda*)
- Singing on the Bandstand
- The Arts Festival at Champions Manor Hall
- Armed Forces Day
- Christmas Fayre
- Senior Citizens Christmas lunch
- Champions Film Club



Thank you to all who supported or attended our events in 2015



## William de Ferrers School GCSE Presentation Evening 2015

The Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Peter Wyatt presenting the Council's award to Kennedy Skitmore. Kennedy was a very committed member of the School Council ensuring that students had a voice in the School. South Woodham Ferrers Town Council is delighted to have nominated Kennedy to attend the Chelmsford Mayor, Councillor Paul Hutchinson's Community Evening, taking place at Hylands House. The theme this year is 'Young People - Unleash the Potential'.



## Your Town Councillors

### For the Year 2015/16

#### CHETWOOD WARD

Councillor Roy Hardman  
Councillor Ashley John  
Councillor Bob Massey  
Councillor Keith Miles  
Councillor Alan Shearring

#### COLLINGWOOD WARD

Councillor Peter Ferry  
Councillor Malcolm Sismey  
Councillor Christine Weir-Ewing  
Councillor Richard Weir-Ewing  
Councillor Jill Winn

#### ELMWOOD WARD

Councillor Chris Blowers  
Councillor Sam Coley  
Councillor Lisa Kelly  
Councillor Murrough O'Brien  
Councillor Pippa Whiteward

#### WOODVILLE WARD

Councillor Keith Bentley  
Councillor Steven Betteridge  
Councillor Kevin Golding  
Councillor Ian Roberts  
Councillor Peter Wyatt



### Councillor Attendance at Meetings for 2014/15 Total of 31 meetings

|              |    |
|--------------|----|
| R Barber     | 10 |
| K Bentley    | 16 |
| J Birch      | 24 |
| L Brennan    | 8  |
| S Coley      | 20 |
| R Durrant    | 12 |
| P Ferry      | 15 |
| K Golding    | 27 |
| R Hardman    | 19 |
| A John       | 7  |
| L Kelly      | 10 |
| K Miles      | 26 |
| I Roberts    | 17 |
| A Shearring  | 20 |
| P Walker     | 0  |
| C Weir-Ewing | 25 |
| R Weir-Ewing | 19 |
| P Whiteward  | 22 |
| J Winn       | 21 |
| P Wyatt      | 29 |

You can contact Councillors via the Town Council Office by telephoning us on **01245 321817** or email

**Enquiries@southwoodhamferrerstc.gov.uk**

### Keep Up to Date with Social Media

You can follow us on both Twitter  
[www.twitter.com/swftc](http://www.twitter.com/swftc) and Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/SouthWoodhamFerrers  
TownCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/SouthWoodhamFerrersTownCouncil)

