



ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021



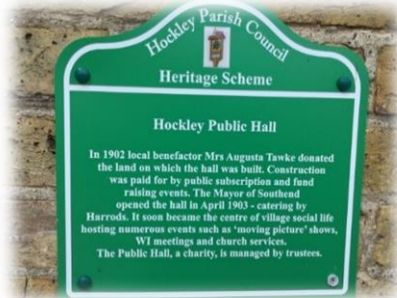
The Old Fire Station



Meeting Room Refurbishment



Southend Road Public Toilets



Heritage Scheme



Allotments Site



War Memorial 75th Anniversary

Annual Report 2020-2021

Welcome to the virtual Annual Parish Meeting. We have finished the year under exceptional circumstances; members terms of office were extended for an additional year due to the pandemic and we continued to navigate our way through virtual meetings and working from home. Everyone has a role to play and I would like to pass on my thanks to Councillor Veronica Randall, our Vice Chair and fellow councillors who all give freely of their time and expertise to keep the village running smoothly. This could not be done without the excellent support of our Clerk, Kelly Holland, who deserves a special mention for maintaining the office from home and achieving a 1st Class Honours Degree in Community Governance; our Responsible Finance Officer, Margaret Saunders and all our support staff who have managed to keep everything ticking over so well. Along with everyone at the council, I know many people in Hockley were very saddened to hear of the passing of our Ranger Dave Neave. Dave was well respected by his colleagues and the local community and his good humour and willing nature will be very much missed.

The strength of a local council is that it is able to make a unique response to the needs of the community it serves. It also plays a vital role in representing the interests of the community and influencing and consulting with other decision makers including Rochford District Council and Essex County Council.

Hockley Parish council uses a variety of ways to communicate with its residents:

- through the use of the Website, Social Media and feedback from Surveys.
- at the Annual Parish Meeting held every year where a report is presented to residents with an opportunity for discussion about any issues within the community.
- by being approachable and involved in many of the activities which take place during the year.
- providing opportunities for members of the public to attend Council Meetings and speak during Public Participation on any subject on that night's agenda.

We are pleased to report that the Parish Council has successfully been re-accredited this year under the Local Council Award Scheme having maintained the criteria for Foundation Level and is now working towards the Quality Level in order to offer the best service we can to our residents.

The financial year for a council starts on the 1st April and ends on the 31st March. A Local council can generate income from the services and facilities that it provides, for example hall hire. However, the main source of income for a local council is raised by the levy of a precept on persons over 18, who own or occupy a dwelling in the area of the council.

After an in-depth budget review, a Precept request for 2021/22 of £293,492 was made to Rochford District Council. To ensure there was no increase in the Hockley Parish portion of the Community Charge, we have taken £3,148 from the General Reserves. Earmarked Reserves of £108,329.54 have been approved for large ticket items to complete projects and spread the cost. Therefore, the Band D equivalent remains the same as 2020/21 at £75.50 per property. Audited accounts are available on our website.

It has been a year when many of the Council's plans had to be put on hold or not progressed as envisaged and public events were cancelled. As the Parish Hall had to temporarily close to the public no income has been received from bookings. Regeneration of the Nature Reserve still continues together with the maintenance and upgrading of the children's Play Areas. It is hoped to continue with the establishment of a new allotment site at Pond Chase; maintenance of the Public Toilets at Southend Road (when the refurbishment has been satisfactorily completed by Rochford District Council); the provision of Special Constables; free wheelchair hire, a community orchard and the refurbishment of the Parish Hall ready for when we can safely welcome everyone back.

Local Development and infrastructure continue to be a major concern to us all and the Parish Council, as statutory consultees, regularly comment on planning applications received from Rochford District Council so local views are represented.



Hockley is fortunate to have open spaces and an excellent network of footpaths on our doorstep which have been a welcome blessing for residents during lockdown. However, it has been very sad to see the increase in litter and criminal damage which has proved to be a very real problem along with adverse weather conditions. Marylands Nature Reserve and Plumberow Mount in particular has suffered and our Parish Rangers have been making extra visits to collect rubbish and clear the stream. Community volunteers supported by the Parish Council have assisted with litter picking which is appreciated and will enable the areas to recover so they can continue to be enjoyed by everyone now and protect them for future generations.

Flooding at Marylands Nature Reserve

Although the community could not gather as usual this year, to mark the 75th Anniversary of VE Day and Remembrance Sunday, we all worked together to ensure these important dates did not pass unnoticed and the village was decorated with hundreds of poppies made by members of the community along with posters and artwork.



This year the Parish Council introduced Community Awards to recognise all the wonderful things that our residents and businesses have achieved and give us an opportunity to say “Thank You”. The Winners will be announced this evening and I would like to congratulate our finalists and everyone nominated and thank them all for being such an inspiring example for local people.

On a personal note, I joined the Parish Council 16 years ago and it has been an honour to have served Hockley as Council Chairman for 9 of those years. I have always found the people of Hockley very welcoming and generous with their time and have made good friends both locally and across Essex when invited to visit or represent the council on other organisations. On behalf of our members, I would like to thank you all for your support and look forward to seeing Hockley build on its past achievements as we venture towards a somewhat changed environment during the coming year.

Councillor Roy Martin
Chairman Hockley Parish Council
















If you have any comments or enquiries, please contact Clerk to the Parish Council
Phone: 01702 20 77 07: Email: enquiries@hockley-essex.gov.uk : Website: hockley-essex.gov.uk
Please address all correspondence to the Clerk at the Parish Office:
The Old Fire Station, 58 Southend Road, Hockley, Essex S5 4QH

Mission Statement

**Hockley Parish Council is committed to being a council with a brave forward vision
to create and maintain a vibrant and inclusive community in Hockley.**

HOCKLEY PARISH COUNCILORS 2020-21

Hockley Parish Council has 15 positions with two vacancies. Nominations for both Parish Wards in this year's election were uncontested. Members are residents of the Parish, representing the council on many outside organisations. The Parish Council must act as one body and are bound by law with decisions made by the majority of members present and voting. Full Council Meetings are held bi-monthly and Committees meet regularly to drive the smooth running of the council.

HOCKLEY WEST WARD			
	Cllr Mark Anderson		Cllr Steve Chelmsford
	Cllr Brian Hazlewood		Cllr Mrs Shirley James
	Cllr Roy Martin Chairman		Cllr Mrs Sue Martin
	Cllr Phil Meacham		Cllr Mrs Veronica Randall Vice Chairman
	Cllr Mrs Barbara Thorogood	HOCKLEY EAST WARD	
	Cllr Nick Boxall		Cllr Mike Carter
	Cllr Mrs Toni Carter		Cllr Brian O'Shea
	Cllr Mrs Lesley Vingoe		

Committee Membership 2020-21

(Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council are Ex Officio members of all Committees)

- Resources & Procedures Committee:** Cllr Roy Martin (Chair), Mark Anderson, Nick Boxall, Shirley James, Sue Martin, Phil Meacham, Lesley Vingoe.
- Planning & Local Development Committee:** Cllr Mike Carter (Chair), Nick Boxall, Toni Carter, Steve Chelmsford, Shirley James, Barbara Thorogood.
- Environment & Open Spaces Committee:** Cllr Lesley Vingoe (Chair), Nick Boxall, Brian Hazlewood, Shirley James, Brian O'Shea, Barbara Thorogood
- Communities Committee:** Cllr Sue Martin (Chair), Mark Anderson, Shirley James, Phil Meacham, Veronica Randall, Barbara Thorogood.
- Festive Lights Subcommittee:** Cllr Barbara Thorogood (Chair), Mark Anderson, Shirley James, Sue Martin, Veronica Randall
- Personnel Committee:** Cllr Nick Boxall (Chair), Mike Carter, Toni Carter, Shirley James, Roy Martin, Phil Meacham, Veronica Randall
- Personnel Subcommittee:** Cllrs Roy Martin, Nick Boxall, Phil Meacham
- Forward Plan Committee:** Cllr Phil Meacham (Chair), Nick Boxall, Sue Martin, Barbara Thorogood, Lesley Vingoe