

# BRENTWOOD

## OUR BOROUGH



WINTER 2023



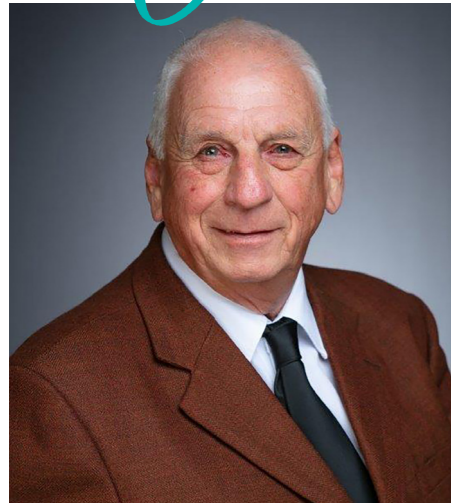
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**BRENTWOOD**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# Welcome



Having had the honour to serve our Borough for some 40 years, it feels like only yesterday that I became the Leader of Brentwood Borough Council, but I am privileged to be leading a Joint Administration that has led the Council since late May 2023.

Scrutiny and reviewing what we have done, are doing, and planning for the future is vital. I can assure you that we take our role very seriously. I am also very aware of how important the natural environment, parks, playing fields, historic areas and community spirit of our very special home are to all of us. Looking to protect and enhance our green spaces, community, High Streets, and heritage is a golden thread that runs through all we do.

In this toughest of times for so many, the Joint Administration is focused on ensuring you receive real value from everything the Council does. As you will see throughout this magazine, this is an unrelenting activity. While the financial challenges ahead for Brentwood Borough Council are,

like so many local authorities, challenging, we know that means making sure everything we do delivers the best possible outcomes for our community.

In this magazine, you will hear from some of our senior Councillors who are outlining what they have been up to, some of our new strategies, where we are making key investments for the future and how we are looking in detail at improving what the Council delivers today. This is not always an easy or quick process, but with calm determination and the support of a great officer team, we are steady in our ambition for a better Brentwood.

**So, here's to a very Merry Christmas and the happiest of New Year's for all of us who call the Borough of Brentwood home.**

**Councillor Barry Aspinell**  
Leader of Brentwood Borough Council

As we approach Christmas and the New Year, I am delighted to introduce our new publication to local residents. It aims to give you clear information about the Council's decisions and actions, opportunities for local groups to highlight their activities and some guidance on services that are there to support you.

## Report from Cllr David Kendall, Chair of Finance, Assets, Investment & Recovery Committee



It is now seven months since the local elections, and it feels like a good time to take stock of the progress we're making on the priorities we outlined in May and to set out our aims for the coming year. I think we've made a good start, but there's much more to do.

Brentwood Borough Council, like many local authorities, are working hard to manage its budget in testing financial times. There will be tough decisions ahead that will need to be made; however, we continue to make great strides that will improve the Borough for those who reside here, work here or visit us.

### A new cinema for Brentwood

In 2021, the Council purchased the Baytree Centre, and earlier this year planning approval was granted to redevelop the site. Detailed designs are presently being worked on, following which we will move to award the contract, with building work to start in the later part of 2024 or early 2025.

The exciting news is that in what will be a fantastic facility, the Council is in talks with major cinema operators. This redeveloped shopping centre will become a focal point of the High Street, breathing new life into the town whilst complementing what is already there.

**These are exciting times, and we are only just getting started. Below are some of the other activities we have been undertaking on key issues for local residents.**

### £2 million boost for business

Businesses in Brentwood, Shenfield and Ingatestone have voted to create a unique Business Improvement District (BID) that will secure £2 million to be spent on improving the area. Thanks to some great work by the Brentwood Business Partnership, the new BID will now deliver projects that will ensure our town centres continue to thrive. Our new BID will be led and driven by the businesses themselves and this funding and commitment of collaboration with the Council will enable the bid to build on the areas' unique strengths and assets. For further info please visit [www.brentwoodconnected.co.uk](http://www.brentwoodconnected.co.uk)

### Challenging the Norwich to Tilbury Pylons programme

The Council has made clear that National Grid's planned

reinforcement of the electricity grid infrastructure should take an offshore approach. We oppose the current proposals that would impact residents across the Borough, particularly in Ingatestone and Havering's Grove, in Hutton. We have highlighted significant negative heritage, landscape, agricultural and visual effects the overhead transmission line is likely to have on both areas, and called for, at a minimum, re-routing or underground options in both transmission sites.

### Public Transport and ULEZ

We asked the Mayor of London to reconsider the timing of ULEZ's extension and called for London's scrappage scheme to be extended to neighbouring areas. We continue to make strong arguments for more investment in our public transport services, including support for Brentwood Access Group's calls to add a lift to Brentwood Station, and for a new bus service between Brentwood and Upminster Station.

### The South Essex Business Expo

A major business exhibition will be held at the Brentwood Centre on Thursday 14 March 2024. If you would like to attend and promote your business, please contact our Economic Development Team at [business@brentwood.gov.uk](mailto:business@brentwood.gov.uk)

## How to contact Brentwood Borough Council

☎ **01277 312500**, our phone lines are open Monday to Thursday, 8:30am to 5pm and Fridays 8:30am to 4:30pm

✉ [enquiries@brentwood.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@brentwood.gov.uk)

🌐 [www.brentwood.gov.uk](http://www.brentwood.gov.uk)

### Follow us on social media

📘 **Brentwood Borough Council**

✉ **@Brentwood\_BC**

📷 **@BrentwoodBoroughCouncil**

📺 **@BrentwoodBoroughCouncil**

## Report from Cllr Dr Tim Barrett, Chair of the Housing, Health & Community Committee



success across the Borough, with new events this year in some of our parishes, and we are working with key groups across the community to explore new ways to work together to improve the lives of the people of Brentwood. With our sports teams, we have been actively reaching out to rebuild partnerships and recognise their key contribution.

### Enhancing Health & Wellbeing

Working with key local services and agencies, we are in the process of finalising a new Health & Wellbeing Strategy for Brentwood with a focus on four key themes: Community Resilience; Mental Health Support; the Cost of Living Crisis; and Active Environments. Working more effectively together on these ambitions, greater benefits and outcomes for residents are possible.



Brentwood Borough Council's Cllr Dr Tim Barrett, Lauren Anderson, Paulette McAllister and CEO Jonathan Stephenson taking questions from pupils at Willowbrook Primary School about the Council's housing programme.

### New social housing for Brentwood

As Chair of Housing, Health and Community Committee, I am extremely proud that since May 2023, we have begun commissioning the largest expansion in Social Housing in the Borough of Brentwood in generations. Proposals to utilise existing council land and sites, like garages or derelict housing, have now reached the stage where contractors will soon be appointed for the first projects. These new homes will be high-quality, low-carbon and energy-efficient, designed to serve the future generations of our community.

### Investment in events and local sport

This summer, we saw the completion of the King George's development and all new resources available to local people. Our expanded Family Fun Days have continued to be a

### Support in the Cost of Living Crisis

In the cost of living crisis, too many residents have been forced into renting housing that is not at an acceptable standard and not effectively managed. We will investigate routes to improve the standards in privately rented accommodation, with all options on the table.

### A new Cultural Vision for our Borough

We are developing a new cultural vision for Brentwood, working with local businesses and the community to enhance our pride in our Borough and maintain what makes it special for so many of us. Together, even in these challenging times, we are working hard to build a better Brentwood.

## Report from Cllr Barry Aspinell, Chair of the Clean and Green Committee



A key strand of our ambition for Brentwood is made clear in our new policy committee – and it aims to do for

Brentwood exactly what it says in its name! We want to improve our environment and focus on the issues that we know matter to you – our residents.

Investing to improve the cleanliness of our Borough, including exploring innovative ways to tackle flytipping, dealing with litter and principally improving the street cleansing of our High Streets - along with dealing with pavement parking – are all issues high on our list for the coming year.

Since the elections in May, I'm also pleased that, at long last, Brentwood has joined hundreds of other local authorities in declaring a Climate Emergency – but that is just the start. We know the council has a role to play in taking action to reduce carbon emissions – both within our operations and by facilitating wider change throughout the Borough. That is why we have made a statement of ambition by bringing forward the Council's target for achieving carbon net-zero by ten years to 2030 and building a plan to make it possible.

### Public toilets in Brentwood High Street

Both the male and female toilets in the block had unfortunately been closed since February 2023 following serious vandalism. The Changing Places facility was unaffected and has remained open.

We were keen to do what we can to get these toilets reopened but also ensure they are better than they were before. It was also important to make sure a dedicated cleaning regime is in place so that people want to use them.

Currently, the necessary repairs are being carried out in order to be able to reopen them, and unintrusive monitors are also being installed to make it possible to see how frequently the toilets are used, as numbers are currently unknown.

### EV chargers

The expansion of EV chargers across the borough has been continuing, with installations taking place in King George's Park and Chatham Way car park in Brentwood Town Centre. We will be looking to expand these points to the areas of Shenfield and Ingatestone.

Cllr Barry Aspinell with Deputy Mayor, Cllr Mark Haigh; Graham Gooch and Mayor of Brentwood, Cllr Gareth Barrett at Hutton Country Park seeing the bat willows planted that will be harvested and turned into cricket bats in the future.

### Our woodlands

We are so fortunate to have such a magnificent and wide variety of trees in our Borough, and we want to keep it that way. We are at the beginning of undertaking a programme of woodland management in order to protect and maintain the health of our woodlands for now and the future, making sure our Borough remains a green oasis for decades to come.

### Our parkland

Brentwood is fortunate to have substantial areas of open parkland which are accessible for public use. We are working on creative ways these spaces can be managed and enhanced to provide the fullest enjoyment opportunities for our residents.

In the summer, I joined former England and Essex Cricket Captain, Graham Gooch and members of the Brentwood Environmental Business Alliance (BEBA) at Hutton Country Park where 120 bat willows have been planted that, in about 20 years, will be harvested and turned into cricket bats.



# Supporting our community

Brentwood Community & Voluntary Service is a local independent charity that supports voluntary and community action in Brentwood.

Brentwood CVS has been supporting not for profit community and charitable organisations in Brentwood for more than 30 years. They deliver community wellbeing initiatives and provide practical advice, support and training on aspects of running a community organisation, including fundraising and general support.

Brentwood residents are lucky that there is a huge range of community groups all across the Borough who provide something for everyone, from sports to photography, to social and gardening. CVS has an extensive list and can help find the right

one for you. CVS's printed Community Directory is a great resource to browse.

With winter fast approaching and the temperatures dropping, many community hub spaces can offer a warm, safe and social environment, where you can enjoy refreshments, activities and receive advice and information on local services, such as at the Community Café in Merrymeade House, every Monday from 9.30am - 11.30am. You can find information on the local warm hubs near you and support with cost of living at [www.brentwood.gov.uk/cost-of-living](http://www.brentwood.gov.uk/cost-of-living) or call Brentwood Borough Council on 01277 312500.

Interested in volunteering? Or looking to recruit volunteers? Brentwood CVS can help! Volunteering can enhance your life, the lives of others and make a real difference to your community. If you are thinking of volunteering and would



Volunteers Packing Winter Warmth bags to distribute to residents.

like to find out more, you can give CVS a call or visit the Volunteer Essex website at [www.volunteersex.org](http://www.volunteersex.org) This website is a one stop shop for anyone interested in finding out about volunteering – you will be able to read about volunteering experiences and get a feel for the type and variety of volunteering opportunities available in your area. Or, if you are a voluntary or community group looking for volunteers, CVS can help you find them by publicising your roles in many ways, all for free!



To find out more about how Brentwood CVS can help you find the right community group, volunteer opportunity or promote your volunteer roles please give them a call on **01277 715080** or visit their website at [www.brentwoodcvs.org.uk](http://www.brentwoodcvs.org.uk)

Warm hub at Merrymeade House

# Pop along to visit our Community Connect Trailer

Our Community Connect Trailer is an initiative to bring communities together by travelling to different areas across the borough.



If you want some information about what's going on in your community, or some advice from our community support teams, pop along to have a chat at one of our events and meet some of our partners, including Neighbourhood Watch, VitaMinds, United in Kind, CVS (Voluntary Services), Mind, Fire Service, Community Agents and many more.

To see when the trailer is next near you, visit [www.brentwood.gov.uk/events](http://www.brentwood.gov.uk/events)

# Bennetts Community Tea Dances

All are welcome to these dances that are inclusive for Adult SEN and Dementia Friendly.

**£5.00**  
(CARERS FREE)

**At the Nightingale Centre, CM14 5GB**

**WEDNESDAYS:**

**20 December 2023**

(Christmas Special) 2pm-4pm

**17 January 2024** 2pm-4pm

**21 February 2024** 2pm-4pm

**20 March 2024** 2pm-4pm

For more information or to pre-book a place, please email: [info@bennettsfunerals.co.uk](mailto:info@bennettsfunerals.co.uk)

These events are supported by Brentwood Borough Council and the Brentwood PCN Social Prescribing Team

# However you are feeling this Christmas, know that you are not alone...



The **NHS** provides a mental health crisis response service for people to have access to urgent care

Call 111  
Select option 2



The **Essex Community Tree** is a network of local organisations who provide support for people that are experiencing mental ill health.

[www.essexcommunitytree.net](http://www.essexcommunitytree.net)



The **Samaritans** offers a safe place for you to talk any time you like, in your own way.

Call 116 123  
24 hours a day



**Shout** is a free, confidential text support service for anyone in the UK who is struggling to cope.

To start a conversation, text the word **SHOUT** to **85258**  
24 hours a day

# Introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy next year

On 15 January 2024, the Council will be introducing a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for new developments. From this date, all planning permissions issued which are included in the Charging Schedule are liable to pay CIL.

## Why introduce a levy in the Borough?

The CIL funds received will contribute towards local infrastructure projects that are needed to support new developments, such as schools, health services, leisure, open spaces and transport improvements.

## How will the levy work?

The charge is set on a £/sqm basis and can be levied for a single dwelling unit or for 100sqm net additional floorspace and over. There are certain exemptions from CIL and these include affordable housing, self-build housing, residential extensions, annexes and development by charities.

### How can I find out more about CIL

Visit our website [www.brentwood.gov.uk/cil](http://www.brentwood.gov.uk/cil)  
Or email us at [cil@brentwood.gov.uk](mailto:cil@brentwood.gov.uk)



# Community Safety in Brentwood

Brentwood Borough Council and the Community Safety Partnership share a dedicated commitment to enhance the quality of life in Brentwood.



Since April 2023, our Community Safety Officers have been involved in 55 joint patrols and 22 community engagement days across the borough.

Working hand in hand with our partners in the Community Safety Partnership, they support crime prevention and aim to reduce anti-social behaviour throughout the borough.

To report instances of anti-social behaviour, visit [www.brentwood.gov.uk/anti-social-behaviour](http://www.brentwood.gov.uk/anti-social-behaviour)

Our Community Safety Officers aim to maintain the safety of Brentwood by focusing on the development, implementation, and monitoring of initiatives aimed at ensuring the wellbeing of residents and making Brentwood a safer and more inviting place to live, work and visit.



Brentwood | Shenfield | Ingatestone

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

## FROM BRENTWOOD CONNECTED BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

**Christmas Trail 18 November to 31 December**

Find all 10 Christmas characters across Brentwood, Shenfield and Ingatestone and enter into the prize draw!

Visit [www.brentwoodconnected.co.uk/christmas](http://www.brentwoodconnected.co.uk/christmas) to download the map.



**For more Christmas activities please visit [www.brentwoodconnected.co.uk/christmas](http://www.brentwoodconnected.co.uk/christmas)**

# The Mayor's Year



Our Borough is, quite frankly, brilliant. Having grown up in Brentwood, it's an absolute privilege to be your Mayor and support valuable local causes.

This year, I will be fundraising for The Daily Bread, YMCA (Brentwood), and the Royal British Legion (Brentwood Branch). Please look out for events, and feel free to sponsor me as I run, alongside some fellow councillors, the Brentwood Half Marathon in March!

Mayor of Brentwood, Councillor Gareth Barrett

As Brentwood's 30th Mayor, I have been delighted to join the local community at events and occasions across the Borough. From launching the Summer Fete at my old school of St Peter's in South Weald, to the Ingatestone & Fryerning Summer Show; the service of remembrance for the American Airmen in West Horndon, joining Brentwood's annual Remembrance Day Parade, Brentwood Town's win in the FA Cup Preliminaries and the victorious first game of Brentwood Rugby Club's season at King George's, I have been inspired by the work of our local community.

Please feel free to invite me to your community group or organisation's event - and I will do my best to join you! Just email [mayors.secretary@brentwood.gov.uk](mailto:mayors.secretary@brentwood.gov.uk) to get in touch.



A young shopper gives his food donation to the Mayor at our Can in a Van donation drive for the Brentwood Food Bank and Daily Bread Café.



Mayor at Brentwood Rugby Club's first game of the season at King George's



Launching the Brentwood Poppy Appeal with Veterans and Volunteers from the Brentwood Branch of the Royal British Legion.



Mayor of Brentwood at the Service of Remembrance in West Horndon for two American Aircrews.

# Your Council – Your Say

The Council is committed to providing genuine opportunities for you to contribute to and inform the decisions we take, the policies we develop and the services we deliver to you.

We have recently launched a new consultation and engagement hub on our website to help you find and take part in consultations and surveys of interest to you.

The hub makes it easier for everyone to:

- Find out what consultations and engagement activities are coming up
- Take part in live consultations and surveys
- Find the results of past consultations and surveys

Don't worry if taking part online isn't for you. There are other ways to make your voice heard. Consultations are supported by our customer services team, who are able to talk you through a survey and record your responses over the phone.

Have your say by visiting [www.brentwood.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.brentwood.gov.uk/consultations)

## Receive council updates straight to your inbox

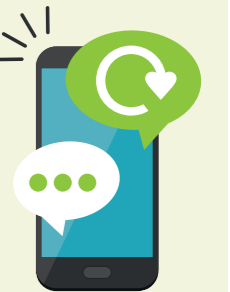
**SIGN UP** to our e-newsletters to receive the latest information on council news, events and job vacancies.

You can subscribe to our resident and business e-newsletters at [www.brentwood.gov.uk/stayconnected](http://www.brentwood.gov.uk/stayconnected)



## Is it bin day?

Ahead of the festive season - sign up to receive free text alerts from us to remind you when to put out your waste and recycling.



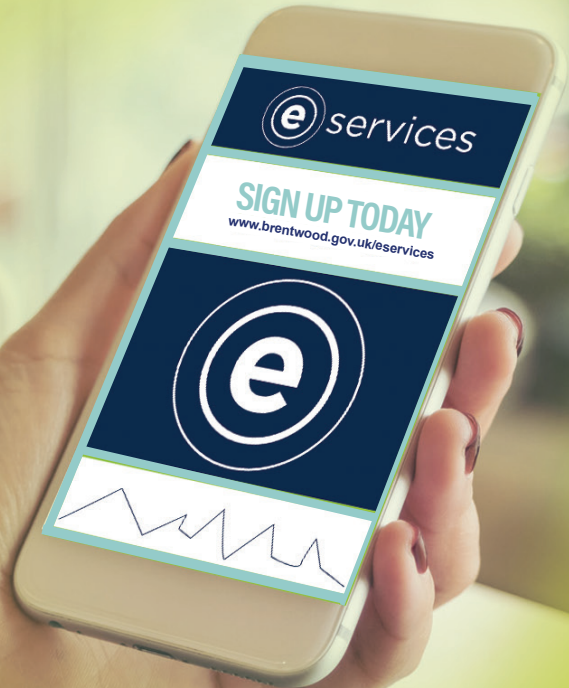
## How does it work?

An automated message is sent to your mobile phone the day before your collection to remind you to put out your waste and recycling. We may also use the service to alert you of any changes to the refuse service.

To find out more or to register for our SMS text reminder service, visit [www.brentwood.gov.uk/textservice](http://www.brentwood.gov.uk/textservice)



# CHECK CHANGE APPLY



Access your Council Tax, Housing Benefit and Business Rates information all in one place!

**Check** outstanding balances and get notified of important updates, available 24 hours a day

**Change** to e-billing, amend contact details and report change of circumstances

**Apply** for discounts and refunds – now even easier and faster

## HAVE YOU SIGNED UP YET?

# SIGN UP TODAY

[www.brentwood.gov.uk/eservices](http://www.brentwood.gov.uk/eservices)



**BRENTWOOD  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**