

Keep in touch with Susan



SUSAN KORTLANDT
Candidate for Brentwood South

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After 30 years as a teacher of modern languages in Brentwood and Havering schools, on retirement Susan became an adviser at Citizens Advice and has also volunteered with Brentwood Mutual Aid during the Covid-19 pandemic. She will campaign for improved access to GPs, better public transport, improved connectivity, more social and carbon-neutral housing and proper repairs to roads, cycleways and footpaths.

"As we come out from the pandemic, I want to reignite and rebuild our town."



End the Second Home Discount!

Local Councillor Gareth Barrett has secured a full review of 'discretionary' Council Tax discounts which are funded by all other Tax Payers. Unlike when residents need financial support, these are not based on your ability to pay and include a discount of 10% on a second home. That means a subsidy of thousands of pounds every year to wealthy second home owners.



High Street Parking Chaos Continues

Despite claims of extra resources for parking enforcement, Cllr Gareth Barrett has again highlighted the blight of illegal parking that continues to make our High Street inaccessible. He has called for new measures to enforce parking restrictions and protect pavements, alongside better management of the disabled bays which are often abused.

Labour Rose

BRENTWOOD SOUTH



Susan Kortlandt is urging Brentwood Council to use its new purchase to bring back a cinema to our town.

INVEST IN OUR TOWN CENTRE - STARTING WITH A CINEMA

With Brentwood Borough Council buying back the Baytree Centre, there is a real opportunity to return a cinema to the hub of our town, protect the ruins as well as Pepperel House, and deliver a shopping centre that is fit for purpose.

Susan Kortlandt, Labour candidate for Brentwood South said: "The Council should invest in this asset, making up

for the history of empty shops and target new retailers who will bring our town centre back to life. We have been told for years that a cinema is coming but left it to developers who have consistently failed to deliver. Now we have this key asset in public ownership, we should use it for the benefit of the public - better shops, enhancement of our historic features and the cinema we have long been promised."



It is time to reconsider part night lighting after Sarah Everard's tragic death

TURN OUR STREETLIGHTS BACK ON - FIX THIS FALSE ECONOMY AND IMPROVE SAFETY

Eight years ago Essex County Council turned off street lights in the middle of the night to save money (around £80,000), despite residents raising real fears of crime and the impact on their own personal safety. In a recent County Council meeting, Essex Labour Councillors again raised their opposition to the policy in the wake of Sarah Everard's tragic death, alongside support for turning the lights back on from the Suzy Lamplugh Trust and many Neighbourhood Watch groups across the county. Even the Conservative Home Secretary and the Prime Minister have called for more streetlights in response to these events.

Susan Kortlandt said, "This has a simple solution - stop penny-pinching and turn the lights back on - make us feel safer again."

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Fast Charging for Brentwood

As electric cars become more common, accessing fast charging will be the next great infrastructure challenge for Brentwood.

In response Brentwood Council has only installed a handful of points - with the only public site at Brentwood Town Hall. Meanwhile in Braintree they have opened one of the country's first all electric forecourts - with systems that can add 200 miles of driving range in 20 minutes - to up to 36 cars at a time.

Cllr Tim Barrett said: "We need to be ambitious and future facing, not small scale. We need to reach out and get a fast charging forecourt, get ahead of the challenge and improve our town's air quality."

New trees welcome, but we need to think bigger to tackle the climate crisis



A programme to plant more trees across Brentwood is a step to be welcomed. However, if we are serious about tackling the climate crisis, much greater action is required.

We should be pursuing Zero Carbon homes, harnessing solar technology and improving Council processes - from electrifying its waste collection fleet to making Council Housing fit for the future. Brentwood and Essex are two of the few councils (25% of the total) who have not declared a Climate Emergency with a clear, declared ambition to become Carbon Net Zero. By not sending this message and making clear the commitment to tackle climate change, our local Councils are failing our future generations.

Susan Kortlandt said: "If elected my first act will be to propose Brentwood and Essex declare a Climate Emergency, set out an ambition to tackle it and avert this serious, generational crisis."