

# Labour Rose

**BRENTWOOD AND WARLEY  
SPECIAL EDITION**

## HAPPY NEW YEAR! MOVING FORWARD IN 2022

### LOCAL ACTION UPDATES

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**INVESTING IN OUR TOWN**  
 Local Councillors secured funding to renovate Pepperell House (on the High Street) and in our multi-storey car park. A new plan for the Baytree Centre is due soon.
- 
**THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY**  
 We secured agreement that the Council will use all the tools available to make Brentwood carbon neutral by 2040, working with local groups and businesses.
- 
**TACKLING PARKING CHAOS**  
 A new pilot with planters is restricting some of the illegal High Street parking – but with enforcement still managed from Chelmsford problems remain.
- 
**POTHoles AND ROAD REPAIRS**  
 We are pushing for Essex County Council to take responsibility for the increasingly dire state of our roads – actually fixing our High Street and roads.
- 
**NEW HOMES FOR BRENTWOOD**  
 We proposed a policy for Brentwood's Development Partnership to only build homes of the highest standards and meet social housing requirements.



Delivering for local residents and making sure 2022 is a year of progress for the Council are the key priorities for Cllrs Tim and Gareth Barrett.

### 2021 presented new challenges to all of us and had a major impact on our community

As we hopefully emerge from the global pandemic, it is time for us to look forward to the future and what we want to deliver for our local community. Our local services have faced unprecedented challenges, and we have demonstrated real public spirit in looking after each other. This gives us an amazing foundation to build from to deliver the Brentwood we all deserve.

Our key services such as libraries, parks and leisure centres must be protected, and invested in for the generations ahead. With the Baytree Centre we have an opportunity to revitalise our town centre, while taking on the real

challenges we face with antisocial behaviour and the negatives of the night time economy.

We believe the Council cannot continue business as usual, we need a new administration with vision and a real will to act. Not a cycle of continuing council tax rises while services are cut, and still not plugging the millions in funding gaps. Brentwood Council needs to deliver value for money and be truly ambitious in investing in the community to create a long term, stable future for our local services. Your local Labour Councillors will be doing everything they can to make 2022 the year this happen!

## YOUR LOCAL LABOUR TEAM



**CLLR GARETH BARRETT  
BRENTWOOD SOUTH**  
 Leader of the Labour Group  
 @GarethPBarrett  
 garth@brentwoodlabour.org.uk  
 07799 117301

Gareth leads on issues surrounding finance, assets and economic development.



**SUSAN KORTLANDT  
WARLEY**  
 Local Campaigner  
 @BwdOngrLabour  
 susan@brentwoodlabour.org.uk  
 07792 096802

Susan is a local campaigner with a special interest in housing and the environment.



**CLLR DR TIM BARRETT  
BRENTWOOD SOUTH**  
 Planning and Environment Lead  
 @TimNBarrett  
 tim@brentwoodlabour.org.uk  
 07799 116952

Tim works on planning, environment and housing issues, as well as community facilities.

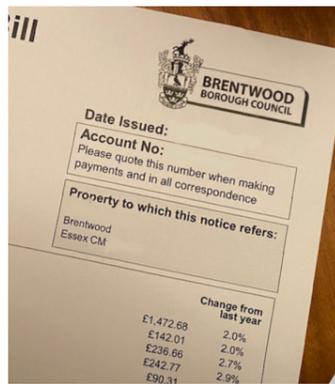


**DR RICHARD MILLWOOD  
WARLEY**  
 Local Campaigner  
 @richardmillwood  
 richard@brentwoodlabour.org.uk  
 07790 558641

An active local volunteer, Richard works to hold the Council to account for its performance.

## Second Home Discount ends

After a six year campaign, Cllr Gareth Barrett's efforts to have the Second Home Council Tax discount abolished - where owners of a second home got a 10% reduction in their Council Tax Bill - has been successful. He said: 'At a time when all of us have faced increasing bills it seemed absurd that Brentwood still gave an optional discount - worth potentially hundreds of pounds every year - to second home owners. I am so pleased that it will be abolished and, alongside removing other discounts, over £125,000 saved.'



Thanks to Cllr Gareth Barrett, Brentwood residents will no longer be subsidising second home's Council Tax Bill.

## Baytree Centre: Your Views



What are your priorities for the Council as plans investment into the Baytree Centre?

"I remember queuing in the rain for our much missed cinema and would love to see it return."

Brentwood Council will soon be preparing its plans and proposals for the future of the Baytree Centre. We want to hear from you what you want in the precinct, what facilities are needed and your priorities for this town centre hub.

Cllr Tim Barrett said: "I remember queuing in the rain for our much missed cinema and would love to see it return - but it's really important that we hear all of your views for what you want the Council to deliver for the entire community!"

## Building on Green Belt approved against officer advice

Over the past year the Conservative majority on Brentwood's Planning Committee has approved two housing developments on Green Belt land in the Borough - land that is meant to be protected from development. These developments in Doddinghurst and Hutton totalled over 20 properties, were made against planning officers recommendations and without any opposition councillor support.

Cllr Tim Barrett said: 'The Green Belt, introduced by Labour in 1947, protects

the green spaces of our semi-rural town and offers conservation of our natural environment. Building on our Green Belt is meant only to be permitted in very special circumstances. In both of these cases the council officers advised neither development met this criterion. These permissions set a very bad precedent indeed ahead of a new Local Development Plan that will already open up much of our precious green space to development'.



Cllr Dr Tim Barrett is determined to protect the precious green spaces in our town.

# Disappointment as Brentwood Council vote down Climate Emergency declaration

A Brentwood Labour Party motion to declare a climate Emergency, was rejected after being voted down by the Conservative administration. It had detailed the current climate science and need for urgent action, pointing out that: "Councils and Parliaments around the world are responding by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and committing resources to address this emergency." Other Labour proposed climate change resolutions did see some success, committing the Council to do everything within the Council's power to make Brentwood Borough Council area carbon neutral by 2040 - however even this was a lower ambition than the 2030 target originally proposed.

Cllr Tim Barrett said: 'The administration still fail to appreciate both the importance and imminence of the climate crisis - as well as the responsibility we have to acknowledge the challenge and make changes necessary to tackle it'.



"We have to acknowledge the challenge and make changes necessary to tackle it."

## LET US KNOW IF WE CAN HELP...



"If you see a fly tip, drop us a line and a picture - we'll escalate it with the Council and get it cleared as soon as possible."

**CLLR GARETH BARRETT**

"If you have a concern about a planning issue and want some advice please get in touch - we can help make sure the best case possible is made."



**CLLR DR TIM BARRETT**

## Enough is enough! Time for action on anti-social behaviour



Many of Brentwood's residents have experienced a challenging environment as they look to go about their daily lives with clear examples of anti-social and criminal behaviour. The tragic death of two young boys in the town centre has had a real impact on many residents feelings about the local community and their own lives. The challenges are not simple, and the solutions require collaboration across the community.

Cllr Gareth Barrett said: 'We must draw a line in the sand that says enough. Councils, the Police and youth services must think long and hard about what we can do to make sure something like this never happens again - restoring Brentwood to being a great place to live for all of us.'



## THE HIGH STREET PAVEMENTS ARE NOT A CAR PARK!

Following repeated calls from your Brentwood South Labour Councillors to address the high level of illegal parking on the High Street's pavements, the council has begun a trial of immobile flower planters in an effort to prevent this. This trial is very limited in scope, but if it proves successful will be expanded - this is also important as areas without the new planters have already found themselves with the problem simply moved up the High Street.

Cllr Gareth Barrett said: 'The illegal parking is a threat to pedestrian safety. We should be able to walk on the pavement unhindered, let alone the restriction on the flow of traffic particularly for buses. These new planters could be a useful first step in preventing inconsiderate parking and may brighten up the High Street at the same time. However alone they will not tackle problem - we need greater enforcement powers, returning the authority for parking back to Brentwood, alongside fines that are actually effective in deterring illegal parking - especially for reoffenders.'



## BRENTWOOD COUNCIL FACES A MAJOR BUDGET CHALLENGE

Brentwood Council is facing an incredibly challenging financial reality, following the impact of more than a decade of Tory Government cuts. In accounts presented in December, a deficit of over £2.3 million for 2022/23 was indicated - more than 10% of the total budget for day to day services. Even more challenging is the Council only has 2.8 million in reserves - and on current estimates this could be exhausted in only three years. This includes the extra income being generated by over £60 million in asset purchases, which were bought through public sector loans.

## Reconnecting Brentwood: The saga of the Town Centre mobile phone signal!

Residents and businesses continue to receive a poor mobile signal in Brentwood Town Centre. It is now nearly two years since the mobile masts were removed from Ewing House in Kings Road.

Planning permission has been granted for masts on Masefield Court and Coptfold Road Multi-storey as well as two temporary sites but still no replacement masts have been put up.

Cllr Gareth Barrett said; 'This remains a shambles, the mobile companies knew four years ago these masts were coming down and had no plans for replacement, the Council has also been slow to act. We have raised this with the Council and the mobile firms constantly with each blaming the other. Sites have now been identified as well as many local businesses offering their roofs, it is time to for them to jump the last hurdle and reconnect Brentwood!'

"It is time to for them to jump the last hurdle and reconnect Brentwood!"



# Working to make a real difference for local people and our community