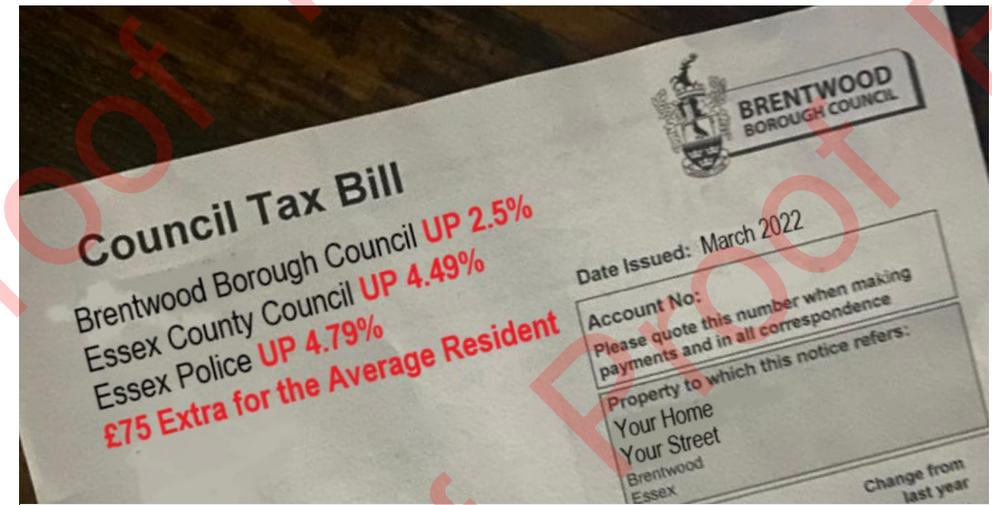


Labour Rose

BRENTWOOD AND WARLEY



The Conservative administration has pushed through the maximum allowed rise in Brentwood's Council Tax and Council Rents.

BRENTWOOD DESERVES BETTER THAN TAX RISES AND RENT HIKES

Brentwood Council's Conservative administration forced through a plan that will hit our residents hard with rent hikes and Council Tax rises. This is alongside less effective investment in our community's services across the Borough. With a 4.1% hike in rents, 2.5% rise in Brentwood's tax bill, 4.49% rise from Essex County Council and 4.79% increase for the Police - a Band D property will pay £75 extra.

Cllr Gareth Barrett said: "Since the 2015 local elections, when the Conservatives returned to power in Brentwood, Council Tax has risen 18%, while council spending has fallen 9%. We are paying more and getting less. We're in a cost of living crisis and the Council is kicking our residents at the worst possible time. That's the Conservative legacy in our town. Brentwood deserves better."



Phone mast chaos continues...

Town centre residents are getting increasingly frustrated that despite planning approval for two new masts, mobile providers and the Council have not agreed Building Regulations to start construction. The long running issue, that began back in 2019, needs a resolution. Residents are encouraged to ask for a refund from their mobile operator.



Brentwood's Climate Plan Scores 0%!

Brentwood Council's climate plan scored 0% (zero!) in the first review from Climate Emergency UK of local authorities' approach to taking on the climate crisis. This follows the voting down of Councillor Tim Barrett's proposal to declare a Climate Emergency and watering down our proposals to achieve Net Zero in Brentwood by 2030.

Keep in touch with us



GARETH BARRETT

Councillor for Brentwood South

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ABOUT GARETH

Gareth leads the local team on issues surrounding finance, assets and economic development. He has been a Councillor since 2014 and is Leader of the Labour Group. Outside of being a Councillor he works in the water sector and holds a PhD in Public Policy.



DR TIM BARRETT

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MEET TIM

Dr Tim Barrett has a passion for planning, environment and housing issues, as well as promoting community facilities. He has served as a Councillor since 2019 and is a local volunteer with the Scouts. He has lived in Brentwood all his life and works in medical research.



SUSAN KORTLANDT

Local Campaigner for Warley

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A LOCAL CAMPAIGNER

Susan is a retired teacher, with experience within Citizens Advice and local community groups. She continues to run a campaign to 'Reconnect Brentwood' following the lack of action by mobile operators and the Council to deliver a decent signal. She has a special interest in housing and the environment.



This 'pothole' in Ingrave Road is 10 metres long, 80cm wide and up to 15cm in depth.

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL CUTS HIGHWAYS BUDGET BY £5.7 MILLION DESPITE POTHOLE CHAOS ON OUR ROADS

In this year's County Council Budget, despite a 4.49% increase in Council Tax, the Conservative Administration voted to cut the amount spent on our roads by £5.7 million in the year ahead.

The state of local roads remains one of the major issues reported by residents, with patchwork repairs of potholes, unsafe paths and even newly laid roads coming apart because of shoddy workmanship.

Susan Kortlandt said: "This is an absurd response by the Conservatives on Essex County Council when our roads are falling apart. In the last few weeks we have seen more residents report damage to vehicles and trips or falls because of the current state of roads and paths. This shows a complete lack of understanding of how bad our roads are and no respect for our residents."

"This is an absurd response by the Conservatives on Essex County Council when our roads are falling apart."



ACTION ON PARKING IN TOWN CENTRE ROADS

Following residents raising concerns about the business use of residential streets for parking, we organised extra patrols to target this problem.

With examples surrounding the UKPN depot on Rose Valley and vehicles working on the Broadband rollout gathering in Gresham Road, both South Essex Parking Partnership and the Council's Enforcement team will be making extra visits.

Cllr Gareth Barrett said: "This has a real impact on safety and amenity, with idling vans affecting air quality. We will keep pushing for action and stop this abuse of residents' parking."

NEW FACILITIES FINALLY SET TO OPEN AT KING GEORGE'S



After multiple delays, the controversial new Pavilion at King George's Playing Fields is set to open on March 12th. Alongside this, the Splash Pads, which were due to open last summer, will now be ready for the spring season if the weather allows.

The next steps at the site will see the removal of the older buildings and the restoration of this area to green space. Your local Labour Councillors are emphasising the importance of this restoration and the replacement of trees felled to allow for works in the playparks. This is really important to make sure that this public space remains as open to residents in the future as it was for previous generations. Benches and bins that were removed should also be replaced to make sure that the site is accessible for all, as well as clean and tidy.

Cllr Dr Tim Barrett said: "It is a relief that we have reached this stage but the next steps, restoring our green playing fields, are even more important."