Keep in touch with us

DR TIM BARRETT

Councillor for Brentwood South

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Dr Tim Barrett is the leader of Brentwood Labour Group, a role which he first took up this year. He has a passion for planning, environment and housing issues, as well as promoting community facilities. His successful motions have seen Brentwood take a renewed focus to achieving net zero and improving planning standards. Tim 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 Cancer research.

DR GARETH BARRETT

Councillor for Brentwood South

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Gareth focusses for the local team on issues surrounding scrutiny, finance, assets and economic development. He is the current Deputy Mayor of Brentwood, which is a civic role and means he often represents the Borough of Brentwood at community events. He has been a Councillor since 2014, recently re-elected for a third time in 2022. Outside of being a Councillor he commutes into London, working for a major communications company and holds a PhD in Politics.

Phone mast saga continues

Despite having a 'temporary' mast on a public green for six months, the Council and the mobile mast network operators have not made any significant progress on a permanent solution. Cllr Gareth Barrett said: "We need to make sure a deal is done on a sensible, permanent home for this mast and soon."

Concerns about 'planning free for all'

With Essex County Council expressing interest in the Government's low regulation 'investment zones', Brentwood Labour are concerned at the prospect of fewer environmental regulations, scrapping planning rules such as affordable housing and losing green space protections this could bring.

BRENTWOOD ROSE

The latest news from your local Labour team

Cllr Dr Tim Barrett wants to know your views on the future plans for the Baytree Centre, which now includes a new cinema for Brentwood.

COUNCIL PUBLISHES PLANS FOR BAYTREE CENTRE RENOVATION

Brentwood Borough Council has published plans for the renovation of the Baytree Centre, which will be available for public inspection and comments in early November.

The plans include a re-routing with the entrance from New Road (near the Library) removed and a new entrance from South Street. They propose to convert the current yard area into new houses, new shops and restaurants and build a brand new cinema for Brentwood. If approved the building should start in 2023 and finish in 2024.

Cllr Dr Tim Barrett said: "We want to hear residents' views on the plans. The plans meet our election commitment to bring back a cinema to the town but we must make sure they really deliver for Brentwood."

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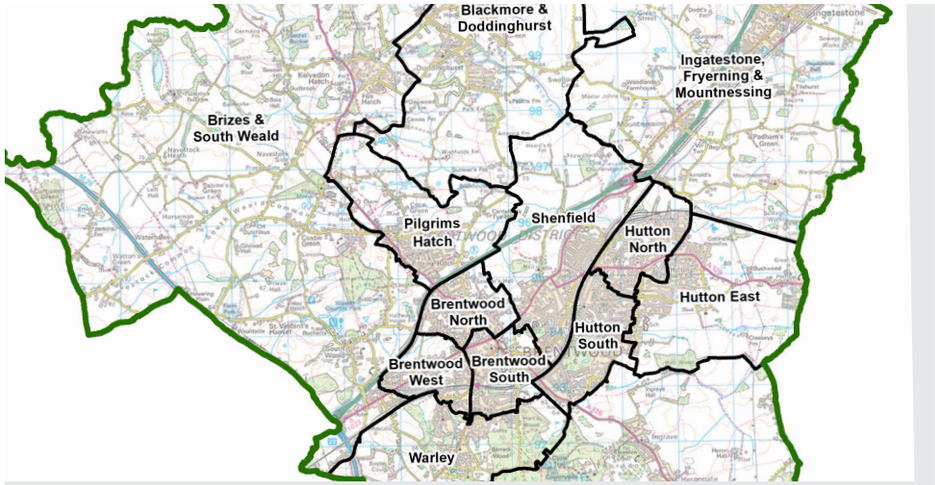

The proposals see a new pattern of 13 wards, all roughly of the same size, to be represented by 39 councillors.

SHAKE UP OF BRENTWOOD COUNCIL WARDS MEAN MAJOR CHANGES FROM 2024

Brentwood Borough Council is going through a Boundary Review which means the make up of 'wards' which are represented by Councillors are being restructured. Residents of wards around the town centre and the station are likely to see significant changes.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has put forward recommendations that the existing Brentwood South Ward is split. The Three Arch and Newham estates are proposed to join with areas that make up Hutton South (including areas such as Brocksparkwood off Hanging Hill Lane and all the way up to Hutton Mount). The town centre and Hogarth areas are proposed to join with areas north of the High Street and the roads south of the station up to Woodman Road while retaining the Brentwood South name.

You can find out more and have your say at: https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/essex/brentwood

MAPLE CLOSE DEVELOPMENT DELAYS?

Local residents are still waiting to hear when, or if, the Maple Close site will be redeveloped, including Maple Hall. The site received planning permission almost two years ago to build affordable homes and rebuild the hall. The site now has derelict garages with no signs of activity.

Cllr Dr Tim Barrett said: "We need clarity on what is happening and cannot be left in limbo any longer."

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ESSEX LABOUR CALL FOR INSPECTION OF HIGHWAYS REPAIRS

Last year, the Conservative administration at Essex County Council, who are responsible for our roads and paths, voted through a £1 billion contract with Ringway Jacobs, who have been responsible for maintaining our roads for the last decade. Essex Labour recently called for inspections for highways works, addressing residents' concerns about poor workmanship and wastage of taxpayers' money. The Conservatives voted against this claiming there was no issue with repairs. In the County budget this year a further £5 million was cut from highways despite the mounting problems we are seeing with potholes and the current state of Brentwood High Street.

Cllr Dr Tim Barrett said, "Even when we have action on highways repairs, the work is of such low quality it often cracks or is in need of further repair in a very short period. Our money should be spent effectively, with repairs completed quickly and to a high standard so that they don't just return year on year."