

Shenfield Library

Essex County Council is working closely with Brentwood Borough Council over proposals for the new library in Shenfield. Whilst Essex is responsible for the planning application they are making sure that Brentwood Council has good input into the project. Council Leader Cllr Chris Hossack is already in regular contact with County Cllr Susan Barker over the project and this will continue.

Essex County Council will be performing a Covid safe public consultation (due to physical public meetings being impractical at present). Thomas Heard, Cllr Jan Pound and Cllr James Tumbridge will be making sure that residents are advised of the timelines for the consultation as soon as they are confirmed.



As a teacher, Conservative Candidate Thomas Heard is keen to see the library service improved.

6 POINT LIBRARY COMMITMENT

Essex County Council has committed to the following :

- 1 Develop a modern new library and community hub for Shenfield.
- 2 Incorporate open, green communal space around the Library.
- 3 Update IT facilities & continue to regularly rotate books.
- 4 Professional staff to run the library.
- 5 Consult on the library site redevelopment plans, prior to planning submission.
- 6 Provide a temporary library during the re-building period.

A GREENER BOROUGH

Your local Conservative council is tackling the carbon agenda by introducing measures that reduce the amount of carbon we produce and also increase absorption of what we produce through tree planting.

We are looking at additional locations where we can plant trees of the appropriate species that will both enhance the environment and increase carbon



If you know of a good site for planting a tree then let Jan, James or Thomas know.

absorption. With tough objectives to achieve Zero Carbon in South Essex by 2040 it is important that we work in partnership with organisations such as the Woodland Trust and the Forestry Commission to achieve the right levels of planting.

"Trees are a vital element of any town or village. They not only benefit the environment but also provide a home to a range of wildlife and improve our quality of life. The tree planting planned by our Conservative Council is an excellent initiative and should be supported." **Thomas Heard**

'GREEN' BENCH REPAIR REQUESTED

Your Conservative team has placed a request for the wooden bench opposite Shenfield Station to be refurbished with locally grown timber. We will update you in our next newsletter.



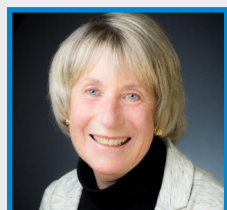
Your Local Conservative Team is here to help !

Promoted by Keith Barber, on behalf of Brentwood & Ongar Conservative Association, all of 19 Crown Street, Brentwood, Essex, CM14 4BA. Printed by Solopress, 9 Stock Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS2 5QF.



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Local News Update for Shenfield Residents

Sep / Oct 2020

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Produced at no cost to the taxpayer by your LOCAL Conservatives



Shenfield Campaigner : **THOMAS HEARD**

Thank you ALL for your help fighting the virus

The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic back in March saw Brentwood Borough Council having to take on an entirely new role as a first responder. Not something that was anticipated at the beginning of the year.

The first priority was to get vital information out to residents and with the fantastic help of many volunteers we managed to deliver the information pack out to 30,000 homes in the first weekend before the lockdown took effect across the country.

With such an amazing volunteer effort coming forward locally it was important that the Council helped co-ordinate those efforts and channel help to where it was needed most. Weekly co-ordination meetings took place throughout the pandemic and we continue to hold them on a monthly basis.

"From the first few days the Council's focus was to help the vulnerable in the community, especially the elderly."

Supporting local businesses was another huge effort, especially the allocation of vital government grant funding to businesses. Approx £29 million were put into the bank accounts of Brentwood based businesses over the next months. Regular conference calls with the business community continue, as Brentwood monitors the recovery effort and the effect of initiatives that have been put in place working with partners such as Brentwood Chamber of Commerce and Business Partnership.

Early on panic buying was a problem so the Council responded by initiating the 'can in a van' scheme to collect food donations from town centre supermarkets. All of this was stored at a makeshift foodbank in the Town Hall and distributed to those in need via local volunteer hubs over the Borough.



Jan and Thomas supporting the **SHENFIELD OPEN** > initiative - Eat Local. Shop Local. Support Local.

The Council could not have supported the community without the help of many volunteers so a big thank you to all the individuals, community groups and charities involved.

It is important that Brentwood residents continue to 'stay alert' to the threat which is still posed by Covid-19, especially as we start to see localised lockdowns being introduced in areas of the UK where there are spikes in infection rates. Thank you Shenfield !

"The response from local residents was nothing short of amazing with Brentwood showing what a solid community base it has that looks out for others."

Council Leader Chris Hossack

Jan, James and Thomas



Inside

- Hutton FC new facility
- New Play Equipment
- Recycling Changes

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

You may have heard that the Government are likely to publish a 'white paper' in October that sets out their plans for the delivery of significant Local Government reforms. Whilst we don't have the details yet, it seems likely that the Government will want to introduce across the UK what are known as Combined Authorities that are underpinned by Unitary Authorities. It is anticipated that these would then replace the traditional County and Borough/District Council model.

As the white paper has not even been published we do not have the detail as to what size these unitary Councils might be, let alone what shape they might take in Essex.

We will ensure that all residents of Brentwood are kept up to date with the facts once they become available to us.

Recycling

August saw the launch of the new recycling scheme in separate bags on alternate weeks. Blue Bags for paper and cardboard and White Bags for cans and plastics. The majority of residents have taken well to the new scheme with 66,000 bags being collected in the first few weeks and only a small % rejected. Each week there is a further reduction in rejected sacks as people get more familiar with the new scheme. The majority of rejections related to polythene and plastic bags being included which were never recyclable before. The Council is listening to residents and has already acted on feedback received as follows :

- **Smaller Bags Available** - Concerns were received by some households about the size of the bags so we have ordered smaller bags for those that would like them.
- **Extra Bags Available** - Any household needing an additional Blue or White bag can collect these from the Town Hall on a Wednesday. There is no charge for extra bags.
- **Tetrapaks** - We are actively exploring potential re-cycling partners and schemes to handle these and will keep you updated.

Hutton FC will have a new home in Shenfield

Thomas Heard was enthusiastic to hear from Kevin Lorkins, Club Secretary at Hutton FC, about the exciting plans the Club has for its new 13 acre facility at Chelmsford Road in Shenfield.

Kevin explained that it has been a long journey for the club, which boasts in excess of 60 teams and is one of the largest community clubs in Essex, to acquire much needed extra pitches.



Hutton Football Club which has players from 3 years old up to seniors, wants to keep its association as close as possible to the Hutton area and this new facility in Shenfield does just that by making it accessible for the local players. Having obtained the planning permission some years ago and recently secured £650K in funding from The Football Foundation, the project is now in a much stronger position to progress and provide players with a great facility to train and play football. Kevin is really appreciative of the support he has received over the years from Conservative Councillors to help keep moving this project forward.

"There is more work to do but we have come a long way and it has required a lot of persistence but I am hopeful that in the not too distant future we will see football being played on these fields, it's a really exciting prospect and I am so pleased for the club" - **Council Leader Chris Hossack**



Kevin Lorkins showing Thomas Heard the new football site.

We were right to fight for Crescent Drive residents

Shenfield Residents will be aware that in December the council's Planning Committee turned down an application for 85 units put forward by a developer on the former Blood Bank site in Crescent Drive.

The developer put an appeal in to the Planning Inspector to challenge the refusal decision. Council Leader Chris Hossack and the Chief Executive engaged directly with the Crescent Drive Resident Association to formulate a plan as to how best fight the appeal and on what grounds.

Eventually the case was heard by the inspector and despite our best efforts, unfortunately the inspector found in favour of the developer and sadly the development will now proceed.



Thomas Heard and Cllr Jan Pound outside the former blood bank site in Crescent Drive.

"It is important that we fight against proposed developments that we feel would have a detrimental impact on our local community. In this case Brentwood Council demonstrated it was prepared to do just that. It is very disappointing that we were not successful on this occasion but it was a battle that we had to fight for our local residents. We will continue to stand up for our residents whenever we feel that a planning application is inappropriate." **Councillor Jan Pound**

More new play equipment rolled out for Brentwood children



Just a few of the latest new items of play equipment now being enjoyed by more local children across Brentwood

Work has recently been completed on the refurbishment of the toddler play areas at King Georges Playing Fields and River Road in South Weald. These play areas were opened on 11th July and have been very well received by children and parents. Further refurbished play areas will be completed later this financial year, including Hutton. The play areas are accessible so they can be enjoyed by all.

In addition, The Strawberry Fayre and Family Fun Days were undertaken as virtual events this year because of COVID-19. The events were all very successful - with different themed activities for children and the whole family. Great credit to all of the staff at Brentwood Council & local community groups.