

Protecting our heritage

The Ruins of the Old Chapel of St Thomas a Becket received a welcome set of improvements recently thanks to Brentwood Borough Council. A pair of Oak door facades



The Chapel Ruins are an iconic part of Brentwood's history.

have been fitted to improve the appearance of this important town centre monument. The oak used was part of the 'I grew up in Brentwood' initiative to use locally sourced timber from council owned woodland to enhance public areas and street furniture. The chapel was originally built back in 1221 by the Abbot of St Osyth. The chapel ruins are Graded II listed and are a key part of Brentwood's history.



Andy Wiles, by the newly installed protective doors.

A GREENER BRENTWOOD

Your local Conservative council at Brentwood 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 also working with partners such as Essex County Council to identify additional locations where we can plant trees of the appropriate species that will both enhance the environment and increase carbon 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.



Planting trees is one of the most simple and effective ways of taking CO2 out of the atmosphere to help the environment.

"The tree planting planned by our Conservative Borough Council is something that I strongly support. Not only does this improve our environment and air quality but it also makes a huge difference to the quality of life in roads, parks and open green spaces." **Andy Wiles**

Your Local Conservative Team for Brentwood South 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. Oct 2020



ALEX BURGHART MP

Member of Parliament
alex.burghart.mp@parliament.uk



ANDY WILES

Conservative Campaigner
andy4brentwood@gmail.com



ROGER HIRST

Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner
pfcc@essex.pnn.police.uk



Local News Update for Brentwood South Residents

Oct / Nov 2020

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Produced at no cost to the taxpayer by your LOCAL Conservatives



Local Campaigner : **ANDY WILES**

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.

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

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 initial stages and continue to be held regularly.

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



As someone who works in retail Andy Wiles is a strong supporter of SHOPPING LOCAL

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.

The Council could not have supported the community without the help of the 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.



Cllr Noelle Hones and Council Leader Cllr Chris Hossack supporting 'Can in a Van'



Inside

- King George's Play Area
- Recycling Changes
- New Police Officers

Andy Wiles : 07738 638 648 @ **Andy4Brentwood@gmail.com**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

You may have heard that the Government are expected to publish a 'white paper' on Local Government reform. As a result of the resurgence of COVID-19 this may not now happen until next year. Whilst we don't have the details, it is possible that the Government may want to introduce what are known as Combined Authorities which are underpinned by Unitary Authorities across the country. It is anticipated that these may then replace the traditional County and Borough/District Council model.

As the white paper has not even been published yet we do not have any reliable details as to the what size the unitary Councils might be, and what shape they might take in Essex.

We will of course ensure that the residents of Brentwood are kept fully up to date once the **facts** are made available.

BRINGING CRIME DOWN



Andy with PFCC Roger Hirst supporting the 20,000 new Police Officers underway.

Brentwood and Essex are already benefiting from additional Police Officers as part of the initiative spearheaded by Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Roger Hirst.

Since his election as PFCC 515 new officers have been appointed across Essex - including new officers based here in Brentwood. Another 300 are planned as part of the government's 20,000 uplift programme.



MORE GOOD NEWS :

- **Community Policing Teams** have been doubled including a new Town Centre team for Brentwood.
- **Police based at Brentwood Town Hall** showing a strong commitment to Brentwood by Essex Police.
- **Bringing Crime Down across Essex.** Anti-Social Behaviour was down by 11%; Robbery & Burglary down by 14% and Theft down by 8%. The focus now is on drug-related violence and domestic abuse.

All figures are to March 2020.

Conservatives will fund **20,000 NEW POLICE OFFICERS** to help them do the job of fighting crime & anti-social behaviour.

Recycling Update

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.

DID YOU KNOW ?

The change eliminates millions of single-use plastic bags each year. This not only helps the environment but also raises extra money which is used to help fund the retention of a **weekly** collection of black bags across the Borough.



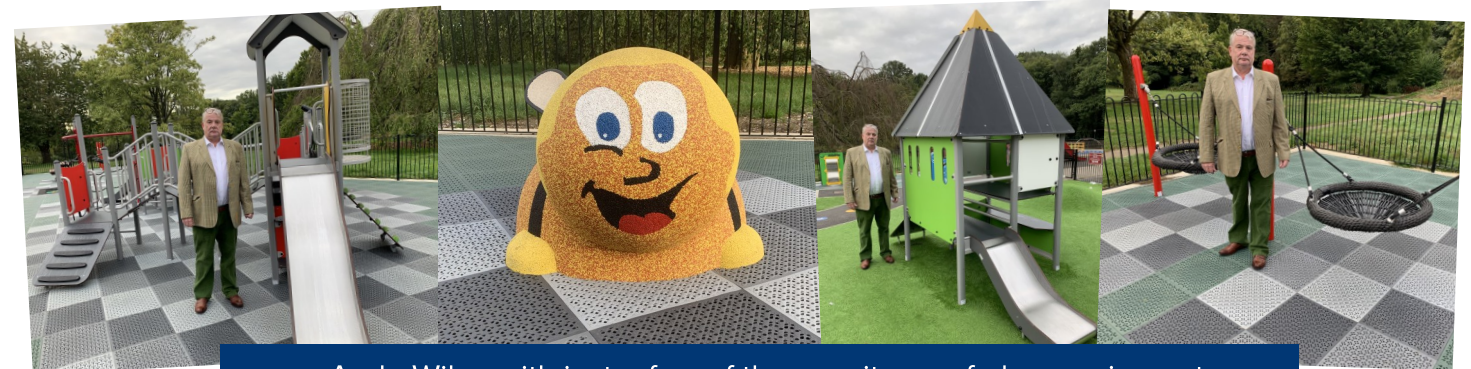
New play equipment rolled out at King George's Playing Fields

Work has recently been completed on the refurbishment of the toddler play areas at King Georges Playing Fields. The play area was opened along with River Road in South Weald on 11th July and both have been very well received by children and parents. Further refurbished play areas will be completed across the Borough later this financial year. The new play areas are accessible so that they can be enjoyed by all children.

"The new play equipment recently installed at King George's Playing Fields is a huge success and very popular. They really do have some great new exciting pieces of equipment there and it is all of a very high quality. My own grandchildren love playing on the new equipment. Brentwood Conservative run Council really has done a great job ! " - Andy Wiles



Andy Wiles outside the main entrance to King George's Playing Fields



Andy Wiles with just a few of the new items of play equipment now being enjoyed by children at King George's Playing Fields

BRENTWOOD TOWN CENTRE NEWS

BRENTWOOD'S WAR MEMORIAL

Brentwood Council Leader Chris Hossack managed to secure the repair of the footpaths around Brentwood's War Memorial at the junction of Middleton Hall Road and Shenfield Road. These repairs now make it much safer for pedestrians including local school children as well as making sure that we keep the area in a state befitting Brentwood's fallen heroes.

ST THOMAS' CHURCHYARD

Brentwood Council has recently been undertaking work in the churchyard of St Thomas' delivering a whole programme of improvements to the shrubbery to make the area less overgrown and safer to enjoy. The work includes the planting of bulbs ready for the spring. This valuable town centre green space can now be fully enjoyed by both local residents and town centre workers alike.

