

# Building a Better Brentwood



**Andy Wiles, Conservative Candidate for Brentwood South**

**Brentwood south Conservative Candidate Andy Wiles is asking for your support on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May so that he can help to take the Borough forward for local residents.**

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May there will be several important local elections in the Borough. Before you place your cross in the box this election time, we would like to set out the reasons why we believe that you should vote Conservative at these elections.

## Responding to the Covid-19 Pandemic

Last year was one of the toughest years for decades and many people have suffered, from students, to business owners, to the elderly.

During the past year, we have dealt with many crisis moments. The Leisure Trust became insolvent, and the Brentwood Centre closed. We reopened it again within a month, as promised. It now functions as a vaccination centre, vital to fighting the virus. We have been working in new ways with new partners, managing the crisis and have transferred over £35 million in grant funding to local businesses.

## Looking Beyond The Pandemic

Brentwood Borough Council, under a Conservative administration, has risen to the challenge and delivered over the last 12 months. Not only have we dealt with the fallout of the pandemic, but we have continued to deliver our positive programme for our Borough.

The refurbishment of King Georges Park is well underway; you will have seen new play areas being installed. Our major investment in leisure at KGPF is progressing well and will benefit the community. The Local Development Plan for the Borough is with the Inspector.



We continue to make investments across the Borough to deliver our plan to regenerate Brentwood for the benefit of residents.

## Local Council Tax Frozen

Brentwood Borough Council, like all local councils, has been hit hard financially by this pandemic. However, despite this under the Conservatives, Brentwood Council has been able to deliver a balanced budget. There will be **NO COUNCIL TAX INCREASE** for Brentwood this year and **NO REDUCTION TO FRONTLINE SERVICES**. This is the right thing to do, when people are under such financial pressure at home. We have been able to do this because we run the council prudently.

## Delivering our plan for the Borough

We want to be able to continue to deliver our exciting plan for Brentwood Borough over the coming years :

- Growing the Economy** – Town centre investment and a new local on-line shopping initiative “Click It”.
- Protecting our Environment** – Planting thousands of trees, starting to install Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Points for cars and clamping down on litter.
- Developing our Communities** – More play areas for 2021 and continued community events.
- Improving our Housing** – Building new homes as part of our regeneration plans.
- Delivering an Effective and Efficient Council** – Tax freeze, pay freeze and reduction in allowances.



**Conservative Candidate Andy Wiles with the EV charging point installed at the town hall.**

It is the Conservatives who have delivered this comprehensive plan for Brentwood. We have an exciting vision to take our Borough forward and look forward to be able to keep delivering it. With your support we will build upon recent successes for the benefit of all local residents. Whilst we will never claim to be perfect we will always try to listen.

Many thanks. **Andy Wiles**

**Over £10 million investment in leisure across Brentwood**

## KING GEORGE'S PARK IMPROVEMENTS

**Brentwood Borough Council is investing over £10million to improve leisure facilities across the Borough. One of the major things to be delivered as part of this programme of investment are new facilities at King George's Playing Fields.**

Following the approval of plans for a new pavilion, exciting new external play equipment and even a new splash pad facility, building work commenced at King George's Park in January.



**Andy with some of the great new equipment**

Whilst the pavilion is scheduled to complete next year it is hoped that some of the external facilities will be available earlier. The upgrade to King George's Park includes a revamp of the toddler, junior and senior play areas too.

**The £7.7million upgrade to King George's is part of a package of over £10million of investment locally that the Conservatives agreed last year, however, other works also need to be done in the park and we are actively looking at improved footpath provision and drainage issues.**

Brentwood recently had to remove large trees at the rear of the play area as the wet weather had destabilised the land and root structures causing one tree to fall into the playground. For obvious safety reason this action had to be taken. However, as part of our environmental initiatives this year, we are planting several thousand trees across the Borough, so these lost trees will be replaced elsewhere.



**A guide to the new facilities is now available at KGPF**

Cllr Cliff Poppy, Chair of the Community and Health Committee said :

*“As we emerge from lockdown restrictions, it is important that we start these works now. We hope that in the summer, the public, especially families with children, will be able to use the space much more freely. We must make sure that we have facilities in place, that people can enjoy when ready.”*

**Cllr Cliff Poppy at KGPF**

## DELIVERING A GREENER, CLEANER BRENTWOOD

**The council's corporate strategy that was put forward by the conservatives in 2020 has some BIG commitments to the environment.**

It is committed to implementing projects that will both reduce carbon emissions and absorb existing carbon.

- Our role of out Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points will continue at pace in 2021 with 20 more being installed in council car parks.
- The council's decision to join the Thames Chase Partnership is already paying dividends with £24k of funding secured to plant out 6000 new trees



across 4 hectares of Brentwood park land in the first half of this year and further planting schemes to be progressed towards 2022.

- The change made to the recycling system in 2020 is now paying dividends. The contamination rate of recyclables is now down from 30% under the orange bag scheme to just 2.5% thanks to the co-operation of Brentwood residents. This means that the council is being paid more for the recyclable material it takes to the recycling plant and can re-invest this extra money in waste services for the benefit of our Borough.

These initiatives, alongside our continued desire to grow our EV fleet, build greener homes and promote renewable energy, means we are doing all we can to ensure Brentwood reduces it's carbon footprint and protect our environment.