

# BRENTWOOD



# OD

O U R B O R O U G H

AUTUMN 2025

## INSIDE:

**Zero-carbon homes  
in Brookfield Close**

**Making it easier to  
pay for parking**

**Your autumn and  
Christmas event planner**

Find out more by visiting [www.brentwood.gov.uk](http://www.brentwood.gov.uk)

follow us   



**BRENTWOOD**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL





# WELCOME

authorities, must deliver. A C2 rating is the second-highest, and we are proud that Brentwood Council now has the highest rating in Essex.

We are continuing our council house regeneration programme, with news on Brookfield Close (page 5), delivering sustainable, affordable housing for local people.

We are also revitalising our High Street, including the Baytree Centre, to benefit residents, visitors, businesses and customers. Upgrades to our car parks are already visible.

Our enforcement team has been strengthened, and is working closely with Essex Police to tackle fly-tipping by criminal gangs. We hope this partnership will significantly reduce incidents in the coming year.

Our Community Safety Partnership has been refreshed, and we are working with Brentwood Connected, Essex Police, our enforcement team and partner agencies, including the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, to address anti-social behaviour in the borough and deter shoplifting.

Our services are supported by the budget we set every year, and you can help us by having your say in our annual budget survey. Just 10% of the Council Tax you

pay comes to Brentwood Borough Council. In the case of a Band D property, that is just £4 per week to Brentwood, compared to £30 per week to Essex County Council. Your input is vital in helping us make the right decisions.

You may be aware that the future of local government in Essex is currently under review, including here in Brentwood, where our council is navigating Local Government Reorganisation. Ultimately, this means changes to who delivers your services by creating new unitary authorities. I want to reassure you that throughout this process, we are working to get the best outcome for Brentwood residents. I understand that Local Government Reorganisation is not easily explained, so you can read more on page 7.

Local government in Essex is undergoing significant change. However, we are determined to ensure that we leave Brentwood in the best possible position for the future by reducing debt, investing in infrastructure and community facilities, cleaning up our streets, and delivering the quality housing our residents deserve.

Councillor Barry Aspinell  
Leader of Brentwood Borough Council

I am delighted to share some of the fantastic progress we have made over the past year, along with exciting plans for the months ahead.

We take our responsibilities to Brentwood residents and businesses very seriously. Through prudent asset management, we have reduced the Council's debt by £40 million, around £1,300 per household, and secured funding for multi-million pound investments in the Brentwood Centre, Baytree Centre and to future-proof our depot. Importantly, all of this has been achieved without costing taxpayers a single extra penny.

We know how important clean and tidy streets are to you, so we have allocated additional budget to ensure we meet that expectation.

In March, following an extensive inspection, the Regulator for Social Housing (RSH) awarded Brentwood Council a C2 status. The RSH sets the standards that social landlords, including local

## How to contact Brentwood Borough Council



**01277 312500**, our phone lines are open  
Monday to Thursday, 8:30am to 5pm and Fridays  
8:30am to 4:30pm



**enquiries@brentwood.gov.uk**



**www.brentwood.gov.uk**

### Follow us on social media



**Brentwood Borough Council**



**@Brentwood\_BC**



**@BrentwoodBoroughCouncil**



**@BrentwoodBoroughCouncil**

# FUNDING BOOST for Brentwood community projects

**Earlier this year, 13 local organisations were awarded funding through the 2025 Brentwood Community Fund to support projects that benefit residents across the borough. A total of £66,223 was shared between the successful groups.**

The Brentwood Community Fund is run by the Council in partnership with Axis, Seven Arches Investments Ltd (SAIL), and the Brentwood Health and Wellbeing Board. These partners helped provide both funding and guidance to support local efforts that aim to make Brentwood a healthier, greener, and more connected place to live.

The successful recipients included:

- Brighter Opportunities for Special People (BOSP) who deliver 'Forest Fun Days' for young people with complex needs.
- Bentley Cricket Club who will expand their inclusive cricket offering.
- Black and Being Essex, for a community event this month (Black History Month), celebrating Black hair.

**This year,  
21 not-for-profit  
organisations  
applied for  
grants of up to  
£6,500**



BOSP received Brentwood Community Fund support for their Forest Fun Days.



**Are you a  
community  
organisation  
looking for funding?**



Organisations looking for funding from the Council should continue to check for open programmes at **www.brentwood.gov.uk/funding**.

If you are a not-for-profit organisation and would like specific funding advice, please contact Arsen Poghosyan, Funding Officer at Brentwood Community and Voluntary Service at **funding@brentwoodcvs.org.uk**

**axis**

Seven Arches  
Investments Ltd



# Investing in housing for the future

**In January, the Council sold Childerditch Industrial Park in Warley, earning a profit of £23 million (as well as increasing our cash balance by £84m).**

Childerditch was originally bought in 2021 as a potential site for a new Council depot, but when plans changed we made the decision to sell the 42.75-acre strategic site, which includes over 173,000 sq ft of industrial and warehouse space.

## Improving housing services for our community

**Housing regulators have given the Council the thumbs up for the way we manage the homes we provide for local people, the speed at which we carry out repairs and the steps we take to tackle anti-social behaviour.**

The Regulator of Social Housing has awarded us a C2 consumer grading – the second highest available. The rating shows that we are meeting most regulatory requirements, and:

- manage health and safety appropriately, and proactively deal with damp and mould
- complete repairs in good time
- work closely with the police and other partners to tackle anti-social behaviour, and
- offer various ways for tenants to get involved, such as our newly established Tenant Panels.

The regulator also highlighted some areas for further development and there is a plan in place to tackle these.

The rating comes after we spent £8 million improving our 2,400 social housing properties during the past year, with a further £8 million earmarked for 2025/26. Work has included:

- replacing communal door entry systems and individual front doors
- improving fire prevention measures and installing sprinklers in high-risk blocks
- installing CCTV across housing estates
- external redecorations
- creating storage for mobility scooters
- modernising kitchens and bathrooms

**We have also launched a new Brentwood Council Housing Services page on Facebook to keep you informed about the latest developments and ways you can get involved with our work.**



The profit and increased cash balance from the sale has allowed the Council to repay some of its debt (£44.2m), while also enabling us to invest in building new affordable housing for Brentwood residents, as well as reinvesting into important local projects, including:

- **Brentwood Centre and wider site redevelopment**  
This will deliver new and improved leisure and health facilities, including improving the existing swimming pool and international hall, and expanding the current programme of events. We will also be looking to add two new 3G pitches, supporting grassroots and competitive sport across the borough.
- **The Baytree Centre**  
This will revamp the heart of Brentwood High Street, including enhancing the area around the ruins, new leisure facilities and retail opportunities, including a potential cinema.
- **The Depot at Warley**  
This will modernise our operational facilities and support the delivery of essential services such as waste collection and maintaining open spaces.



# Zero-carbon homes in Brookfield Close begins



**The latest stage in Brentwood Borough Council's ambitious regeneration scheme has been marked with a ground-breaking ceremony as construction starts at Brookfield Close.**

The project will see 62 zero-carbon homes created in Brookfield Close, which was previously home to 49 outdated apartments, sheltered bedsits and temporary accommodation.

Each of the new properties will meet or exceed national space standards, while the scheme will include homes which are wheelchair accessible and meet Lifetime Homes principles.

This means they have been designed to offer good value and flexibility, and will support people's changing needs throughout their lives.

The development will be made up of 46 flats with one to three bedrooms and 16 houses with between two and four bedrooms. The homes will include features to promote sustainable living, such as ground source heat pumps, solar panels and landscaping to help reduce fuel poverty and improve health outcomes.

Brookfield Close will also include generous green spaces, play areas and allotments to support people's wellbeing. It is within walking distance of Shenfield Station and local amenities, and will encourage low-carbon lifestyles with improved pedestrian safety and increased cycle storage.

The development also includes new houses at Willingale Close in Hutton, in redeveloping a former garage site, in parallel with the Brookfield Close works.

The regeneration is part of our Strategic Housing Delivery Programme, which focuses on delivering high-quality, sustainable homes that meet local needs.

Building work has started and is expected to take around two years to complete.

**Councillor Dr Tim Barrett**, Chair of the Housing, Health and Community Committee at Brentwood Borough Council said:

“Our ambitions are to build modern, safe, healthy and green standard homes, delivering the council homes that our communities urgently need.”





# Brentwood car parks are getting smarter, greener and easier to use

**We are making parking more convenient, flexible and accessible for residents and visitors.**

In line with the Coptfold Road multi-storey car park, automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) technology will soon be installed at William Hunter Way and Chatham Way car parks, meaning that people can pay on exit.

These measures, along with free parking on a Sunday and a 2025/26 freeze in car parking charges, show how your Council is supporting residents shopping in Brentwood and Shenfield.

## Pay for your parking by app

We have also switched our pay-by-phone provider to MiPermit across all Council-owned car parks. Already widely used in Essex and by other local authorities, MiPermit offers a faster, more user-friendly digital payment method. This change only affects the pay-by-phone option - you can still pay by cash or card if you prefer.

Get started by downloading the app at [www.mipermit.com/apps.aspx](http://www.mipermit.com/apps.aspx) or visiting the Brentwood MiPermit portal on our website.

## Parking machines get a facelift

Plans are also underway to upgrade parking machines across the borough to support contactless card payments, making it easier to pay.

To support greener travel, electric vehicle (EV) charging points are available at:

- Chatham Way car park
- King George's car park
- Town Hall car park



**MIPERMIT**

## Planning permission granted for Brentwood Enterprise Park

**Brentwood Borough Council has approved plans for four large industrial units at Brentwood Enterprise Park, next to junction 29 of the M25. The site will offer over 112,000 square metres of space, including offices.**

The site is part of the Brentwood Local Plan 2016-2033 and is expected to create around 1,580 construction jobs and up to 2,660 permanent jobs once the units are in use.

**Councillor Philip Mynott**, Chair of the Planning Committee at Brentwood Borough Council said:

“This site includes measures that will save and generate power. It will deliver a huge boost to local infrastructure including £77 million on M25 junction 29 and the B186 Warley interchange, as well as improved bus services and walking and cycling links. It will also create construction jobs and new local jobs. Workers from the development are expected to spend up to £6.9 million in the local area each year.”

## Support for START-UP SUCCESS

**Have you recently launched a business, started a side hustle, or are thinking of striking out on your own?**

Brentwood Borough Council is here to help!

We're launching a new start-up support scheme offering free business advice and mentoring designed to give you the confidence and tools to help you succeed.

Contact [business@brentwood.gov.uk](mailto:business@brentwood.gov.uk) to learn more and get started.

# Local government reorganisation

**You may have heard that there are likely to be big changes afoot in how Essex will be run in the future. We put together a Q and A to answer some of the questions that people are asking:**

## Why are things changing?

The Government have implemented a local government reorganisation agenda that will require all councils across the UK to come together to create larger unitary councils. In some parts of the country this has already happened. They believe that, in the long term, these larger authorities will be more cost-effective and efficient.

## What are the proposed changes?

The changes mean that:

- Everyone (over 18) in Essex will vote for a county-wide Mayor in May 2026.
- District, borough and unitary councils in Essex will merge in 2028. Brentwood Borough along with all other councils will be brought together and combined to create larger unitary authorities across Essex.

The Government's final proposals are likely to be released by March 2026. And that is when the hard work will really begin.

For more information go to: [www.brentwood.gov.uk/devolution-lgr](http://www.brentwood.gov.uk/devolution-lgr)



## What does this mean for me, as a resident of Brentwood?

Brentwood Council is backing a proposal for five unitary councils for the whole of Essex. This would result in Brentwood forming a new unitary authority with Chelmsford and Maldon.

This means that rather than services being split between Brentwood Council (eg housing, planning, green spaces, economic development) and Essex County Council (eg adult social care, libraries and roads), all services will be provided by a new unitary council. This should make it easier for people to understand who they need to contact as all local services will be delivered by a single authority.

The new mayor of Essex will make decisions over a wider geographical area that will support infrastructure, economy, housing and transport across the county.



## When will it take effect?

**2025:** The proposals to Government were made on 26 September. The Government will now consult on their preferred proposals during autumn 2025.

**2026:** Announcement by Government on the new unitary council set up across Essex by March 2026.

**2026:** Once the new unitary councils have been agreed and ratified by Parliament each new unitary authority will start to work towards an implementation date of April 2028.





# Share your views

and help us make best use of our resources



The feedback we receive will be analysed and taken into account when councillors set the budget and council tax for 2026/27.

**Councillor David Kendall,**  
Chair of our Finance and  
Resources Committee, said:

“

Every year, we must agree a budget that makes the best possible use of the limited funding we have available to us. It is important for us to balance the amount we spend with the money coming in – and we’re asking for your views to help us do that.

Like many other public services, we are facing financial pressures due to increased costs coupled with growth in demand. This means we either need to find ways to reduce spending or increase the money we raise from areas such as grants, Council Tax and business rates.

You can help us by sharing your feedback with us. Please take a few minutes to fill in our budget consultation survey, tell us what is important to you and help us make sure our priorities as a council align with those of the people we serve.

”

**You can respond to the survey by visiting**  
**[www.brentwood.gov.uk/budgetsurvey](http://www.brentwood.gov.uk/budgetsurvey)**

Alternatively, you can fill in a paper copy at Town Hall in Ingrave Road. You can also request a paper copy, or complete the consultation over the phone, by calling our customer service team on 01277 312500.

**The survey closes on 26 October 2025**

## Some of the things we achieved last year

We undertook  
**100%**  
of our play  
space inspections  
on schedule



We recycled  
**10,230**  
tonnes



of paper and card, cans  
and plastic, glass, food  
waste and garden waste

We collected  
**97.7%**  
of in-year Council Tax



Our website  
was visited  
**766,979** times

Our Customer  
Services  
Team took  
**54,869** calls



## “ WHY YOUR VOICE COUNTS ”

**Brentwood Borough Council regularly asks residents and businesses to share their views on everything from waste collection and taxi policies to plans for housing and economic growth.**



We asked **Samantha Nicholson**, Corporate Manager for Transformation, Policy, Funding and Performance, why it is so important for people to take part in consultations and the impact it can have.

**Q. What is a consultation?**

**A.** “It’s a genuine exchange of views which allows the Council to listen to the voice of the community and use their opinions to help shape how we develop policies, make decisions and improve services. We’re currently asking people to share their views on our budget for 2026/27 (see left for more detail).”

**Q. Why is it important to take part?**

**A.** “Residents have a huge amount of local knowledge, and taking part helps bring that to the surface. It ensures your opinions are considered when councillors are making decisions about things which affect you and your neighbourhood.”

**Q. How does the Council use the feedback?**

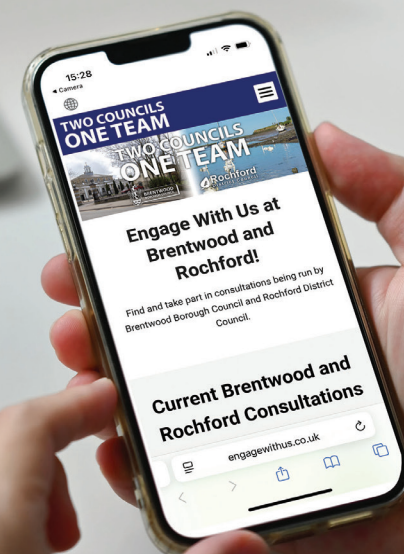
**A.** “Every piece of feedback is reviewed and compiled into a summary report for presentation to councillors.”

**Q. How do you make sure you are hearing from everyone?**

**A.** “It’s vital for us to make our consultations as accessible and inclusive as possible. We do this via our online platform called ‘Engage With Us’ which allows people to make adjustments that help them to take part, such as changing the text size or using a screen reader. We also encourage people who struggle with technology to call our Customer Services Team, who can input answers on their behalf.”

**Q. How do I know when a consultation is about to launch?**

**A.** “They will be advertised online and via social media, plus we’ll use posters with QR codes wherever possible. The outcome of the consultation will also be published on ‘Engage With Us’ so that people can see the impact their feedback has had.”



“ We are incredibly grateful to everyone who contributes to our consultations and would like to thank everyone who takes the time to respond. ”

To register for free with Engage With Us, visit **[www.engagewithus.co.uk](http://www.engagewithus.co.uk)** scan the QR code.





# Mayor of Brentwood, Cllr Jay Laplain reflects on his season of service so far

**Q. Let’s start with your chosen charities this year, what inspired your selections?**

**A.** “Last year, I visited Recoil Trampolining in my role as a ward councillor. Recoil offers both recreational trampolining and competitive training. What stood out most, however, was seeing a group of young people with complex special needs experiencing pure joy on the trampolines, an activity that also brings them physical benefits.

The Wilderness Foundation works with vulnerable children, teenagers and young adults across Essex - including many from Brentwood - using nature as a powerful tool for therapy and support. They also provide conservation education to schools and youth groups. I’m excited to be working with them more closely this year.”



**Q. You’ve had a busy calendar already. What have been some standout events so far?**

**A.** “The Mayoress and I travelled to the Strawberry Fair in a beautiful horse-drawn carriage, greeted by smiling faces as we rode through the town. The Fair itself was fantastic fun, we thoroughly enjoyed meeting all the groups representing wonderful activities and causes.

The Brentwood Arts Trail showcased wonderful pieces throughout the borough, and it was a pleasure to hear from the talented artists behind the work. We also visited the Ingatestone Summer Show, handed out medals to young participants at the Try-a-Tri event at the Brentwood Centre, and enjoyed several school visits - all great fun!”

**Q. What are you most looking forward to in the coming months?**

**A.** “Continuing to highlight many of the community groups in Brentwood, which are filled with people who dedicate their time and passion to enriching our borough. And of course, I will be honoured to take part in the borough’s Remembrance Day Parade.”

**Q. What has surprised you most about being Mayor?**

**A.** “I have been pleasantly surprised by the number of talented artists and performance groups in Brentwood. The Mayoress and I attended the 45th anniversary concert of the Wallace Singers. It was a privilege to be there.

This sense of privilege applies to every performance we’re invited to, from school concerts and the inspiring work of artists on the Brentwood Art Trail, to the Endeavour School pupils and their Sixth Form Art and Performance Exhibition, and the brilliant Brentwood Imperial Youth Band.”



*“We are truly fortunate to have such a vibrant cultural community on our doorstep”.*

**Q. What message would you give to young people in the borough who might be interested in public service?**

**A.** “ We should all take inspiration from those around us who actively participate in community life. Our borough has strong youth involvement, from Guides and Scouts to the various cadet groups. Based on a recent visit to the Council Chamber by the Long Riding Primary School Pupil Council, I’m confident we won’t be short of future politicians and lawyers!”



**Q. Any final message for our residents?**

**A.** “I’m deeply grateful for the warm reception I receive when out and about in the borough. Thank you to everyone who gives their time and energy to make Brentwood a joyful, vibrant, and welcoming place to live. I also applaud those who provide care, support and comfort to those in need, and to those who work to preserve and promote our rich history and heritage.”

# Help shape our future towns and parishes

**We will soon be asking you for your views on whether changes should be made to the area’s parishes so that they better reflect the needs and interests of the community. While some areas in Brentwood are parished, many are not.**

A community governance review will examine borough-wide existing arrangements to determine whether they are fit for purpose, and will look at whether any new town and parish councils should be established, particularly given the pending local government reorganisation (see page 7).

This will give residents the chance to comment on whether such councils should be created. You will also be able to share views on how big parishes should be, the populations they should cover and their boundaries, and what role they can play in your area.

The consultation will run from 17 November to 12 January 2026. Draft proposals will be presented to councillors in the spring, with final recommendations agreed by October 2026.

To share your views, visit our Engage With Us web platform at [www.engagewithus.co.uk](http://www.engagewithus.co.uk), email [cgr@brentwood.gov.uk](mailto:cgr@brentwood.gov.uk) or write to Community Governance Review, Brentwood Borough Council, Town Hall, Ingrave Road, Brentwood, Essex, CM15 8AY.

**Make sure you have your say**  
We want to talk to you

**How do you get information about Brentwood Borough Council? Our e-newsletters? Our website? Local media? Social media like Facebook and X?**

We want you to tell us how you currently learn what the council is doing – and how you would like us to communicate with you.

Simply head to [www.brentwood.gov.uk/CommsSurvey](http://www.brentwood.gov.uk/CommsSurvey) to fill out the short survey

**Don’t have access to the internet?** We still want to hear your views. Call our contact centre on 01277 312500 and one of our team will fill out the short survey over the phone for you.

**Survey closes: FRIDAY 31 OCTOBER**

# The Annual Canvass is currently underway

We’re writing to every household in Brentwood to make sure the electoral register is accurate and up-to-date. When your letter arrives, please take a moment to check the details and follow the instructions. It only takes a few minutes and helps ensure you’re ready to vote in the next elections. Being registered means you won’t miss your chance to have a say on the issues that matter, locally and nationally.

For more information, visit [www.brentwood.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.brentwood.gov.uk/register-to-vote) or contact us at [elections@brentwood.gov.uk](mailto:elections@brentwood.gov.uk) 01277 312708.



**YOUR VOTE MATTERS**

**DON'T LOSE IT**



brentwood



connected

Brentwood | Shenfield | Ingatestone



The **Brentwood Connected Town Rangers** are funded by town centre businesses to keep our area well-managed, safe and friendly. They are Security Industry Authority (SIA) licensed, first aid trained and here to help businesses, residents and visitors. **Do say hello if you see them on patrol!**

SAVE  
THE DATES

### FREE HALLOWEEN EVENTS!

**THURSDAY 30 OCTOBER\***  
**TRICK OR TREAT TRAIL**  
**IN INGATESTONE**  
**FRIDAY 31 OCTOBER\***  
**SHENFIELD SPOOKTACULAR**  
**SATURDAY 1 NOVEMBER\***  
**FESTIVAL OF FRIGHTS**  
**IN BRENTWOOD**

# HELLO



Happy Autumn to Brentwood borough residents, from **Brentwood Connected**, the **Business Improvement District (BID)** across Brentwood, Shenfield and Ingatestone. We hope to see you at our free Halloween and Christmas events.

Visit **brentwoodconnected.co.uk** or follow on social media for updates!

**Sarah Walmsley,**  
**Brentwood Connected BID Manager**

OUR KEY  
THEMES

brentwood  connected

Brentwood | Shenfield | Ingatestone



## IMPROVING PLACES

To dress our streets and create an environment for people to stay longer

## PROMOTING PLACES



To attract new visitors and additional spend through marketing and events

## WELCOMING PLACES



To ensure our locations are well-managed, safe and friendly



## CONNECTING PLACES

To create great places to live, work and invest

**LIGHTING UP  
BRENTWOOD**

**SATURDAY  
22 NOVEMBER  
12-6PM**

**HIGH STREET,  
BRENTWOOD**

*Ingatestone*  
**FESTIVE  
FAIR**

**SUNDAY  
7 DECEMBER  
12-6PM**

**HIGH STREET,  
INGATESTONE**

*Festive*  
**SHENFIELD**

**SUNDAY  
14 DECEMBER  
12-6PM**

**HUTTON ROAD,  
SHENFIELD**

## FIND OUT MORE

Brentwood Connected is a unique Business Improvement District (BID) funded by town centre businesses to improve the experience of residents, visitors, employees and businesses in Brentwood, Shenfield and Ingatestone.

Go to **brentwoodconnected.co.uk** to visit our website, or scan the QR code

 **BrentwoodConnected**

 **Brentwood Connected**

 **Brentwood Connected**

 **BwdConnected**



\*check our website for event times