

Minutes

Ordinary Council Wednesday, 21st June, 2023

Attendance

Cllr Barrett (Mayor)	Cllr Mayo
Cllr Haigh (Deputy Mayor)	Cllr McCheyne
Cllr Aspinell	Cllr Munden
Cllr Barber	Cllr Mrs Murphy
Cllr Dr Barrett	Cllr Mynott
Cllr Bridge	Cllr Naylor
Cllr M Cuthbert	Cllr Parker
Cllr Mrs N Cuthbert	Cllr Poppy
Cllr Mrs Davies	Cllr Mrs Pound
Cllr Mrs Francois	Cllr Reed
Cllr Mrs Fulcher	Cllr Rigby
Cllr Gelderbloem	Cllr Russell
Cllr Gorton	Cllr Sankey
Cllr Heard	Cllr Slade
Cllr Hirst	Cllr Wagland
Cllr Kendall	Cllr White
Cllr Laplain	Cllr Wiles
Cllr Lewis	Cllr Worsfold
Cllr Marsh	

Officers Present

Phoebe Barnes	- Director - Assets & Investments
Zoe Borman	- Governance and Member Support Officer
Phil Drane	- Director - Place
Laurie Edmonds	- Corporate Manager - Economic Development
Marcus Hotten	- Director - Environment
Nichola Mann	- Acting Joint Director of People & Governance
Claire Mayhew	- Acting Joint Director of People & Governance & Monitoring Officer
Jonathan Stephenson	- Chief Executive
Emily Yule	- Strategic Director
Tim Willis	- Interim Director - Resources

LIVE BROADCAST

[Live broadcast to start at 7pm and available for repeat viewing.](#)

36. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies received.

37. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this stage.

The Monitoring officer informed members:

“Members, I have had a number of enquiries about declarations of interests in respect of the Business Improvement District Ballot item on this evening’s agenda. If any councillor owns a business premises within the BID area that would be liable for the BID levy – in short if you have received a ballot paper for the BID ballot – you will need to declare a pecuniary interest and leave the room for this item.

For all other members, you will have no greater interest in this item than any other resident of the Brentwood borough and therefore you are free to debate and vote on this item.”

38. Mayors Announcements

“It has been just over one month since I was formally elected as Mayor for 2023/24 and I have already undertaken 10 engagements. I would like to thank the Deputy Mayor for also attending a number of engagements on my behalf also during this time. I should also mention that it is the Mayor’s Escort, my mother June’s, birthday today.

Some of the engagements I have attended included taking part in the Brentwood Art Trail attending the guided tour in Brentwood where I had the pleasure of meeting some of the artists including Ukrainian artist Mykhaylo Rymik. I also visited Sawyers Church showcase event where they showcased all the different ministries, activities and outreaches they do as a Church.

I was pleased to help out for the “Can in a Van” initiative to collect food and supplies for the Daily Bread and the Food Bank. It was really great to see so many people helping where they could.

Earlier this week, I was joined by representatives from Brentwood CCF, Shenfield CCF, 124 Essex Transport Squadron and the Royal British Legion to

raise the flag ahead of Armed Forces Day remembering and honouring all those who have and do serve for our Country.

I look forward to many more engagements around the Borough in the coming months and also start plans for events to raise money for my chosen charities.”

39. Minutes of the previous meeting

Cllr N Cuthbert stated that she was in attendance for this meeting where the minutes states she was not in attendance. Subject to this amendment, the Ordinary Council meeting held on 15th March 2023 were **APPROVED** as a true record. The minutes contain a summary of the meeting, to view the full meeting, please visit [Ordinary Council - YouTube](#)

40. Minutes of Annual Council 17.05.2023

The Annual Council meeting held on 17th May 2023 were **APPROVED** as a true record. The minutes contain a summary of the meeting, to view the full meeting, please visit [Annual Council - YouTube](#)

41. Public Questions

In accordance with the Council’s Constitution, a member of the public resident within the Borough may ask a maximum of two questions relating to the business of the Council providing notice has been received by 10.00am two working days before the relevant meeting.

Mrs Jan Gearon-Simm has submitted two questions:

1. *There is horrifying evidence that damage is being done to the sea, to wildlife and to us by discarded plastic, which is made from fossil fuels.*

Billions of plastic bottles, for example, are thrown into landfill.

The Drinking Fountain Association is trying to track down now-derelect drinking fountains, which were provided by councils from the 1860s onward in public places.

Will Brentwood Council follow this example and alert Brentwood residents against plastic bottles by re-opening any derelect fountains and by providing other clean water public outlets?

Cllr Aspinell responded as follows:

“it’s the aim of this Council to rectify the faults of previous, I don’t mean the immediate, I mean previous councils and the practices that have been carried

out within those boundaries. This is one of the reasons we have set up a Clean and Green Committee to look at all aspects of Brentwood's activities to see if we cannot improve on a terrible situation that we currently are experiencing in this country. We will do our best and our little bit to the betterment of our country as a whole.

On the drinking fountains issue itself I think there may be some health and hygiene issues surrounding that but I totally agree with you there should be some public access to clean drinking water and that is one of the things that we will be considering and investigating you have my word.”

- 2. At the ordinary Council meeting on 5th July 2011, the then Conservative Leader, Cllr Louise McKinlay was against the recommendation for retaining the Town Hal building but thankfully, the town hall building was saved because of agreement between council members from difference parties, 11 of whom were Conservatives.*

The town hall building symbolises the importance of Brentwood residents being served by democratically elected councillors from a variety of political persuasions.

I would like the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition to both respond to my Residents Question, which is:

Will all Brentwood Councillors be willing to work in collaboration in order to achieve solutions to Brentwood problems? The watchwords are collaboration, cooperation and compromise.

Cllr Aspinell responded as follows:

“I remember a decision very well I was indeed in this Chamber and I pay tribute to a very brave Councillor at that time. A member of the Conservative group who could not believe his own party was going to not only get rid of this Town Hall as an administrative hub but I think demolish it at that time. I think the person who put forward the proposal to demolish it was the last Council Leader here, it may not have been tabled and it probably isn't recorded anywhere that that happened, but I was personally present when that suggestion was made. We were going to have a new building in that car park when this building could be levelled and made it into homes - that was what the suggestion was. But a brave Conservative member that I would like to pay tribute to is an ex Mayor and Councillor, David Tee. We got together then for a very important reason we've got together since then for very important reasons I hope in the future. The Clean and Green Committee needs everyone on board to forward the desires and the principles of and the objections of that of that committee not just that we find ourselves, and I'm not casting aspersions here, but a government that has led us into financial near ruin that we have to work to try and get out off. Many years ago this side of the Council put forward proposals to set up a local assembly of acquiring land, businesses, car parks and buildings to turn into money making revenue much needed for this Council. They were called a LATCO – Local Authority Trading Company. This was turned down by the then Conservative Administration - I do not know why it was turned down apart from the fact that we

had proposed it. It then we proposed it again the next year this went on for about five or six years nothing happened then eventually when the money started to run out completely we had SAIL set up.”

The Mayor reminded Councillor Aspinell to answer the resident question specifically Will all Brentwood Councillors be willing to work in collaboration in order to achieve solutions to Brentwood problems? The watchwords are collaboration, cooperation and compromise.

Councillor Aspinell continued:

“We will go forward, we will look for suggesting things this side hopefully they will be agreed that side. The last time I stood as leader I was collaborating in a group of four different parties now I have pleasure of leading a group of two. I hope that when we put proposals forward the opposition will back them for the betterment of this Council for the betterment of its residents and for the betterment of our Town”

The Mayor clarified from Mrs Gearon-Simm’s question, the statements being made that suggest there were no minuted proposal for the demolition of the Town Hall and although it was minuted that the Town Hall would be disposed of so for just to clarify that was the minutes and that was the motion that was put forward just for clarity in the debate and the discussion.

Cllr Russell responded as follows:

“Thank you for clarifying that Mr Mayor and yes we did oppose their recommendation for their view of the Town Hall. We was going to build another Town Hall and the car park there and what we were going to do with this is exactly what we've got now this is actually a hybrid of the two motions that were tabled on the night - there was no talk of demolition or anything as such – I appreciate the Leader here trying to rewrite history but the evidence is there in the minutes – I didn't want to bring that up but there go.

If just cast your members back to Annual Council I welcomed new members and although in my notes I did not welcome Councillor Fiona Marsh so just to go on record now that we welcome Fiona thank you.

It is important for Brentwood Councillors to work collaborate collaboratively to achieve solutions for Brentwood residents collaboration cooperation between council members can lead to more effective and efficient decision-making processes that benefit the community. It is essential for Councillors to put aside differences and work towards the common goal of improving the lives of the residents. By working together the council can develop innovative solutions that address the needs of the community and ensure that all residents feel heard and valued. democracy gives us many voices and different opinions how best to serve our residents and there lies the rub as I said at Annual Council where our policies align there will be little resistance however when cuts to services or council tax hikes come into play we will then hold the coalition to task. To facilitate a good working relationship with the coalition or have appointed Shadow chairs and Shadow Vice chairs they will work directly with lead officers to

ensure a democratic process and smooth out any issues and foreseeable problems before coming to meetings. This I hope will streamline meetings saving taxpayers money and benefiting our residents - in practice we have not had this access in some cases but it is

early days I'm sure in time these issues will be resolved. Another example of a collaboration on our part was following a recent incident in the in the High Street on Friday where we raised our concerns and are seeking a resolution to the problems with Planning and Licensing whilst keeping the Coalition informed and updated via their Chairs rather than politicizing taking advantage of the situation and using it to ambush the administration. I have another example for you I have put forward ideas to members of the coalition that I hope will make front with High Street a safer place to be. I welcome the fact that one of these ideas will be coming to the clean and green committee next week as I said to our Mayor the idea was my gift to the coalition as it benefits residents.

I hope this is enough to assure you Jan and I'm sure I'm confident that you will soon pull me up if I disappoint you in any way. Thank you for your questions.”

42. Memorials or Petitions

No memorials or petitions were received.

43. Written Questions

The period allowed for written and oral questions is 60 minutes.

Oral questions would be taken after the written questions responses, time allowing. A member can ask one question to each of the Chairs.

8 Written Questions had been received and responded and were tabled in front of Members. Members were able to ask one supplementary question if they wish.

Two written questions have been received from Cllr Garry White:

Question 1

Question for Chair of Audit and Scrutiny Committee

Will the Chair of Audit and Scrutiny publish a list of the Authority's Statutory Obligations (primary and secondary legislation) confirming for each one which Committee under the Administration's new structure is responsible for the appropriate oversight, performance or compliance monitoring and what second-line assurance mechanisms are in place to oversee this; can these be reported on at the next, or the subsequent, Audit and Scrutiny Committee meeting?

Response

It is good practice for the Council to ensure that the Authority's Statutory Obligations are compliant. A report and an assurance matrix will be presented at a future Audit & Scrutiny Committee and then reported on a yearly basis.

Question 2

Question for Chair of Housing, Health and Community

Is the new Brentwood Joint Administration committed to the delivery of the agreed council homes programmes as per the February SHDP update:

- Brookfield Close & Courage Court (62 Homes),
- Harewood Regeneration (c.40 homes),
- Willingale Close (3 Homes),
- Ingleton House,
- Highwood Close,
- Sir Francis Way (4 homes),
- Four Oaks;

What are the current estimates for dates for completion / occupation of each of the above schemes, and what are the current number of homes expected to be delivered at each location (please include any other locations with anticipated housing development in the confirmed list)?

Response

The current SHDP programme is a set out in the table attached this report (Pipeline June 2023) this contains current estimated completion dates; delivery of units is planned throughout the construction process at each scheme, once contracts are let more detailed end stop dates are inserted and reported to members. Please note the pipeline table is update quarterly by the SHDP Team and contracts being let subject to procurement and market conditions.

Two written questions have been received from Cllr Mellissa Slade:

Question 3

Question for Chair of Housing, Health and Community

How many current cases are there of Damp and Mould in Council properties that are noted as requiring works or interventions to resolve; how many cases are outstanding the review of a complaint, or an initial, or a follow-up visit to review historic cases, by the housing technical team to identify whether such work may be required?

Response

As of 19th June 2023 there are nine cases that have been inspected and are waiting for remedial works to be carried out. A further 22 cases have had initial works completed and are being actively monitored by the Council's Asset Management Team. There are no cases waiting for assessment. All ongoing cases are monitored on a weekly basis by the Corporate Manager for Repairs and Asset Management.

Question 4

Question for the Chair of Planning and Licensing

At a recent excellent Portal member training session, I asked if it was possible for a full list of the planning codes could be added to the Portal.

Therefore, I ask Cllr Mynott in his capacity of Chair of Planning if he will both support and assist with the installation my request, to ensure all Cllrs have an easily accessible, complete list of Planning Codes.

Response

Thank you for your question. I confirm that the relevant planning codes will be added to the member portal for reference.

Two written questions have been received by Cllr Keith Barber:

Question 5

Question for Chair of Housing, Health and Community

Can you confirm whether the administration group intend to reverse the decision for Ingleton House to be retained in the strategic housing delivery programme; if so can you confirm the estimated annual cost (inc. opportunity cost) to the council of leaving the building vacant including utilities, council tax, other standing payments and officer time (plus loss of income from the properties had they been occupied); can you also confirm from which budget these costs would be provisioned and the consequential impact on other housing investment or reserves ?

Response

The Council intends to progress the redevelopment of Ingleton House as part of the SHDP programme. A planning application is assumed to be submitted November 2023.

Question 6

Question to the Chair of Finance, Assets, Investments and Recovery

Can you confirm whether under the new administration the council is considering leaving the Brentwood Rochford partnership and if such a decision was taken confirm the one-off exceptional costs of breaking the agreement and the resulting on-going annual shortfall in budgets of such a move and the loss of access to shared resources?

Response

Councillor Barber, as Leader of the Council I would like to response to your question.

In response to the first part of your question, I would refer you to the Leader's Statement delivered at the May Annual Council when I outlined that this new administration would be reviewing the Rochford Partnership in all of

its aspects, including staffing levels, financial penalties and, more importantly, the affects of service delivery for our residents.

When this review has been completed, if there is to be a change, I will inform you, along with the rest of the Council.

Regarding the second part of your question over future budgets, since the first part has still to be decided, it clearly renders the second part as irrelevant. Additionally, I would add at this point that it is disappointing that the incoming administration find themselves handcuffed with legally enforceable financial implications should it be decided that the Brentwood/Rochford partnership be dissolved

I said in my Leader's statement and to refresh your memory that this administration believes our staff are our greatest asset. The Rochford Partnership agreement the former Conservative administration committed us to relies on the reduction of staffing levels. This Joint Administration believe that the expertise, local knowledge and committed loyalty of our staff to Brentwood justifies a review of the Partnership before the loss of any further staff is considered.

Two written questions have been received by Cllr Mark Reed:

Question 7

Question for Chair of Finance, Assets, Investments and Recovery

The current council budget was set following public consultation in September and October last year, the information from the survey being available for use by Councillors as they set the budget and council tax for 2023/24. Will the Brentwood Joint Administration commit to undertaking public consultation with local residents in advance of bringing forward any amendments to the current budget, or proposals for how the council funds and resources its services for future years?

Response

It is worth noting that it is normal for budgets to be amended during the year. The last administration presided over amendments to the 2022/23 original budget which were approved in accordance with our constitution. Whilst a lot of work goes into preparing the annual Budget, it is, at the end of the day, our best estimate at the time the Budget is approved. Events, both external and internal, need to be reflected in changes to the allocation of resources, including financial resources. Depending on the nature of the changes, there may be consultation with stakeholders.

I can assure Cllr Reed that plans are already being developed to conduct the normal public consultation in the autumn, which will inform the Council in its deliberations regarding the 2024/25 Budget.

Question 8

Question of Chair of Staff Appointments Committee

The remit of the Staff Appointments Committee is to appoint designated officers, and other posts as may be determined from time to time by Group Leaders in consultation with the Chief Executive. It is also remitted to comply with the requirements set out in Chapter 4 of the Constitution (Staff Employment Procedure Rules) which include Rule 4.8.5 "Appointment of Non Statutory Chief Officers (Director and Heads of Service)". Can the Chair therefore set out what the plans and timeframes are to make permanent appointments to vacant and interim-filled roles in the Strategic Leadership Team?

Response

I am sure that fellow members will be aware that the responsibility for ensuring that the Council has adequate staffing provision lies with the Head of Paid Service. Therefore, I have consulted our Chief Executive, Jonathan Stephenson, who has advised me that he is keeping the interim arrangements under review and will consider permanent recruitment later this year.

44. Outside Organisations

Following a change to the Council's Constitution on 25 January 2017. Councillors are now appointed to a number of outside organisations by Ordinary Council. Many of the outside organisations support and advance the broad objectives of the Authority. Representations come about either through the Authority initiating the appointment, or an organisation requesting a representative being nominated or a Charity Commission rule that a Council representative is appointed.

Following consideration of the list of nominations and to ensure effective use of Councillors resource and support for outside organisations it is considered appropriate to categorise the list in the following:

- Statutory Representatives
 - Trustee
- Council has interest whether financially or otherwise
- Others – point of contact

Where a Councillor is required to be a point of contact it is considered appropriate for the outside organisation and the Councillor to make contact and discuss the best approach.

The list of nominations for representatives/point of contact on outside organisations is presented at the Ordinary Council meeting each year for Members' approval.

An amended appendix for appointments have been appended to the minutes.

Cllr Aspinell **MOVED** and Cllr Laplain **SECONDED** the recommendations in the report.

Cllr Bridge **MOVED** an **AMENDMENT** and was **SECONDED** by Cllr Russell that the vacant representative for the Howard Memorial be filled by Cllr Fiona Marsh. This was **ACCEPTED** by the mover, Cllr Aspinell.

Cllr Aspinell expressed his disappointment that the Chair of the Local Highways Panel, County Cllr Wagland did not want to appoint any Brentwood representatives to be part of the panel and meetings relocated from Brentwood to County Hall. Cllr Aspinell urged Cllr Wagland to reconsider to include Brentwood representatives to form part of the Local Highways Panel.

Cllr Wagland responded that all would be clear as the Local Highway Panel under its new regime continues but in particular the suggestions as to my status and the like are completely untrue.

A vote was taken and it was **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:**

That the list of outside bodies and nominated representatives/point of contact for 2023/2024 shown in Appendix A be approved.

Reasons for recommendations.

In line with the Council's constitution.

45. Brentwood Connected Business Improvement District (BID) Ballot

On 17 May, the Brentwood Business Partnership (BBP) submitted a request to the council in accordance with Business Improvement District (England) Regulations 2004, to hold a ballot within Brentwood, Shenfield and Ingatestone to establish a Business Improvement District (BID) across the three centres. This report provides background information on BIDS, the priorities set out in the Brentwood Connected BID Business Plan and the role of local authorities in delivering BIDs. The report seeks approval to support the BID in relation to council properties in the area.

(Cllr Hirst declared an interest and left the Chamber).

(Cllr White declared a non-pecuniary interest that he works for Network Rail who own infrastructure within the BID boundary).

Cllr Kendall thanked the Economic Development team (officers Laurie Edmonds and Nishat Amin), and Shenfield traders Kaye Thurgood and Nish Patel for their work promoting the proposed BID as part of the Brentwood Business Partnership.

Cllr Aspinell **MOVED** and Cllr Kendall **SECONDED** the recommendations in the report. A vote was taken and it was **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:**

R1. Agree to vote in favour (i.e. Yes) in the Brentwood Connected BID Ballot in respect of the council properties within the BID area.

R2. Authorise the Director of Assets to cast the council's votes in the Brentwood Connected BID Ballot in accordance with the decision taken in R1.

R3. Note that the council will be subject to payment of the levy on its properties within the BID area.

R4. Confirm that the BID Proposal does not conflict with any council policy or disproportionately burden any business or class of businesses.

46. Climate emergency

To consider and approve the proposed declaration of a 'Climate Emergency' by the Council and agree the next steps in developing the Council's response to Climate Change.

Cllr Aspinell **MOVED** and Cllr Dr Barrett **SECONDED** the recommendations in the report.

Cllr Hirst **MOVED** an **AMENDMENT** and **SECONDED** by Cllr White as followed: .

R1. To recognise the global climate emergency acknowledging that the Council needs to urgently act to include proper consideration of the causes and impacts of climate change in all its works.

The amendment was not accepted by the mover, Cllr Aspinell or seconder Cllr Dr Barrett.

After a full discussion the amendment, a vote was taken and the amendment was **LOST**.

Councillors discussed the substantive recommendations. A recorded vote was requested by Councillors: Laplain, Dr Barrett, Kendall, M Cuthbert and Naylor. The recorded vote was as followed:

FOR: Cllrs Barrett, Haigh, Aspinell, Dr Barrett, M Cuthbert, N Cuthbert, Davies, Francois, Fulcher, Gorton, Kendall, Laplain, Lewis, Mayo, Munden, Murphy, Mynott, Naylor, Pound, Rigby, Sankey, Slade, Wagland, White, Wiles, Worsfold (26)

AGAINST: (0)

ABSTAIN: Cllrs Barber, Bridge, Gelderbloem, Heard, Hirst, Marsh, McCheyne, Parker, Poppy, Reed, Russell (11)

The substantive recommendations were **RESOLVED**.

For the recommendations:

R1. To Declare a 'Climate Emergency' acknowledging that the Council needs to urgently act on the causes and impacts of climate change;

R2. To confirm the Council's commitment to achieving net-zero carbon status by 2030 for its own estate, and by 2050 for the Brentwood Borough area, and pursue efforts to achieve net-zero CO2 emissions even earlier;

R3. To establish a Climate Emergency Sub-Committee of the Clean & Green Committee;

R4. That the Council lobby for further funding and policy changes at a national level to support the delivery of the Environment Strategy.

47. Notice of Motion

Any one or more Members of the Council may, by notice received by the Monitoring Officer no later than 10.00 am eleven working days before the day of the Council meeting, require the Council to consider a motion about a matter relating to which the Council has powers or duties or which affects the Council's area. A notice of motion may be accompanied by a statement of not more than 200 words setting out the reason for the proposed motion.

The Monitoring Officer shall include all notices of motion and accompanying statements in the agenda for the next relevant meeting of Council in the order received.

Three Notices of Motion has been submitted in accordance with Rule 3 in Part 4.1 of the Constitution - Council Procedure Rules and are listed in order of the date received.

Motion 1 – Received 2nd June 2023 @ 13:52
Mover: Cllr White Seconder: Cllr Bridge

The Council notes:

- 'Chairs Reports and Questions' at Ordinary Council should provide democratic accountability of its leadership.
- Recently, Leaders have chaired PRED committees, allowing a very broad range of questions to be put to them. This may not be the case when a Leader chairs a Policy Committee with a more focused remit, or none at all.
- This motion therefore calls for immediate amendment to Procedural Rule 7.2 that limits the scope of questions to (and omits specific inclusion of) the Council Leader.

This council resolves to:

1. Require the council's leader to be fully involvement in chairs questions sessions across all areas of Council activity to promote public trust,

encourage robust discussions, and enable greater scrutiny of actions and policies;

2. Introduce with immediate effect changes to fully include the Council Leader in Ordinary Council's 'Chairs Report and Questions' session (to be renamed Leaders and Chairs' Report and Questions) to cover "all areas of Council responsibility within the council's area";

3. Request the monitoring officer, in liaison with the Constitution Working Group, to bring forward to the next Ordinary Council the necessary changes Procedural Rule 7 (Chair Report and Questions) to give effect to this change.

Cllr Mynott **MOVED** an **AMENDMENT** to move this motion under 8.3.7 (a) (i) of constitution to refer this matter to the Constitutional Working Group and **SECONDED** by Cllr Dr Barrett.

The amendment was not accepted by the original mover Cllr White

A recorded vote was requested by Councillors; White, Russell, Poppy, Barber and Hirst. A recorded vote was taken as follows:

FOR: Cllrs Barrett, Haigh, Aspinell, Dr Barrett, M Cuthbert, N Cuthbert, Davies, Fulcher, Gorton, Kendall, Laplain, Lewis, Mayo, Munden, Mynott, Naylor, Rigby, Sankey, Worsfold (19)

AGAINST: Cllrs Barber, Bridge, Francois, Gelderbloem, Heard, Hirst, Marsh, McCheyne, Murphy, Parker, Poppy, Pound, Reed, Russell, Slade, Wagland, White, Wiles, (18)

ABSTAIN: (0)

The **AMENDED** motion was **CARRIED** and should be noted that the report on this referral to the CWG will be brought back to the next meeting of Council.

Motion 2 – Received on 2nd June 2023 @ 16:06

Mover: Cllr Kendall Seconder: Cllr Naylor

Reasons for the Motion

Essex County Council introduced a policy of residents having to book to use the Recycling Centres in the Borough of Brentwood and across Essex in March 2023. Since then, a continued escalation in fly-tipping has been observed. Many residents have been turned away from the Recycling Centres if they have not made an appointment. Residents have also not been able to book appointments on the same day, and there have been limited options for multiple trips.

Brentwood Borough Council is financially responsible for clearing fly-tips on public land, and it is therefore impacting the Council's financial position. Whilst Essex County Council might be making savings, they come at a greater cost to Brentwood Council taxpayers, given that clean up costs are higher than the costs of legitimate waste disposal.

Brentwood Borough Council resolves to:

1. Call upon the Cabinet Member for Waste Reduction and Recycling at Essex County Council to reverse the decision that forces residents to book appointments when visiting Recycling Centres. The response to this request to be shared with Ordinary Council.
2. Call upon the officers to write to Essex County Council expressing this Council's opposition to the "booking" policy and asking for an urgent meeting between the Chair of the Clean & Green Committee and the Cabinet Member to discuss our concerns. The outcome of this meeting to be reported back to Ordinary Council.
3. Ask the Audit & Scrutiny Committee to open an investigation into this policy, it's impact on the number of fly-tips, the County Council's justification for this policy and the costs incurred to Brentwood taxpayers. The result of this investigation to be reported back to Ordinary Council.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

Motion 3 – Received on 4th June 2023 @ 20:04

Mover: Cllr Barber

Seconder: Cllr Russell

This council notes:

- Brentwood operates a much valued weekly black bag service for residents' residual waste and this helps to maintain cleanliness and hygiene across our local community.
 - Weekly black bag collection ensures that residual waste is properly disposed of, reduces risk to health and environmental hazards from prolonged retention - including vermin and unpleasant odours.
 - Many residents lack the necessary physical space in their properties that would be required to store black bags securely for longer.
 - Any change to the frequency of residual waste collection has the potential to lead to increased instances of fly-tipping and vermin.
 - The council has a strong record of promoting and supporting recycling across the Borough to help reduce landfill.

This council resolves to:

- reaffirm its commitment to providing a high-quality waste disposal service that meets the needs and expectations of residents;
- not make any significant change to the expenditure on black bag collections and maintain the current weekly collection service for residual waste;
- request that officers investigate opportunities to encourage further waste reduction and promote recycling which do not compromise the frequency of black bag collections

Cllr Dr Barrett **MOVED** an **AMENDMENT** and Cllr Aspinell **SECONDED** it to the following:

This council resolves to:

1. *Affirm the Administration's commitment to providing a high-quality waste disposal service that meets the needs and expectations of its residents;*
2. *Commit to maintaining Brentwood's weekly black bag and food waste collection throughout the 2023/24 year and in the 2024/25 budget process;*
3. *Request that officers investigate opportunities to encourage further waste reduction and promote recycling which do not compromise the frequency of black bag and food waste collections, and bring a report on this topic to a future meeting of the Clean and Green Committee.*

This amendment was accepted by the original mover Cllr Barber.

The amended motion was **CARRIED**.

48. Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

The meeting concluded at 22:30