

# Green News

## For Bradwell & Pattiswick



Local news and views from your Green Party Councillors  
Spring 2021

### Local elections to go ahead on 6<sup>th</sup> May

The Government has decided that the elections can go ahead so long as Covid safe rules are followed. County Councillor James Abbott is standing for re-election as the Green Party candidate for the Witham Northern division.

Witham Northern division includes:

- Bradwell & Pattiswick
- Silver End & Rivenhall
- Witham North & Central wards
- Terling & Fairstead
- White Notley & Faulkbourne
- Black Notley

James Abbott was first elected to Essex County Council to represent Witham Northern division in 2013 and was re-elected in 2017.

He has been campaigning on environmental and local community issues for nearly 40 years.

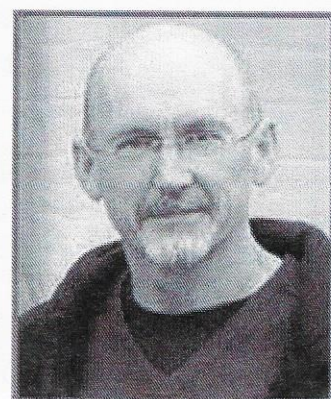
James is also a Braintree District Councillor and has represented Silver End and Rivenhall for 22 years. He also represented Bradwell and Pattiswick for many years as a district councillor before a boundary change.

James lives in Rivenhall with his family having previously lived in Witham where his family on his mother's side have roots going back to the 1800s.

He went to primary school at Templars in Witham and then secondary school in Colchester. He went on to study at University College London, from where he graduated in 1982.

James said: "It has always been an honour to represent local people as their councillor.

Looking ahead there will be many challenges – recovery from Covid, development pressures on our local area and the need to improve local services. I support securing better access for residents to local health services. I hope to be able to continue for another 4 years on ECC, working on behalf of local people, attending Bradwell Parish Council meetings to give reports and supporting local projects."



### Greens & Independents to stand in all seats at the May local elections

Cllr James Abbott is the Leader of the Green & Independent Group (G&I) at BDC. He works with Coggeshall ward district councillors Nick Unsworth (Green) and Tom Walsh (Independent) in the G&I Group which has 9 councillors and is the main opposition to the Conservatives.

All voters in the district will have a G&I choice at the ballot box on 6<sup>th</sup> May. **G&I councillors are dedicated to supporting local communities and protecting the environment as top priorities.**

G&I initiatives currently underway include:

- ✓ New community woodlands
- ✓ More opportunities for recycling
- ✓ Restored funding for the Braintree District Local Highways Panel
- ✓ 4 new cycling routes connecting towns and villages

Keeping you in touch with local issues – not just at election time !



## Local Plan progresses - but after years of delays due to New Towns project

Following the Local Plan Inspector finding the "Garden Communities" (New Towns) Plan Unsound for a second time, the ruling Conservatives at Braintree District Council have at last abandoned the West Tey and West of Braintree New Town plans.

The 'Section 1' New Towns Plan was supposed to deliver a series of major new settlements, with the largest at West Tey amounting to over 20,000 houses.

During years of problems with the New Towns project, the actual Local Plan for Braintree District (Section 2) has been sitting on the shelf, resulting in many housing developments being allowed on greenfield sites.

**The 'New Towns fiasco' has wasted taxpayers' money on a huge scale. Direct costs to local taxpayers in the district exceeded £1 million - but across Essex the cost was much higher.**

Now that West Tey and West of Braintree New Towns have been withdrawn, the Braintree District Local Plan can at last progress. **G&I district and county councillors will support getting the Local Plan completed as soon as possible.** This will give more certainty over where homes and jobs are to be provided and will help protect local villages and the countryside from over-development.

Until Braintree District gets a Local Plan in place, developers will try to build on the countryside – for housing estates and New Towns – such as proposed at Monks Wood.

Cllr James Abbott said: *"Braintree Conservative's handling of the Local Plan has been a disaster. They ignored residents, parish councils and local campaign groups. They ploughed on regardless with the doomed New Towns Plan after the Local Plan Inspector found the Plan Unsound the first time. Senior Conservatives made personal attacks on the Local Plan Inspector because he dared to tell them their plan was flawed. And they called residents who raised justified concerns about the Local Plan evidence "nimby's and "keyboard warriors."*

## Greens call for 'Back to Basics' at County Hall

Green councillors believe that there is a need for a 'Back

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to Basics' approach at County Hall – making sure that potholes are fixed in good time, drains kept clear and footways are safe to use.

The ruling Conservatives at County Hall promote 'grand plans' such as New Towns and major new roads, but local maintenance has suffered, with highway defects and surface flooding issues taking too long to resolve.

**County Councillor James Abbott is pressing for a better service for essential maintenance with more time spent fixing potholes and clearing drains instead of repeatedly inspecting them.**

## Braintree District Local Highways Panel funding restored

At its Budget meeting in February, Essex County Council agreed to restore the budgets to the Local Highways Panels (LHPs). The LHPs comprise county, district and parish representatives and recommend projects such as local highway safety schemes, new pedestrian crossings, lower speed limits, etc.

LHP budgets were halved 5 years ago, resulting in the Braintree District LHP having a waiting list for schemes that would have taken many years to fund. But now with a restored budget, more local LHP projects can proceed.

County Councillor James Abbott, who is a member of the Braintree LHP said: *"The restoration of the LHP budgets is very welcome and is something I have been pressing for with G&I colleagues."*

## Essex Waste Review

A major waste services review is due at County Hall. **County Councillor James Abbott is calling for all Recycling Centres to stay open.** The Essex County Council administration has not ruled out site closures.

G&I councillors are continuing to work with local communities to oppose plans for one of the largest waste incinerators in the UK being built at Rivenhall Airfield. If built the plant would lower local air quality. All the waste to the incinerator would come by road and that would mean more HGVs on the A120 through Bradwell. **The incinerator would be the single largest source of CO2 emissions in Essex, emitting 600,000 tonnes of CO2 per annum. That would DOUBLE the CO2 currently produced from the whole of Braintree district !**

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