

Green News

For Terling & Fairstead and The Notleys & Faulkbourne

Local news and views from your Green Party Councillors



Spring 2021

Local elections to go ahead on 6th May

The Government has decided that the elections can go ahead so long as Covid-19 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:

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

James Abbott was first elected to Essex County Council (ECC) to represent Witham Northern in 2013 and was re-elected in 2017. He has been campaigning on environmental and local community issues for nearly 40 years.

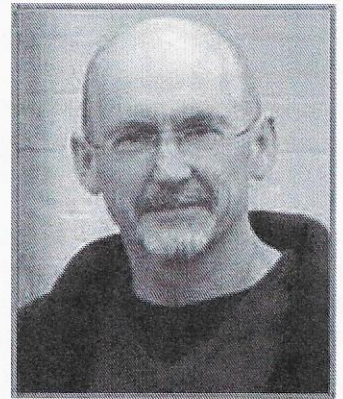
James is also a Braintree District Councillor, representing Silver End and Rivenhall for 22 years.

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 1800's.

He went to school in Witham and Colchester and then studied at University College London, graduating 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 strongly 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 at parish councils and supporting local projects."



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

Cllr James Abbott is a member of the Green & Independent Group (G&I) of 9 councillors at BDC, which is the main opposition to the Conservatives. All voters in the district will have a G&I choice at the ballot box on 6th 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 !

Greens call for 'Back to Basics' at County Hall

Green councillors believe that there is a need for a 'Back to Basics' approach at County Hall – making sure that potholes are fixed in good time, drains kept clear and footways are safe to use.

While the ruling Conservatives at County Hall progress New Towns and major new roads, local maintenance has suffered, with highway defects and surface flooding issues taking months - or even years - to resolve.

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

Braintree District Local Highways Panel funding restored

At its Budget setting 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 highways 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 budget is very welcome and is something I have been pressing for with G&I colleagues.

There are several local schemes that we hope now to move forward on, including repairs and replacements of village directional fingerposts in Terling and Fairstead, as well as the building of some passing bays on the narrowest local lanes to improve safety.

We also have an LHP scheme listed for a safety improvement at the junction of Church Rd and Witham Rd at Black Notley."

Cllr. James Abbott has supported several road safety schemes via the LHP for Faulkbourne, White Notley and Black Notley where speeding is a serious issue.

Cllr. Abbott has again requested the police to carry out more speed enforcement on the Witham to Black Notley road – a minority of drivers continue to use local roads in a reckless manner.

Essex Waste Review

A waste review is due at County Hall. County Councillor James Abbott is calling for all Recycling Centres - including at Witham – to stay open and for there to be a renewed focus on boosting recycling.

G&I councillors are continuing to work with local communities to oppose plans for what could be one of the largest waste incinerators in the UK being built at Rivenhall Airfield.

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 along the A120 corridor, 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 local villages being exposed to development far greater than originally planned for. **Without an up-to-date Local Plan, developers have a big advantage over the wishes of local communities concerning the amount and type of housing they wish to see in their area.**

The 'New Towns fiasco' has wasted Essex taxpayers' money on a huge scale. Direct costs to Braintree District taxpayers exceed £1 million.

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 to protect local villages and the countryside from over-development.**

This Green News delivered by volunteers following Covid-secure guidelines

If you would like to contact Cllr. James Abbott:
tel 01376 584576 e-mail james.abbott@greenparty.org.uk



@WandBGreenParty



@greenandindependentgroup

Printed by KempCo Ltd Units 6-8, 2 Perry Way, Witham CM8 3SX

Published by P.Hughes on behalf of James Abbott and Witham & Braintree Green Party all at 163 Honeysuckle Way, Witham CM8 2YD