

Essex County Council Elections Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Vote Green

Re-Elect James

Abbott

For Witham Northern



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#### Witham Northern division:

Witham North and Central wards, Rivenhall, Rivenhall End, Silver End, Bradwell, Perry Green, Pattiswick, Terling, Fairstead, Fuller Street, Ranks Green, London Road, Young's End, Black Notley, The Green, White Notley, Faulkbourne.

James Abbott has been your county councillor since May 2013. He is also a district councillor with 22 years' experience. He has lived locally in Witham Northern division since the 1960s.



On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May there will be elections to Essex County Council. If re-elected, James again pledges to put local communities first and to continue to work year-round for residents, supporting local groups of all ages as well as assisting with grant funding for projects and attending at town and parish council meetings.

The past year has been very challenging for local people and businesses due to the Covid-19 pandemic. As a local community representative, James will do everything he can to offer support and will continue to press at County Hall for a better service for local residents on repairing potholes and making footways safer as well as supporting investment in local services and improvements - including a new cycling and walking network for the district now under discussion.

Conservative budget cuts have left many authorities including Essex County Council in a position where they face having to take even more money out of some services. The Conservatives proposed library closures, such as at Silver End. Those plans were withdrawn after a huge community campaign. ECC now proposes a review of waste services. Cllr James Abbott is calling for certainty that **Witham Recycling Centre** will stay open.

Cllr James Abbott is a member of the Braintree District Highways Panel, helping to deliver local safety and access improvements for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians. **Recently a new zebra crossing at Templars School in Witham has been funded as well as new sensor activated signs to deter HGV drivers from breaching the weight and height limits in Oak Road in Rivenhall**. He is also a member of the Essex Climate Action Commission.

**Please help to re-elect James Abbott, an experienced councillor, who works year-round for residents and who will remain a strong voice for local communities at County Hall**

## ***Delivering on the pledges made in 2013 and 2017***

**Councillor James Abbott was first elected to represent Witham Northern division in 2013 and was re-elected in 2017. He has stuck to the pledges he made at those elections and will continue to work for local priorities if re-elected for the next 4 years:**

- ★ **Reform at County Hall** – As pledged by the Greens, taxpayer funded “free meals” taken by Tory and Labour councillors were abolished. All meetings at County Hall are now open for public questions.
- ★ **Investment in services** – Braintree district is under great pressure from development but the Conservatives in charge at Braintree District Council and Essex County Council have failed to deliver the big improvement in services to support both existing and new residents. Braintree town seems to get the lion’s share. **It is high time that Witham had its own Community Hospital** as well as a GP surgery in the north of the town. Under the Conservatives, Witham has lost its Police Station, district council office and Magistrates Court. These decisions need to be reversed, libraries need to remain open and Cllr James Abbott will oppose any moves to close Witham Recycling Centre.
- ★ **Opposing unsustainable development** – The loss of greenfield sites and the destruction of trees and hedges on development sites is a concern for many residents. For decades Cllr James Abbott has campaigned to protect green spaces such as Bellfield in Witham. Due to the Braintree Conservatives failed ‘New Towns’ project, the district does not have a Local Plan, leaving it wide open to volume developers building housing estates around villages such as Silver End, Rivenhall and Black Notley. Green fields and wildlife habitats are being lost. We do need some new housing especially for local people which is affordable but the level of development is much higher than originally planned for. Cllr. James Abbott supports getting a Local plan in place ASAP.  
  
Cllr James Abbott has worked with local communities and campaign groups for decades to oppose the proposed waste incinerator at Rivenhall Airfield and will continue to do so. Recycling and waste minimisation is the way forward – not burning hundreds of thousands of tonnes of waste, all of it brought in by HGV.
- ★ **Better maintenance** – Cllr James Abbott has helped to secure improvements at Terling ford and drainage work to prevent flooding at many locations. Along with residents, Cllr Abbott reports potholes, blocked drains, failed streetlights and uneven footways regularly. A lot of repairs have been delivered, **but too often ECC**

**leaves big potholes and uneven paths for months or even years.** The Greens are calling for a “Back to Basics” approach at County Hall with more efficient ways of working and more time spent delivering repairs and less time spent inspecting and painting around defects.

- ★ **Safety and access improvements** – Cllr Abbott believes that the emerging plans for the A12 could greatly reduce HGVs and through traffic in Rivenhall End. As a member of the Braintree District Highways Panel (LHP), Cllr James Abbott worked with colleagues to successfully restore the LHP budget for this year. The LHP has delivered numerous schemes which Cllr Abbott has put forward including a parking bay at Rivenhall church and grasscrete parking in Valentine Way Silver End. For the coming year funding has been agreed for a new zebra crossing at Templars School on Cressing Road in Witham, repairs to fingerpost signs in Fairstead and new 20mph limits in Silver End. **Cllr James Abbott is strongly supporting a project to deliver new cycling routes linking towns and villages and the railway stations.**

***Help to re-elect James Abbott - an experienced councillor, working year-round for you and local communities***

**To get in touch:- Tel: 01376 584576 Mobile: 07951 923073**

**e-mail: [james.abbott@greenparty.org.uk](mailto:james.abbott@greenparty.org.uk)**



**@WandBGreenParty    [www.witham-braintree.greenparty.org.uk](http://www.witham-braintree.greenparty.org.uk)**

**James ABBOTT**

**Green Party**



***Forest Road Witham – recent repairs carried out as part of the ECC councillor’s programme where each County Councillor listed a ‘Top 50’ of defects to be repaired. Cllr James Abbott asked for repairs in Witham, Rivenhall, Silver End, Terling, Fairstead and White Notley - these will all be completed.***

