

# Brentwood and Ongar Matters

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Our Plan  
for Brentwood  
and Ongar

2024 News from your Member of Parliament

**ALEX  
BURGHART**

## **FEATURING:**

**Essex Police  
Recruitment  
Success:  
Highest Officer  
Numbers Ever**

**Keeping Our  
Towns and  
Villages Safe**

# Working Hard for You in Brentwood and Ongar



**Thank you for picking up a copy of my regular newsletter to constituents.**

2024 promises to be another extremely busy year in Brentwood and Ongar. At present I'm supporting the hiring of new local police officers, campaigning for a new special school, helping my constituents fight plans for massive pylons across our countryside, backing the Brentwood Business Improvement District (BID), making the case for a Weight Restriction Order to get massive lorries off Ongar High Street, arguing for better road safety measures in Stapleford Abbots, opposing unauthorised development on the green belt, and pushing for more protections for motorists.

In Westminster, I am currently the Parliamentary Secretary in the Cabinet Office, working on ways to improve the Government's commercial contracts (over the past three years we have saved the British taxpayer about £11billion), its data and digital (we are currently using AI to modernise government services), and the management of its

property portfolio (about £400billion worth). Last year I took the Procurement Act through Parliament – a major piece of post-Brexit legislation that took advantage of our new powers to reform public procurement and make it easier for small- and medium-sized British businesses to get government contracts.

It's been a real honour to serve as your local MP since 2017 – if ever there is anything you think I might be able to help with, please get in touch with me at the House of Commons or through my website, which also has details of some of the local campaigns and issues I am working on: [alexburghart.org.uk/contact](https://alexburghart.org.uk/contact)

Yours ever,

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alex". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the top.

**Alex Burghart MP**  
**Brentwood and Ongar**

# HIGHEST EVER NUMBER OF POLICE OFFICERS IN ESSEX



**Following a huge recruitment drive in recent years, Essex Police now has more police officers than ever before: 3,755.**

This is thanks to the funding put up by the Conservative Government and the excellent work of our local Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Roger Hirst. This growth is improving police presence in Brentwood and Ongar – though both myself and Roger are keen to go further.

This is just one part of a major investment in local policing. The Government's plan to tackle anti-social behaviour has seen Essex

Police receive an additional £1.1 million. Regular police patrols have increased, with Railway Square in Brentwood becoming one of eleven areas across Essex to receive Anti-Social Behaviour Hotspot Patrols.

The good news is that, this investment is paying off. Crime is falling across Essex

and in Brentwood and Ongar we have seen a reduction in ASB, Violence Against the Person, and sexual offences. However there has been an increase in car thefts as thieves have worked out how to hack some modern locking systems and I am arranging to meet with vehicle manufacturers to ask for better vehicle security features to deter criminals. Shoplifting crimes in Essex are also up, so the Essex Police Business Crime Team has been working hard with local businesses across Essex to identify prolific and persistent offenders and clamp down on them. ■



Essex Police Fire and Crime Commissioner Roger Hirst with Alex discussing policing in Brentwood and Ongar

# Opposing the Pylons



In Ingatestone with County Councillors Lesley Wagland and Louise McKinlay and local residents to oppose National Grid's pylon plans

**Local people are understandably furious about the prospect of massive pylons being put across our countryside. National Grid is proposing a 183km line of huge pylons marching from Norwich to Tilbury which, if they go ahead, will run through Ingatestone, Haverings Grove and West Horndon.**

I have been very clear with my constituents that I am fully supportive of their campaign for an alternative plan – and have discussed it with them at the two large public meetings I have held on the subject at Ingatestone Community Centre. The most obvious alternative is for an offshore connection of the sort used in some other parts of the country. Essex and East Anglian Conservative MPs are all united in calling for this and

have made representatives to energy ministers in Westminster on more than one occasion.

The independent Hiorns Smart Energy Networks Report, commissioned by Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk County Councils, has recently called in to question some of National Grid's assumptions, notably that there is the need for additional transmissions capacity will come later than expected, potentially giving more time for alternatives to be considered.

There will be a consultation this year and I am campaigning for offshore to be part of that consultation. When the consultation goes live it is absolutely vital that everyone locally contributes to it so as to leave the decision makers in no doubt about public feeling. ■

# SUPPORTING EDUCATION IN BRENTWOOD AND ONGAR

**Over the past few years I have seen an increase in the number of cases involved children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, particularly autism, who desperately need the individual support and attention special schools can give them.**

We have two excellent special schools in the constituency, the Endeavour and Grove House School, but it is becoming clear that more places are needed. I brought Children's Minister, David Johnston here to meet the wonderful SNAP charity team and to ask him to make sure children with learning

disabilities and difficulties get the education they deserve.

I keep in regular contact with our local primary and secondary school headteachers and arranged for the Education Secretary Gillian Keegan to visit the Anglo European School late last year to see how well the school's headteacher, Jody Gee, had dealt with discovery of RAAC in her buildings. I am now supporting the school in its application for a new building for its older students, as well as helping Shenfield High School as it looks for funding to update its science labs. ■

Education Secretary Gillian Keegan at Anglo European School



With Education Minister David Johnston and the SNAP team

# Road Safety in Ongar & Stapleford Abbots

Progress is being made in my campaign for a Weight Restriction Order (WRO) on Ongar High Street to get massive lorries out of the town centre. I invited Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways, Cllr Tom Cunningham, to Ongar to see how dangerous it is at the pinch point. In Stapleford Abbots there is a long-running issue with road safety around the school. I am working with parents, residents, councillors and other parties to see what can be done to get improvements put in. ■



Showing Cllr Tom Cunningham the need for a WRO in Ongar

## Disability Access at Brentwood Station



Brentwood Access Group has done a brilliant job of bringing the lack of a lift at Brentwood Station for disabled travellers wanting to get to London to the attention of TfL this year. I've been working closely with the group, and its chairman, Jim Hoare, since I was elected and recently met with the minister responsible to make the case again that we need a lift. ■

With Jim Hoare, veteran campaigner for the lift at Brentwood's Platform 4

# Brentwood and Ongar Conservative Association

# JOIN US TODAY

From BOCA Chairman,  
Keith Barber

**As we approach the next General Election you can make a real difference here in Brentwood and Ongar by becoming a member of The Conservative Party.**

From the historic village of West Horndon in the south of the constituency up to Abbess Roding right at the top we have members of all ages and backgrounds – as a new member, you will be assured of a warm welcome.

After three months you are eligible to participate in helping to choose local

candidates and have a vote in any Party Leadership contest. Members can also attend the annual Conservative Party Conference and apply to stand for election.

Here in Brentwood and Ongar we have a great range of social and political events which are popular and very enjoyable. Recently Lord Pickles, the Rt Hon Sir Iain Duncan-Smith, Anna Firth MP and the Rt Hon Jacob Rees-Mogg have entertained us with their after-dinner anecdotes.

Politically, many of us get out and about in

the constituency for the grassroots canvassing and campaigning, while some of us have been elected as councillors, helping to represent our local communities.

Whatever your preferred level of involvement in the party we would be delighted to welcome you as a new member of our team.

**By joining the Conservatives you really will be helping to make a difference for the better. ■**

*Keith Barber*

## GET INVOLVED BUILD A BRIGHTER FUTURE

- Join the local Party
- Attend social events
- Vote by post
- Deliver leaflets
- Display a poster
- Stand for Council

PLEASE RETURN TO: Brentwood and Ongar Conservative Association, 19 Crown Street, Brentwood CM14 4BA or photograph and email to [office@boca.org.uk](mailto:office@boca.org.uk)

Name

Address

Email

Please only complete this box if you consent to being contacted by us this way.

Tel No.

Please only complete this box if you consent to being contacted by us this way.

Your data will be used by the Conservative Party as part of our democratic engagement with electors, and to send you periodic email updates, online advertisements and direct mail about the party's campaigns. You can opt out at any time. Where necessary, your data will be shared with Conservative Party Headquarters, our candidates

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**JOIN THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY [CONSERVATIVES.COM/JOIN](http://CONSERVATIVES.COM/JOIN)**

# our plan

## for Brentwood and Ongar's Future



### 1 Investing in Brentwood and Ongar

Working with businesses to boost our high streets with investment from the Government's Levelling Up Fund.

### 2 Enforcing The Law

Delivering more local police officers than ever before to tackle crime and keep our streets safe.

### 3 Protecting Our Environment

Protecting our greenbelt, opposing unauthorised development and leading the fight against massive pylons.

### 4 Supporting Education

Supporting our schools and campaigning for a new local special school for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.






### 5 Improving Healthcare

Delivering improved NHS services across the constituency, both in doctors' surgeries and hospitals.

### 6 Fairness for Motorists

Opposing excessive taxes on motorists and clamping down on illegal road protests.

## How to contact Alex Burghart MP

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# JOIN THE CONSERVATIVES TODAY!