

## **BRENTWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL PRESS RELEASE**

Date: 18th October 2017

### **Town Hall update**

Brentwood Borough Council will be vacating the Town Hall at the end of this month whilst remodeling work takes place on the building.

The Council reviewed a number of options for the redevelopment of the Town Hall to improve the utilisation of space within the building, reduce costs and create revenue streams. The existing space within the Town Hall can no longer be used to maximum effect due to the outdated internal infrastructure and the age of the building. This has had a knock on effect in terms of higher and uneconomic running costs, and office space that is not up to date or fit for purpose for today's modern technology and digital working.

The remodelling includes a new roof, new windows, new boilers, new lifts, the opening up of the office floors and residential units on the top two floors. However, the physical appearance of the building will change very little.

The project is expected to take two years during which time there will be no interruption to Brentwood Borough Council services. Once complete, the council organisation will return to the Town Hall utilising smaller and more efficient office space.

A community hub will be central to the new look Town Hall and as part of this change, the Police will be moving to the lower ground floor.

Leader of Brentwood Borough Council, Councillor Louise McKinlay, said: "This is a really exciting project. The plans will enable the Council to operate in a modern and efficient building, whilst making savings on running costs.

Externally the transformation will be sympathetic to Brentwood's historic Town Hall which, by both its design and location, is an important and central building in the borough. The building will be far more accessible for community use, with proper mobility access, and we will be creating opportunities for small businesses to come in and grow their companies. It is an exciting project that will result in a building that will offer flexible, innovative and cost efficient space for many generations to come."

### **Where to find us:**

Our reception will be relocated to 1-2 Seven Arches Road, which is the former register office adjacent to the Town Hall, from Monday 30 October 2017. All appointments will be held at this site, as well as general reception services, including self-service positions and document scanning.

Brentwood Mind and Papworth Trust will also be joining Brentwood Borough Council to operate from 1-2 Seven Arches Road. Weddings will also take place on the site, although Essex Registration Service will be relocating to Brentwood Library. Essex Police will be operating from the Town Hall but will have no public access.

Council committee meetings will take place at Brentwood County High School and will continue to start at 7pm. Meetings will no longer be webcast but will continue to be open to the public. Parking will be available at Brentwood County High School.

Pedestrian access to 1-2 Seven Arches Road should be from the footpath off Ingrave Road, not from the access road to the Town Hall. Visitor parking, including new disabled parking, will be available to the front of the Town Hall. Brentwood Council's reception will continue to be open from 8.30am-5pm Monday-Thursday, 8.30am-4.30pm Friday.

### **Service Delivery Hub**

The plans to remodel the Town Hall will create a service delivery hub that will see Brentwood Borough Council, Essex Police, Job Centre Plus, Citizens Advice Brentwood, Brentwood Mind, Community Weddings and Brentwood Council for Voluntary Services deliver services from a single location.

The move will not only right-size the Council's accommodations, provide efficiency savings and greatly increase the energy efficiency of the Town Hall, it will also improve the customer experience with simpler referrals and speedier service resolution.

In addition to the development of the service delivery hub, the way Council services are delivered will be transformed to enable Brentwood Borough Council to operate largely from one floor of the Town Hall. This move will allow the Town Hall to be redeveloped on the upper two floors to provide up to 19 privately rented residential units, thereby creating a sustainable income for the Council.

Safira Ali | Communications Officer | Brentwood Borough Council  
T 01277 312895 | Mobile: 07793 559258  
| [www.brentwood.gov.uk](http://www.brentwood.gov.uk)<<http://www.brentwood.gov.uk/>>  
[safira.ali@brentwood.gov.uk](mailto:safira.ali@brentwood.gov.uk)<[safira.ali@brentwood.gov.uk%20](mailto:safira.ali@brentwood.gov.uk)>