



**BRENTWOOD
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Draft Local Plan

2013 - 2033

February 2016

COMMENT FORM

From 10 February to 23 March 2016 we are consulting on the Draft Local Plan for Brentwood Borough. You can view and comment on the Draft Local Plan online at www.brentwood.gov.uk/localplan

Alternatively, please use this form to share your views on the contents of the Draft Plan.

All responses should be received by Wednesday 23 March 2016

Please return forms to Planning Policy Team, Brentwood Borough Council, Town Hall, Brentwood, Essex CM15 8AY, or alternatively attach completed forms and email them to planning.policy@brentwood.gov.uk

Data Protection

All personal information that you provide will be used solely for the purpose of the Local Plan consultation. Please note whilst all addresses will be treated as confidential, comments will not be confidential. Each comment and the name of the person who made the comment will be featured on the Council's website.

By submitting this form you are agreeing to these conditions.

PERSONAL DETAILS

Title:	Mrs	First Name:	Susan	Last Name:	Marigold
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Address:

Post Code:

Email Address:

YOUR COMMENTS

Please indicate which section(s) of the Draft Local Plan you are commenting on (where applicable please clearly state the Policy reference or paragraph number):

Section 5, Section 7 and Section 8

Please specify if you Support, Object or are providing a General Comment:
(tick as appropriate)

Support

☐

Object

☐

General Comment

☐

Comments (please use additional sheet if required):

- 1. It would appear that the Council has allocated a number of its Car parks, as land suitable for building dwellings. This includes the car parks in Westbury Road, Chatham Way and William Hunter Way. This creates two problems:**
 - a) In fill like this does not provide an attractive environment – either for the new residents or existing residents.**
 - b) There does not seem to be clear provision of new/alternative car parking to replace the lost spaces. Where are visitors/shoppers supposed to park? Where do workers park, long-stay? Its difficult enough now.**
- 2. Section 8 discusses that the town apparently requires more retail units and section 5.74 states that the existing vacant units are not sufficient to provide for the requirement.**

There are currently at least 20 empty units in the High Street, Bay Tree Centre, Kings Road and Chapel Ruins area. Why can these not be filled first? Can these be adapted for use by retailers, with their advance agreement, so that shopping in Brentwood is an attractive proposition.
- 3. The consultation for the semi-pedestrianisation of the High Street was largely ignored by the Council, who appeared determined to press ahead regardless of public opinion. The subsequent decision to re-surface the High Street has been an expensive disaster. The road needs extensive, expensive repairs and although its appearance is pleasing, it was not necessary. Please do not**

make the same mistake of ignoring public opinion.

4. *Regarding a cinema – something that has been promised for the last 15+ years. I still don't understand why this cannot be at the Brentwood Sports and Leisure Centre where there is the space for a new building, and the parking that would be needed. I have been told that one concern is "already congested roads" but I don't agree that the roads are congested towards the Brentwood Centre. In fact, if the cinema were built in William Hunter Way, the increased traffic in William Hunter Way, Western Avenue and Weald Road, including the crossroads junctions with the High Street would be worse.*
5. *What is happening with the space that has been boarded up since the demolition of the Grade 11 listed building that was the Sir Charles Napier pub? It is very ugly at the moment, and a waste of development space that is sorely needed.*
 - *Brentwood needs some open spaces and to retain its Victorian market town feel. The little "green area" in Kings Road makes such a difference and more like this would be very welcome.*
 - *I was told a few years ago that there was a waiting list for long-term parking annual permits: a friend asked to park on my drive because he couldn't park in Brentwood while he worked. Also, I know one retailer who received £3,000 worth of parking fines for parking his work van at the back of his shop, because he could no longer get a parking permit for a local car park. He has since closed the shop in Brentwood High Street.*
 - *The Council removed the small free parking bay at the end of the High Street, which allowed for 30 minutes of shopping – very appropriate for the types of shops directly next to this bay. A number of these have now shut – the shoe repairers, the florist, the fruit and veg shop etc which were independent shops. The Council claims to encourage these in section 8.37.*
 - *Brentwood is too expensive and not an attractive enough shopping area with its difficult-to-find and very expensive when-you-do-find-it parking. If I needed to drive to shops, I would drive to Upminster which has lovely shops, a choice of supermarkets and cheap, available parking. Or, I would drive further afield for a much wider choice of niche shops, for example to Tunbridge Wells, or Cambridge.*
 - *I haven't counted the empty units apart from in Central Brentwood (Warley*

Hill, for example). Why can these not be filled before considering building others? S. 8.37 refers to Brentwood Town Centre attracting many visitors for a variety of reasons including a high quality shopping environment. The current empty units are unattractive, and the choices of retailers who have recently taken some of the larger spaces are not conducive to an interesting and up-market shopping experience. And if, as per s. 8.56 the Council “seeks to retain existing large retail units as they can be a major driver of footfall” why did it allow The Dairyman and Wildwood to take the larger retail sites when they became vacant?

- *Re. resurfacing the High street : Not only did this close the High Street for nearly a year causing major sales problems for many retailers, but it also means that you cannot cycle in the High Street, and nor can there be the annual Cycle Race that used to occur.*
- *Re. the Cinema: I have been told that one concern is “already congested roads” but I don’t agree that the roads are congested towards the Brentwood Centre. In fact, if the cinema were built in William Hunter Way, the increased traffic in William Hunter Way, Western Avenue and Weald Road, including the crossroads junctions with the High Street would be worse.*

and email to **planning.policy@brentwood.gov.uk**