

Bravo to Brentwood on its Covid Response

Councillor Chris Hossack, Leader of Brentwood Borough Council (pictured right leading the Council's 'Clap for Carers'), got in touch to share with us some of the fantastic work that the Council are doing to help local residents cope during the current pandemic.

In his email, Cllr Hossack

said that he was really proud of what the councillors, staff, and officers have been able to do so far. And we are sure you will agree after reading about a number of the things that the Council have set up and what they are doing.

We know that Local Authorities up-and-down the country will be running

similar programmes, and we'd love to hear about them, too!

Likewise, if you're piloting any new and innovative programmes or initiatives, please do get in touch and let us know.



Before the lockdown, Members of the Council, staff, and volunteers **helped to collect food from the local supermarkets, as part of their 'can in the van' scheme.** In fact, they were able to collect several tonnes and thousands of pounds' worth of food in the weekend prior to the lockdown.

The food was then transported using council vans to the maskshift warehouse at the Town Hall. Volunteers are now using this haul to supplement the food-bank and volunteer efforts going on in the area.

The Council has worked with a local printers who volunteered their services for any necessary printing.

They produced 2-metre spacing floor stickers for local shops and created car window stickers for retail frontline staff (both pictured right), to ensure they can park for free in the town centre when coming into work.



As part of the communication efforts, the Council **printed and distributed to every house, advising residents about how to stay safe and find help during the shutdown period.**

This couldn't have been done without the tremendous volunteer effort, delivering over 30,000 brochures in just 2 days!

To assist local volunteers, the Council have published and electronically distributed **a complete process and best practice guide to volunteering.**

The guide gives volunteers an understanding of how to interact whilst helping out practically and adhering to social distancing measures.

To further assist local businesses, the Council has partnered with Brentwood's **Chamber of Commerce to deliver online webinars** on relevant topics, such as 'Effective Crisis Management' and 'An Update on the Job Retention Scheme'.

The Council's website is regularly updated, along with its social media pages.

They have also **released a number of informational videos to help local residents,** which have been viewed thousands of times online.

Each week, **either the Council Leader or Chief Executive are a guest on the community radio station, Phoenix FM,** to update listeners on what the Council is doing to help residents, as well as any challenges they're facing. These are recorded and posted online.

The Council **holds two weekly conference calls.** The first includes the business community, Chamber of Commerce and local Business Partnership, where they are updated on the continuing situation, as well as advised on how to secure grant funding. The second is with volunteer groups, parish councils and local charities to help co-ordinate local efforts.

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 Conservative Councillors' Association

Promoted by Alan Mabbutt on behalf of the CCA, both at 4 Matthew Parker Street, London SW1H 9HQ.