

# BRENTWOOD Gazette

LOCAL NEWS ALL DAY EVERY DAY ESSEXLIVE.NEWS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

ALSO SERVING: BILLERICAY, WICKFORD AND ONGAR

InYourArea.co.uk £3.10

**50% OFF YOUR GAZETTE FOR 6 MONTHS\*** PAGE 21  
\*Terms and conditions apply



ALEX'S EPIC SWIM JOY  
PAGE 5



CELEBRATION IN PARK  
PAGE 3



BAYTREE CENTRE SCHEME AGREED  
PAGE 4

## Hospital beds plan is shelved for now

### MP BACKS SIX-MONTH DELAY

A PROPOSAL to remove intermediate care beds from Brentwood Community Hospital and replace them with a 50-bed stroke unit for mid and south Essex has been shelved for six months.

Alex Burghart, MP for Brentwood and Ongar, who campaigned against the proposal, is delighted that Tom Abell, the new chief executive of the Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board, has taken action over the plans.

Mr Burghart MP said: "I am pleased the views of local people, and their genuine concerns about the loss of intermediate care beds in our only hospital in the Brentwood and Ongar constituency have been heard.

"I want to see the Brentwood Community Hospital being used efficiently for local people so I hope the six-month pause is the start of a permanent change of heart by the Integrated Care Board.

"One of the most important things to come out of the consultation events I attended was that people get better quicker if their relatives and friends can visit them easily, and I hope this is something the ICB remembers as it

develops its new solutions for health-care in this part of Essex."

Mr Abell, in a letter to interested parties, said he had realised the strength of felling about the proposals in local communities and has made it clear more time is needed to explore further the suggestions made and to develop more comprehensive solutions together.

An independently-chaired working group is being formed to focus on further engagement, reviewing feedback from the consultation and looking at other options for where community beds should be available.

Mr Burghart MP said: "Brentwood Community Hospital was originally built, with the help of significant local fundraising, for the care of local people.

"It is the only NHS hospital in my constituency, and provides outstanding care for my constituents when they need some extra support to get home.

"I am delighted the status quo is being maintained for the moment and will make sure I am involved in the ongoing discussions about the future of our local health services."



Alex Burghart MP outside Brentwood Community Hospital  
ALEX BURGHART MP