



# Brentwood Chamber of Commerce *Newsletter*

July 2016

[www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk](http://www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk)

## ***Dear Member***

Since our last Newsletter, the British public has made the momentous **decision that the UK should exit the European Union**. The country is in a state of flux whilst the new administration under Prime Minister Theresa May starts to grapple with the task of taking the UK out of the EU, assessing the implications and trying to do the best business deals available to maintain the UK's position as a leading global economy.

We, in Chamber, will do our best to keep you informed about anything which may be of direct interest to local businesses. Clearly the decision carries with it potential business opportunities, but also risks. In the coming months we will be making some attempts to quantify these at local level, to evaluate how they could affect our members.

Our June Executive Committee meeting was the first for **new Chairman Colin Barber** and he began by setting out quite clearly his aims for Brentwood Chamber. He wants Brentwood Chamber to be seen as **the** voice of business in Brentwood. His aim is to engage with members and increase membership, whilst encouraging more liaison with local organisations. He recognises the wide range of talents and expertise represented on the Executive Committee – all volunteers – and these talents can be harnessed for the benefit of Chamber members.

He envisages enhancing the range of benefits to members, where necessary outsourcing beyond the committee, if the required expertise and resource is not available within, though this approach would have to be cost neutral or generate income for Chamber.



One of Colin's first duties as Chairman was to preside over one of the year's major networking events, **Chamber's Mid-Summer Networking Evening at the Sugar Hut Café on 14<sup>th</sup> June**. The evening was a great success, with everyone who attended enjoying themselves and benefiting from the business contact opportunities. The Sugar Hut Café proved to be an excellent venue. Feedback from those who attended was that the Brexit/Bremain vote, EU Quiz and Debate proved to be highly interesting, topical and a thought-provoking focal point for the evening.

From time to time in the past we have mentioned the work going on to trace the **historic medieval market charters granted to Brentwood by Plantagenet Monarchs**. Former Chamber Chairman, Clive Othen, presented the fruits of the research - replicas of the charters - to Council representatives at the Civic Dinner in March. And then, as part of the Brentwood Art Trail, visitors to the Friday market on 24 June had the opportunity to see those replicas for themselves. The 1227 and 1252 documents were on public display for the first time since they were presented, and our picture shows the new Mayor Cllr Noelle Hones receiving it from immediate past Mayor Cllr Mark Reed, with Clive Othen on the right.



Brentwood Chamber's **Executive Committee July meeting** will devote a substantial amount of its time discussing the future direction of our Chamber and how best we can serve the business community in Brentwood. I will report back in future newsletters on the outcome.

**Mike Hawkins**  
Chief Executive

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**Nick Bown**  
Weald House, Weald Road  
Brentwood, Essex CM14 4TH

T: 02030 511787  
E: [info@ixcg.com](mailto:info@ixcg.com)  
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# Members' News

## Assistance Dogs – Access to Business Premises



At the recent Brentwood Chamber AGM, Steve Ackroyd gave a very interesting presentation about Metro Bank, and mentioned about their Dogs Rule policy. Metro Bank understand how important man's best friend is to their customers so they actively welcome dogs in to their bank.

This got us thinking more specifically about assistance dogs and the experiences of their owners when out and about in our Borough.

An assistance dog is a dog trained to aid or assist a person with a disability or medical condition. Under the Equality Act 2010, guide dog and other assistance dog owners have the right to enter the majority of services, premises and vehicles with their dog.

An 'Access all Areas' survey conducted recently by Guide Dogs revealed however, that the majority of assistance dog owners had been refused access to somewhere. The most frequent places that guide dog owners are refused access are taxis, restaurants and shops.

Sue Page, owner of Crown Street Cafe, was out and about in Brentwood recently with her friend Sophie who, after a three year wait, now has a hearing dog, Rusty, who is transforming her life. Sue is pleased to report that everywhere they visited in Brentwood was very welcoming, although some people were hesitant until they realised that Rusty is an assistance dog. Sue says 'Rusty is always welcome at our Café, and he usually gets a sausage to takeaway'.

So how welcoming is your business, are you and your team aware of the current legislation, let's do everything we can in Brentwood to make us an Assistance Dog friendly town.

Article by Penny Hollington of Hollington Associates

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## News from Brentwood Council about a business event at which Brentwood Chamber will be exhibiting.....



### KEY DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: BRENTWOOD BUSINESS SHOWCASE, 2 NOVEMBER 2016

Brentwood Borough Council is organising a Business Showcase event at Brentwood School to include keynote speakers, a business-to-business exhibition and workshops. The aim of the event is to showcase Brentwood businesses and Brentwood as a great place to grow, locate and do business.

The event will focus on key business sectors that are important to Brentwood and business that can demonstrate an innovative approach, product or service or an interesting and motivational entrepreneurial journey. It will be a great opportunity for businesses to network, learn and share best practice.

If you are interested in exhibiting, sponsoring or attending this event, or to find out more information please go to: [www.brentwoodbusinessshowcase.co.uk](http://www.brentwoodbusinessshowcase.co.uk)

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