



Clarence Ward - Autumn 2018

## FIRST COUNCIL HOUSES BUILT FOR A GENERATION

**The first large-scale development of new Council homes in St Albans for 30 years has been completed in Batchwood and made available for rent to people on the Council's Housing Register.**

■ The homes are a mix of one, two and three-bedroom properties and were built on three Council-owned garage sites that were no longer fit for purpose.

The development is part of an ambitious £6 million regeneration project the Conservative led Council has been working on since 2013. Other garage sites have previously been developed together with housing associations. Work to construct a further 23 homes on two garage sites in Sandridge is due to be finished later this year.

Housing Portfolio Holder Cllr Brian Ellis said: "The regeneration of our old garage sites has been a very exciting and worthwhile project demonstrating our commitment to creating much-needed affordable housing for the District.

I am very pleased with the high quality of the homes and the fact that we are turning run-down garage blocks into attractive residential areas."

Cllr Brian Ellis initiated and led delivery of the Batchwood Garage site re-development.



Cllr Brian Ellis with Patricia Seabright at the Batchwood site.

### News from your local Conservative Team

## LOCAL PLAN ON TRACK

■ How do you build the 14,500 more homes we need in the District, when we are already bursting at the seams, with congested roads and a shortage of school places? This was the challenge facing your Conservative administration. Our answer was to reach out across all political parties to get input from all perspectives, developing a plan that minimised the impact on our precious Green Belt.

The plan will enable us to build attractive homes in leafy communities with improved sustainable transport, 4 new secondary and 14 primary schools. The plan is due for submission in March.



## RECYCLING HITS 60% TARGET

■ The Conservatives set a manifesto recycling target of 60% plus. We introduced a new waste and recycling scheme with weekly waste food collection and mixed plastic, glass and metal.

In May the Council achieved over 60% for a 12-month period for the first time. There is still much to do but the new scheme and comprehensive improvement plan to boost recycling is delivering against commitments. The District moved from 56th nationally in 2015/16 to 26th in 2016/17 and we are hoping for further improvement for 2017/18. The new scheme saves residents £200k a year as well...

## MUSEUM + GALLERY OPENS

■ In June the new £7.75m Museum + Gallery opened on time and on budget.

The concept was conceived by Cllr Julian Daly and delivered by Cllr Annie Brewster who raised much of the match funding target via community and commercial fundraising.

The project was delivered at no extra cost to residents with money raised from the Heritage Lottery Fund, donors and the

redevelopment of the old museum site.

St Peters Ward councillor Alec Campbell said: "This is an example of a bold decision that has delivered an outstanding new visitor attraction for the City. I fully support Annie's ambition to make the Museum + Gallery a facility of national importance. The latest Hayward Touring Exhibition shows that we can attract exhibitions of the highest quality."



Cllrs Julian Daly, Annie Brewster and Alec Campbell

## THAMESLINK COMPENSATION

■ Anne Main MP has been dealing with a high volume of Thameslink service and compensation complaints. GTR have set up three different types of compensation packages. These include the 'Delay and Repay' scheme and substantial refunds for season ticket holders. There has been a significant reduction in complaints following a meeting Anne had with Chris Grayling where she pushed for a far more generous compensation package. Anne welcomes individual enquiries regarding the compensation packages and she and her team will be more than happy to take them up with GTR.

Facebook: St Albans Thameslink Commuters



Chris Grayling, Secretary of State for Transport & Anne Main

## News SNIPPETS

### REALITY CHECK: POLLUTION

Greens locally completed pollution measurements claiming they exceeded legal limits. Despite claiming to be experts, they failed to make the necessary bias adjustments. The Council's own report at the time showed "... no sites with concentrations above the annual mean limit for NO2 following bias adjustment and distance correction." It also showed a downward trend.

### CIVIC CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

Cllr Julian Daly has been leading a plan to transform a run-down area close to the Alban Arena. The Council has finalised two major land acquisitions totalling £7.6 million and is progressing office and residential schemes.

## YOUR CONSERVATIVE CENTRAL ST ALBANS TEAM



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