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Cllr Louise McKinlay MSc
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Your Ref:
Our Ref RH LG 0272016
Date: 22 August 2016
Enquiries to: Lucy Gordon 01245 291602
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Dear Louise

Thank you for your letter highlighting a number of unauthorised incursions on publicly owned land that the Borough of Brentwood has experienced this year.

It is essential that we continue to work together to ensure that unlawful activity, where the landowner has not authorised the occupation of their land, is challenged quickly and effectively. This is in the best interests of everyone in our communities, especially during the summer when families are keen to use public amenities such as play areas in parks. I understand and have sympathy for the frustration that residents in many parts of Essex experience.

I am hosting a roundtable meeting on 26th September 2016 which will include senior representatives from Essex Police and our local authorities, including those with specialist responsibilities. MPs and other key stakeholders are also invited.

The aim of the meeting will be to identify the issues that are causing most concern and to agree solutions. The roundtable will discuss the development of a strategic framework for addressing unauthorised encampments, ensuring that police and local authorities continue to work together as partners to identify and implement solutions within the framework of the law. This will include the guidance set out by the government in March 2015 entitled "Dealing with illegal and unauthorised encampments - a summary of available powers".

Yours sincerely



Roger Hirst
Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex

