

District Councillor's Report to Parish Councils August 2024

Cllr. Diana Garrod - Bumpstead Ward

Scheduled Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders & Roadworks

Intended closure of The Street, Birdbrook to commence 7th August 2024 for 3 days. Required while Anglian Water undertakes chamber cover replacement.

Ongoing closure of the B1057 Haverhill Rd, Steeple Bumpstead from 20th May to 13th September whilst Anglian Water undertakes works. Contact: E: steeple@anglianwater.co.uk or call 03457 145 145 quoting reference number 61886011.

Eastlight Community Housing and Grounds Maintenance Service

In response to requests, I have made enquiries with Eastlight regarding their grounds maintenance service. Eastlight Grounds Maintenance service wrote:

This year, the standard of our Grounds Maintenance has not been good enough due to poor contractor performance. Too often, the work has either not been completed, or it has not been completed to a high enough standard. We have worked closely with our contractor to try and improve their performance. However, these issues remained. As a result, we have agreed with our Grounds Maintenance contractor that we will end their contract at the end of July. As of Monday, 8 July, Grounds Maintenance services are now being carried out by Countrywide Grounds Maintenance. Countrywide intend to complete the vast majority of grass cuts by the end of July and will also treat weeds on hard surfaces. Our Estate Rangers will continue to support our Grounds Maintenance service by carrying out grass cutting in some areas. We have apologised to Eastlight residents for this year's Grounds Maintenance service, and I would like to extend that apology to anyone impacted by the poor service.

Residents who pay for Grounds Maintenance through their Service Charge will not be charged until services resumed effectively. We have written to all such residents to update them and will continue to update our website and Facebook page with further news. Once again, please accept my apologies for the quality of our Grounds Maintenance service. I hope the steps we are taking to improve the service reassure you, but if you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch.

Eastlight Community Homes Ltd. Charter House, Charter Way, Braintree CM77 8FG. T: 0330 128 0330
E: customer.services@eastlighthomes.co.uk

BDC's Cabinet Member has asked Eastlight for a meeting with their staff and the Chief Executive to discuss complaints and also the housing voids which can now remain empty for up to 12 months.

4 EV Taxis

BDC and local taxi firms have worked in partnership to introduce 4 new electric taxis. This is a positive step towards cleaner air and help meet targets in the Council's Climate Change Strategy.

LED Lamp Heads from ECC

Last year Essex County Council Highways announced the release of pre-used LED street light heads free of charge and offered these to town and parish councils. It has been widely advertised. However, some are still available on request and any enquiries can be made to myself or Becky Baines at BDC.

Wethersfield Asylum Centre

It has now been over a year since the arrivals at the former Wethersfield airfield. As of w/c 15th July, 536 service users were on site. Having been on site for 6 months or more, some are moving to dispersal accommodation across the country. The service user cap of 580 has been in place since April, remains as the Home Office has yet to fulfil all the conditions of the special development order. BDC's planning

officers continue to engage with the Home Office to ensure they are abiding by the conditions stipulated in the SDO and documentary evidence that they are meeting the conditions is starting to be received. When the cap conditions are met, the number of service users can rise to 800. When at 800, there is an option for an additional surge capacity of 445 and BDC still lacks details on how the surge would work in practice.

Affordable Homes

Last year Braintree District Council saw 424 affordable homes built (against a target of 250). Other authority figures: Colchester – 271, Maldon 149, Chelmsford – 164, Uttlesford – 184 and Epping – 56. Braintree District Council is conscious that there are large numbers of young adults awaiting affordable homes to buy and continues to encourage developers to provide these as a priority.

Braintree Local Highways Panel Meeting 29th April 2024 (extract from minutes)

Funded Schemes 2023/24:

Consideration was given to a report on the Panel's Funded Schemes for 2023/24, which had been recommended for approval. The report provided an update on the current position of all schemes in the 2023/24 programme of work. Members of the Panel were reminded that funding of £407,600 had been allocated to Braintree Local Highways Panel for the year 2023/24. This included a sum of £203,800 for improvement schemes, £144,189 for carriageway improvements and £59,611 for casualty reduction schemes. A sum of £207,500 had been allocated from the budget for improvement schemes, which amounted to an overspend of £3,700. It was reported that it had not been possible to complete some schemes as they had been commissioned late. Additional funding was also required for some of them. In considering this Item, Members of the Panel were reminded that a Chairmen's Panel comprising Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport and the Chairmen of each Local Highways Panel across the County had been established to consider larger scale and more expensive highway schemes and to determine if these should be funded. A budget of **£2 million** had been provided to the Chairmen's Panel. Casualty reduction schemes would be funded from a separate budget.

It be recommended to the Chairmen's Panel that **the following schemes be funded** as part of the Chairmen's Panel's programme of work for 2024/25:-

LBRA203002 – Design for provision of new footway,
Water Lane, Steeple Bumpstead
Estimated Cost:- £26,000

That it be recommended that the following schemes, the status of which has been assessed as 'red' as they **do not meet the criteria, are removed** from Braintree Local Highways Panel's list of potential schemes:-

LBRA222066 – Re-location of 30mph sign, Finchingfield Road, Steeple Bumpstead
Estimated Cost:- Not applicable

(Comments on page 20: Validation results - Site does not warrant 30mph extension. Speed limit currently changes at the point traffic is required to reduce speed. If it was extended, this would not make sense to drivers)

LBRA222067 – Speed reduction, Water Lane, Steeple Bumpstead
Estimated Cost:- Not applicable

(Comments on page 20: Validation results - The section of Water Lane in question is already subject to a 30mph speed limit. No scheme to progress)

The next meeting of the Braintree Local Highways Panel is scheduled for 29th August 2024 at 17:00.

Scheduled Road Closures Nearby (Cambridgeshire)

I do not usually provide information about Cambridgeshire. However, in view of the distress that has been caused by the long term closure of the B1057. I felt the advance warning of this might be helpful.

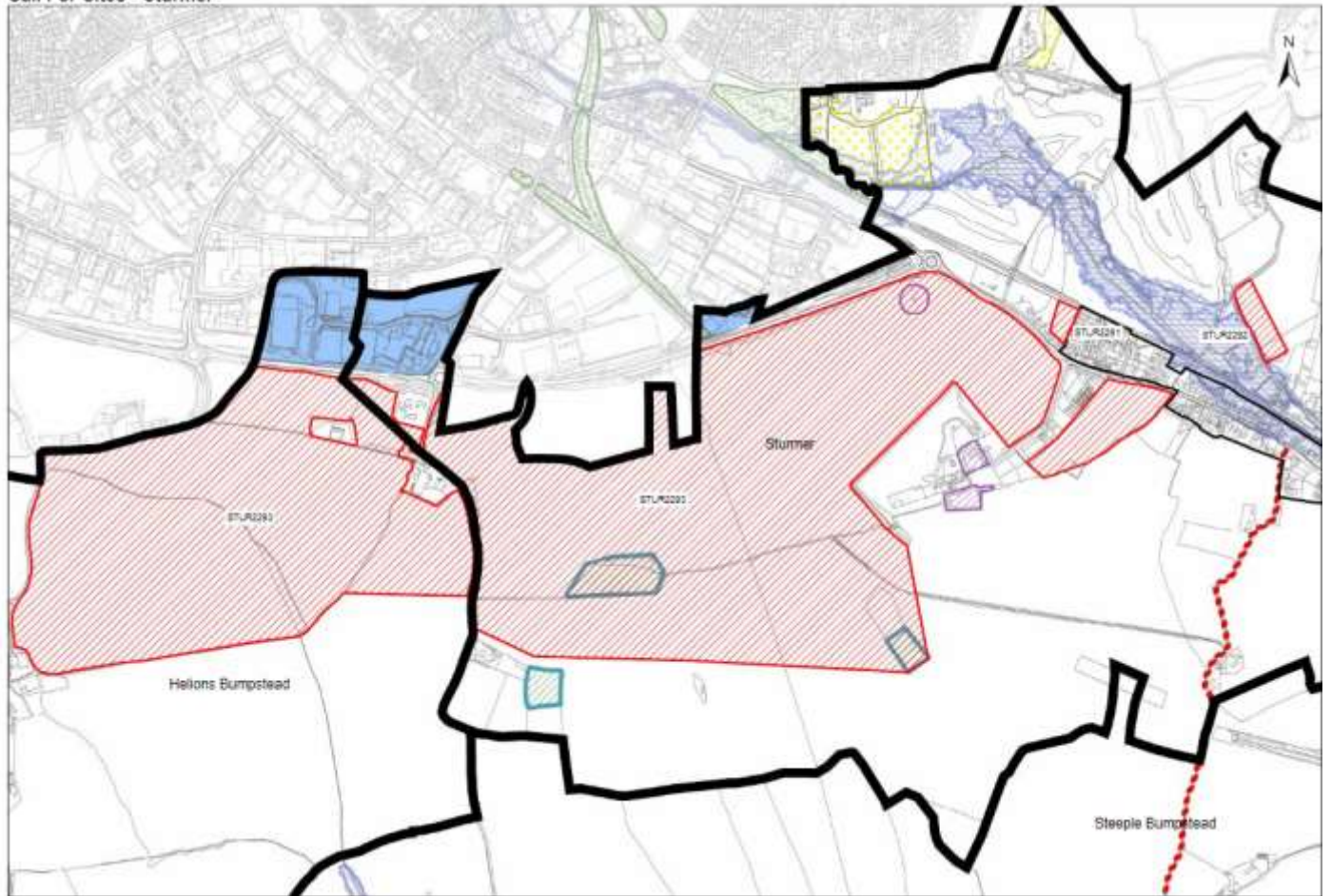


NB: Whilst I have not been officially notified, currently on the ECC map it shows that Finchingfield Road and Spains End Road are scheduled for closure from 6am to 8pm on 18th August due to works by County Broadband.

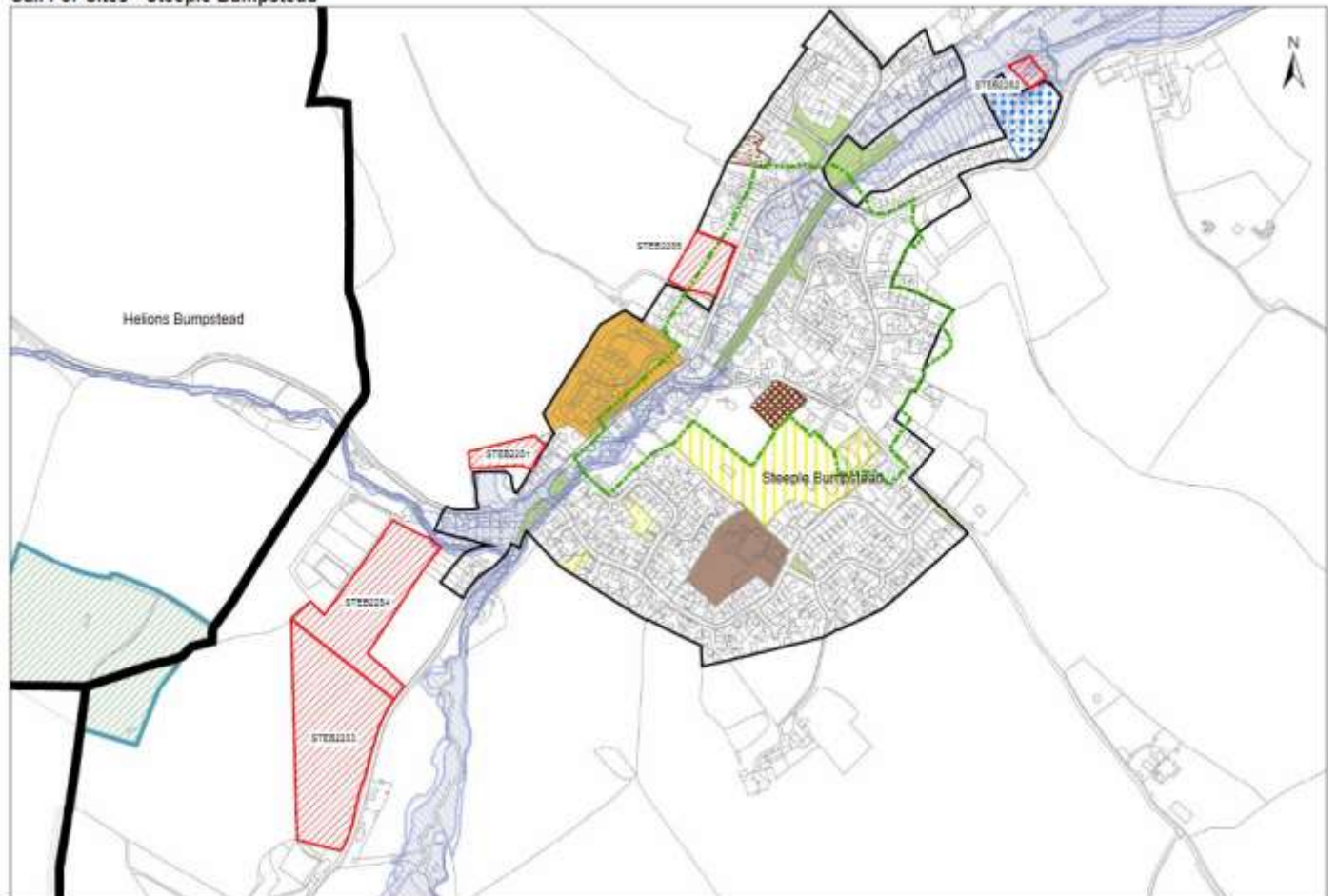
Local Plan Refresh – BDC Wants to Hear From You!

There a requirement to update Local Plans after 5 years. In March it was agreed to undertake a refresh whilst agreeing it would be tight to complete by end of June 2025. There is already a hint of the new Government that they expect local authorities to have a Local Plan in place. The call for sites ended recently and officers are now assessing the sites put forward. A community engagement exercise is underway and **responses are required by 16th August 2024**. It is a very informal way for anyone to feed back what they would like to see in a refreshed local plan; for example, this would include housing, affordable housing, retail, leisure, open spaces and business opportunities. It is very easy to send an email to the planning policy team with ideas and thoughts. There will be a meeting of the Local Plan Sub-Committee (not discussing sites) to provide an update. The work discussing sites will start in September and continue through October in a number of additional meetings. The Regulation 18, 6 week public consultation will start in November and end towards end of December 2024. The feedback from the consultation will be collated during January and February 2025 with further meetings of the LP Sub-Committee taking place through to April 2025. The final Regulation 19, 6 week consultation follows in April and May on the draft plan and this will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for England by 30th June.

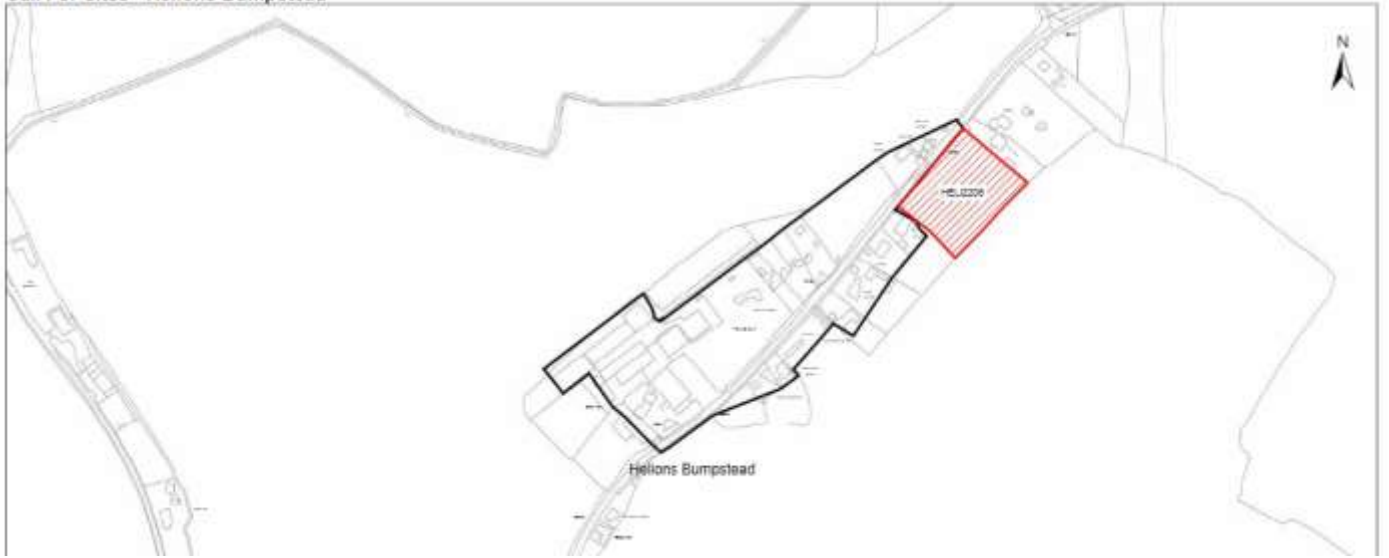
Call For Sites - Sturmer



Call For Sites - Steeple Bumpstead



Call For Sites - Helions Bumpstead



Call For Sites - Birdbrook Map 1



Call For Sites - Birdbrook Map 2





Key: Local Plan 2013-2033

District Boundary	Designer Outlet Centre	Formal Recreation
Inset Map	Strategic Growth Location	Informal Recreation
Development Boundary	Residential Site 10 or more Dwellings	Visually Important Space
Conservation Area	Specialist Housing	Structural Landscaping
Road Proposal	Proposed Gypsy/Travellers Site	Local Wildlife Site
Halstead Bypass Corridor	Business Parks	Cemetery/Churchyard
Protected Lanes	Employment Policy Area	Local Nature Reserve
Proposed WCH Route	Comprehensive Development Area	Green Buffer
Local Centre	Special Employment Area	Suitable Accessible Natural Greenspace
District Centre	Vehicle Storage	Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
Town Centre	Transport Related Policy Area	Historic Parks and Gardens
Primary Shopping Area	Education	Scheduled monument
Primary Frontage	Car Park	Flood Zone 2
Secondary Frontage	Community Uses	Flood Zone 3
Retail & Town Centre Uses	Leisure and Entertainment	Flood Zone 3B
Retail Warehousing	Allotments	

NB: The site submissions are not allocations. Not all sites received during this exercise are automatically marked for development, nor do they gain any special status. Every site is now being assessed to determine whether they are suitable, available and achievable for development or designation within the updated Local Plan.

Cllr. Diana Garrod
Braintree District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward