

District Councillor's Report to Parish Councils September 2024

Cllr. Diana Garrod - Bumpstead Ward

Scheduled Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders & Roadworks

Intended closure of Chapel Street, Haverhill Road, Finchingfield Road, Old Hall Road, Eggshell Lane, Cornish Hall End, Little London Hill, Steeple Bumpstead on 6th September 2024 for 5 days while Essex County Council undertakes surface dressing. <https://one.network/?tm=138378768>

Intended closure of Old Hall Road, Steeple Bumpstead on 11th September 2024 for 2 days whilst Essex County Council undertakes ground investigation. <https://one.network/?tm=139059851>

Ongoing closure of the Haverhill Rd, Steeple Bumpstead from 16th September to 8th November 2024 whilst Anglian Water undertakes phase 2 of its works. Contact: E: steeple@anglianwater.co.uk or call 03457 145 145 quoting reference number 61886011.

Steeple Bumpstead Neighbourhood Plan

The BDC Decision Planner (incorporating the Forward Plan) published 02/09/2024 on the council's website indicates that the Steeple Bumpstead Neighbourhood Plan will be presented to Full Council on 9th December 2024.

Ref No.	Title & Description of Decision	Type of Decision			Decision Maker	Proposed Date of Decision	Consultation & Background Papers	Member Sponsor	Contact Officer	Decision Expected to be Taken in Private?
		Key	Council	Non-Key						
DP/2023/49	To approve the Steeple Bumpstead Neighbourhood Plan as part of the development plan for the District		*		Council	9th December 2024	The Steeple Bumpstead Neighbourhood Plan Examiners Report	Cllr G Spray	Alan Massow	No

BDC Awards £100k to Local Community Groups for Carbon Reduction Projects

Braintree District Council has awarded the full £100,000 of funding from its Community Infrastructure Grants scheme to 11 community groups, parish councils and sports clubs. The capital fund, which was launched in February, was available to existing constituted groups wishing to make improvements that would help reduce their carbon emissions. Each organisation has estimated the carbon reduction the changes will make to electricity or heating usage, for a huge average reduction of 54%.

The projects will support the council in the delivery of key Climate Strategy priorities, to support business and communities to improve energy efficient infrastructure.

Councillor Diana Garrod, Deputy Cabinet Member - Lead Member for Climate Change and Sustainability, said: "I am thrilled that we have been able to allocate the full £100,000 from this fund, which will make a real difference to our communities. These improvements will have a significant impact on the organisations' sustainability, making them more resilient to energy cost increases and contributing positively to our environment. I look forward to following their progress."

The Community Infrastructure Grants Fund has received £100,000 from the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Garden Waste Collection Service

At the Cabinet meeting scheduled for 9th September 2024, the subscription rates for the Garden Waste Collection Service 2025/26 will be discussed. The average charge across Essex is £59. The agenda can be seen on the council's website. I provide an extract from the agenda as follows (*NB: no decision is taken at time of producing this report*):

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To provide an update on the Garden Waste Collection Service following the changes in March 2023/24 to a subscription-based service and agree proposals for the subscription rates for 2025/26.

2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (a) Notes the update on progress of the Garden Waste Service.
- (b) Approves a Garden Waste Charging Structure for 2025/26 of:
 - i. £55 for the first bin
 - ii. £30 for the second and subsequent bins
 - iii. £8 per roll of 20 biodegradable sacks
- (c) Delegates authority to the Cabinet Member for Transformation, the Environment and Customer Services, in consultation with the Corporate Director, Operational, to agree any necessary changes to the Terms and Conditions of service.

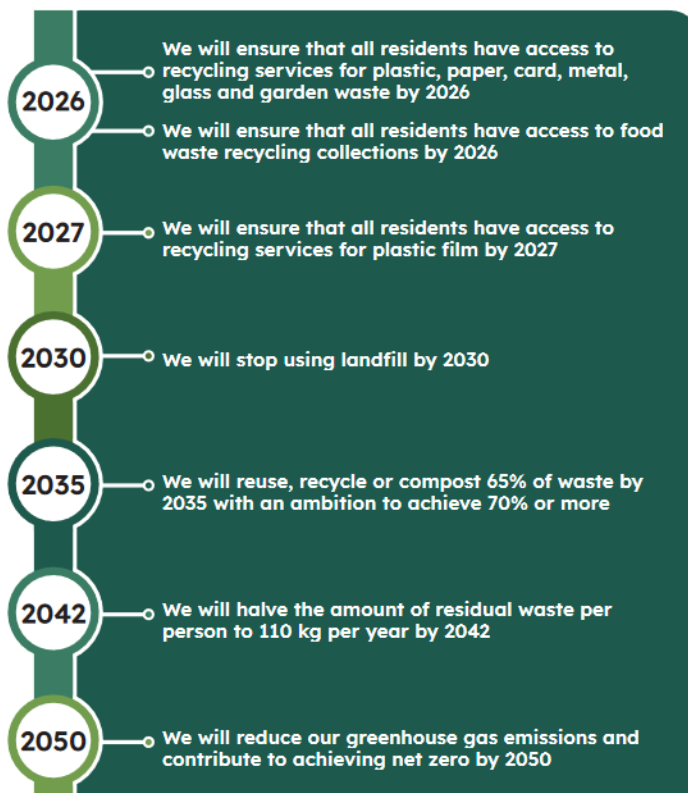
Waste Strategy for Essex

At the Cabinet meeting scheduled for 9th September 2024, the adoption of the Waste Strategy for Essex will be discussed. The thirteen councils of the Essex Waste Partnership (EWP) have a legal duty to maintain a Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy. The councils have worked together to jointly develop a new Waste Strategy for Essex to comply with this duty. It is a 30-year strategy for the county of Essex that sets a clear ambition and commitment to reduce the impact on our environment from dealing with the things that are thrown away. It provides a framework for waste management informing the future design of waste services and a joined-up approach to waste treatment and disposal. The strategy position on landfill has been strengthened by committing to ceasing the use of landfill by 2030.

I provide an extract from the agenda as follows (*NB: no decision is taken at time of producing this report*):

OUR TARGETS AND AMBITIONS

The partnership is committed to achieving the government's national targets as a minimum standard, but we would like to go beyond these targets and have a bigger impact more quickly.



Braintree Residents Invited to PFCC Public Meeting

Residents are invited to attend a meeting on 9th September 2024 from 7pm to 8pm at the Queens Hall, Chipping Hill, Halstead CO9 2BY. DPFCC Jane Gardiner will be joined panel members from Essex Police, Essex Fire and Rescue Service and Braintree District Council.

September is 'Preparedness Month'

The nationwide 30days30waysUK campaign has been launched. This is a national campaign which aims to boost resilience by providing vital hints and tips on how to be prepared for an emergency.

<https://30days30waysuk.org.uk>

Parish Councils might also find it useful to retain the following useful telephone numbers and publish them for residents:

- Free national power cut emergency: **105**
- Free national gas emergency number: **0800 111 999**
- Braintree District Council: **01376 552525**
(alternative contact: csc@braintree.gov.uk or www.braintree.gov.uk)
- Essex County Council: **0345 743 0430**
(alternative contact: www.essex.gov.uk/contact-us)
- Eastlight Community Homes: **0330 128 0330**
(alternative contact: customer.services@eastlighthomes.co.uk or www.eastlighthomes.co.uk)
- Floodline Advice: **0345 988 1188**
- Environment Agency Floodline (24 hour): **0845 9881 188**
- Environment Agency Incident Hotline (24 hour): **0800 80 70 60**
- Trading Standards for consumers: **0345 404 0506**

Local Plan Sub Committee Minutes – 15th August 2024

Councillor Spray reported that the Government had recently published changes to the National Planning Policy Framework. These focussed on increasing the supply of land for housing and set out a revised Standard Methodology for calculating housing targets. It was anticipated that the housing target for the Braintree District could increase as a result. It was also proposed that the deadline for Local Authorities to submit new Local Plans to the Planning Inspectorate for examination should be extended from June 2025 to December 2026. This would provide Braintree District Council with the opportunity to review its Local Development Scheme and to develop a less pressured timetable for the production of the refreshed Local Plan. The proposed changes were subject to an eight week consultation period, which would conclude on 24th September 2024. Councillor Spray stated that a detailed report on the proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework would be submitted to the Local Plan Sub-Committee on 16th September 2024 to enable the Sub-Committee to agree the Council's response to the consultation process. In the circumstances, it was proposed that the Local Plan Sub-Committee meeting scheduled for 2nd September 2024 should be cancelled and that a revised timetable of meetings should be agreed and publicised after 16th September 2024.

A Press Release would be issued on 16th August 2024 to thank people for their input to the review of the Local Plan to date and to inform them about the proposed way forward. Public involvement in the process was very important and it was acknowledged that there would be further opportunities for the public to participate.

CALL FOR SITES 2024

INFORMATION: Members of the Local Plan Sub-Committee received a report which summarised the outcome of the Council's recent 'call for sites' exercise as part of the review of Braintree District Local Plan. It was reported that as part of the review of the Local Plan the Council had invited people to put forward potential development sites for possible inclusion in the Plan. This call for sites had taken place over a period of six weeks ending in May 2024. A total of 319 sites had been submitted and it was likely that further sites would be submitted as the review of the Local Plan progressed. It was anticipated that the number of dwellings required to be identified in the Local Plan for the period from 2024 to 2041 would be a minimum of 7,093 based on the Standard Methodology calculation. A Strategic Housing Market Assessment was being commissioned to assess whether this figure was suitable. However, it was noted that the Government was currently consulting on a revised Standard Methodology which could increase

the housing target for the District. The capacity of development sites had been assumed to be at a density of 25 dwellings per hectare.

It was noted that each of the sites submitted as part of the call for sites would be assessed and the Local Plan Sub-Committee would be requested to determine whether or not they should be included in the revised Local Plan as preferred sites. The submission of a proposed site did not mean that the site would be included within the Local Plan. The sites submitted would also be subject to public consultation.

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

INFORMATION: Members of the Local Plan Sub-Committee received a verbal report regarding proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). It was reported that the Government had published a revised version of the NPPF, which was currently subject to an eight week consultation period, which would conclude on 24th September 2024. The verbal report provided an overview of the proposed changes and the possible implications for Braintree District Council. In particular, the proposed NPPF focussed on increasing the supply of land for housing. It was proposed that any previous over supply of housing land should no longer be taken into account, that the requirement for a five year housing land supply should be retained, and that the 5% land supply buffer should be restored. It was proposed that mandatory housing targets should be re-introduced, which would be calculated using a new Standard Methodology.

It was anticipated that the proposed housing target for Braintree District Council would represent an increase of approximately 35% over the current figure, to 1098 homes per year. It was also proposed that the deadline for Local Authorities to submit new Local Plans to the Planning Inspectorate for examination should be extended from June 2025 to December 2026. This would provide Braintree District Council with the opportunity to review its Local Development Scheme and to develop a less pressured timetable for the production of its refreshed Local Plan. A detailed report on the proposed changes to the NPPF would be submitted to the Local Plan Sub-Committee on 16th September 2024 to enable the Sub-Committee to agree the Council's response to the consultation process.

Cllr. Diana Garrod
Braintree District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward