

District Councillor's Report to Parish Councils October 2024

Cllr. Diana Garrod - Bumpstead Ward

Scheduled Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders & Roadworks

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.

Intended Closure of Moat Road, Birdbrook commencing 31st October 2024 for 5 days whilst Anglian Water undertakes sewer main installation. <https://one.network/?tm=139922151>

Essex County Council – Collision Data Website

Data about road traffic collisions in the county of Essex can be found at this website:-
<https://essex.traffweb.app/traffweb/3/Collisions>

Bikeability Courses

If your child needs a little more confidence on their bike, there will be Bikeability courses running during the October half term holidays at Braintree Sport and Health Club. All different levels are available including the Learn to Ride beginners course, and courses cost £15 per child. To book:
<https://www.bikeability.org.uk/get-cycling/cycle-training-for-children/>

Road Safety Trust Grants

The purpose of The Road Safety Trust is to make UK roads safer, achieving impact through the funding of practical measures, research, dissemination and education initiatives.

The grant theme for their Autumn 2024 round is on the subject of 'Inequalities in Road Safety'.

Each application should have a lead organisation which must be a UK local public sector organisation (e.g. Local Authority, Police Force or Fire and Rescue), UK university, UK-based registered charity, not-for-profit, social enterprise or community interest company.

Two levels of grant are available:

- Small grants between £10,000 and £50,000
- Large grants between £50,000 and £300,000

The closing date for applications is 1 November 2024. <https://www.roadsafetytrust.org.uk/our-grants>

Heritage Fund - £15m and other Grants

The Heritage Fund have committed £15m to support local authorities and community partners across the UK to put natural heritage and green infrastructure at the heart of their plans, priorities and investment, improving the climate resilience of their places and enabling access for all.

There will be one round of funding with grants available from £250,000 up to £1m.

They are accepting Expressions of Interest until 12noon on 12 November 2024.

If your initial proposal is successful, you will be invited to submit a full application between 16 December 2024 and 7 March 2025.

<https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/news/ps15million-help-put-nature-heart-our-towns-and-cities>

There are also other grants available, including places of worship and listed buildings. Further info:
<https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/funding/strategic-initiatives>

Braintree Community Diagnostic Centre

The Braintree Community Diagnostic Centre is now entering its building phase and works started on 31 August 2024. This marks a positive step in progressing this much needed facility. Once, complete, the Centre will offer X-rays, CT and MRI scans, blood tests and much more. The Centre is being built on the St Michael's site and adjacent to the William Julien Courtauld Birthing Centre.

The UK Fund – The National Lottery Community Fund

The UK Fund is looking to fund organisations that want to do more to help communities come together and help make us a better-connected society.

Your project must either work across the UK, or be able to inform, influence or scale across the UK.

They want to fund projects that:

- strengthen relationships between people whose experiences of life have not been the same. For example, relationships between people of different ethnic backgrounds, generations, occupations or geographies
- create connections between online and offline worlds
- help make sure people from all backgrounds can shape the future of their communities.

£500,000 to £5m is available and they expect most projects to run from 2 to 5 years. They may consider funding for up to 10 years. <https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/the-uk-fund>

Upcoming Community Police Event

Thursday 10th Oct 10:30am to 11:00am St Mary Church, Steeple Bumpstead. Everyone welcome.

Haverhill Area Forum

I hope to attend the Haverhill Area Forum scheduled for 5th November 2024. If any parish councils would like me to raise any matter in particular, please let me know. The purpose of the Forum was, and continues to be, to maintain an overview of issues relating to the well-being and future development of the area surrounding Haverhill and make recommendations to our respective Councils about actions required to promote the success of the area and its community. Haverhill Town Council says it is aware that, as the largest town in the area, we have a responsibility to be a good neighbour and to understand how the town impacts on surrounding parishes. By talking together, they hope to boost civic friendship and find mutual benefits in working together

North Essex councils respond to planning reform proposals

North Essex Councils have shared a joint response to the government on their proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and other changes to the national planning system.

Here's a summary of the response:

- concern about the need to support any new housing targets with appropriate infrastructure, calling for significant, extra government funding for infrastructure, like transport, healthcare and education, and affordable housing delivery and capacity support for councils
- it argues that just setting a target does not reflect practical considerations, such as land availability, infrastructure provision, environmental constraints or whether the developers will actually build at the rate required
- recommendations for the government to address the gaps to deliver affordable and social housing and incentivise developers to deliver the homes where permission is granted to ensure it is not councils and communities that are punished for the development industry's inability to deliver
- significant concerns over proposals to re-introduce the 5-year housing land supply requirement, requesting for sensible transitional arrangements to allow councils to move smoothly from existing to new targets without fear of speculative development, planning by appeal and the huge damage it does to the effective use of limited public resources.

https://www.braintree.gov.uk/news/article/724/north-essex-councils-join-forces-to-respond-to-government-s-national-planning-policy-framework-nppf-consultation?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

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