

District Councillor's Report to Parish Councils November 2024

Cllr. Diana Garrod - Bumpstead Ward

Scheduled Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders & Roadworks

The closure of the Haverhill Rd, Steeple Bumpstead is scheduled again in early 2025 when Anglian Water intends to continue their next phase. 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>

Intended closure of Helions Road, Steeple Bumpstead from 3rd November 2024 for 3 days whilst Openreach undertakes duct laying. <https://one.network/?tm=139725859>

Intended closure of Fell Road, Birdbrook commencing 5th November 2024 for 7 days whilst Anglian Water undertakes sewer main installation. <https://one.network/?tm=139922082>

Intended closure of Sturmer Road, Maltings House Road, Steeple Bumpstead from 18th November 2024 for 7 days whilst UK Power Networks undertakes pole replacement.

Intended closure of Steeple Bumpstead Road, Helions Bumpstead from 25th November 2024 for 8 days whilst ECC undertakes carriageway patching. <https://one.network/?tm=139117497>

Intended closure of Broad Green, Steeple Bumpstead commencing 25th November for 2 days whilst UK Power Networks undertakes pole replacement. <https://one.network/?tm=139059696>

News from Anglian Water

[Ref: 6344641/SEW-12079/@onealliance \(Stambourne to Birdbrook\)](#)

Investing in local communities

We're committed to providing a reliable and resilient water supply to you and 4 million other residents in our region, that's why we're investing in this area and installing new pipes. It's all part of our biggest ever programme of investment. We clean, supply and treat a billion litres of water a day and all our pipes laid end to end would stretch around the world three times - so keeping everything running smoothly is a huge challenge. This year we're investing £930 million in pipes, treatment centres, customer service and the environment.

What are we doing and why?

We're making some changes to how we treat wastewater in the area. That's why we're building a new pumping station at our existing site in Stambourne, and laying a four-kilometre pipeline from Stambourne to Birdbrook.

How will our work affect you?

You can see our pipeline route [here](#). We started work in September and if everything runs smoothly, we'll be finished in Spring 2025. Most of our work will be through fields but we will cross some roads. And to complete this work safely, we'll need to close; Wesley End Road 28th to 30th October, Moat Road 31st October to 4th November, Fell Road 5th to 11th November

What else is happening?

We'll soon be doing some work to increase the capacity of the sewer system to protect homes and the environment from flooding. Because climate change means extreme weather events like flooding are becoming more common, we're investing into improving our underground infrastructure across our region.

We plan to install new storm water pipes in the field opposite A1017, shown [here](#). And when our work's finished, the new system will improve drainage for decades to come and significantly reduce the risk of pollution and flooding during heavy rain. Before we start the work, we need to complete archaeological and

investigative digs. They'll help us understand the ground conditions, expose any existing underground utilities we're not already aware of, and to make sure we don't disturb anything important and when we install the new tank. This shouldn't affect you, but you might be able to see and/or hear us working if you live nearby. Once we know more, we'll be back in touch to let you know our plans.

How can you find out more?

If you have any questions about our work, you can email us at: onealliancecustomers@anglianwater.co.uk or call us on 03457 145 145. You'll just need to mention the reference number 6344641.

Disposal of Sharps (e.g. medical needles)

Concerns have been raised with me about the lack of places to dispose of Sharps in the locality. Some pharmacies in Haverhill, which residents in the Bumpstead Ward normally use, are no longer providing this service. Sharps are classified as Hazardous Waste and must be disposed of responsibly. They must not be disposed of in household waste. Your GP surgery will supply a Sharps Box and you can arrange collection of the box by contacting GB Holdings – Tel: 01245 464214.

<https://www.braintree.gov.uk/bins-waste-recycling/dispose-clinical-waste>

Essex Highways Survey for Councillors (Let your thoughts be known!)

Essex Highways would like councillors to complete a survey on priorities and satisfaction levels to help them prioritise and consider how best to target their limited resources. It doesn't take long – say 10 mins. At the end there is time to make your own comments, so please provide constructive feedback! It is open until 14th November 2024. <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/essex-highways/129be43e/>

Autumn 2024 Verge Cutting Schedule

BDC works in partnership with Essex County Council (who holds ultimate responsibility) to ensure rural verges across the district are cut annually. The schedule is dependent on weather conditions; periods of heavy rainfall mean the contractor is unable to cut the verges without doing damage. Sturmer and Steeple Bumpstead were scheduled to be completed late October 2024. Birdbrook and Helions Bumpstead are not cut by BDC and are subject to arrangement between ECC and the respective parish council.

Process for Requesting Safety Cuts

Where a need is justified, anyone can request a safety cut to verges to maintain clear sight at junctions road splays and roundabouts, etc. Safety cuts can be requested either by an online form at www.braintree.gov.uk/contact or by contacting Customer Services: Email: csc@braintree.gov.uk Tel: 01376 552525. Following receipt of a request, a site inspection will be made to verify the need for a cut and this will be added to BDC's work programme as required. The person reporting the request is notified of BDC's decision.

Rt Hon Angela Rayne MP Writes to Leader of Braintree District Council 30/10/2024 (extracts)

"This Government is taking decisive action to kickstart our commitment to deliver the biggest increase to social and affordable housebuilding in a generation. Today's Budget announces an immediate one-year cash injection of £500 million to the existing Affordable Homes Programme, which will deliver up to 5,000 new social and affordable homes. The Government will set out details of new investment to succeed the 2021-26 Affordable Homes Programme at next year's Spending Review".

"Sufficient capacity in the planning system is also essential to getting Britain building. Building on recently announced initiatives including the New Homes Accelerator and New Towns Taskforce, this Budget also provides over £50 million additional funding to support our ambitions on Planning, including the recruitment and training of new graduates and apprentices into local planning authorities; accelerating large sites that are stuck in the system; and boosting local planning authority capacity to deliver the government's wider planning reforms".

East of England, Local Government Association 2024 Autumn Budget Briefing

I have included this so that parish councils can see what is planned for the East of England as a whole.

Date: 31/10/24 Report By: Matthew Stewart, Policy and Programme Manager: matt.stewart@eelga.gov.uk

1. Planning, Infrastructure, and Housebuilding

1.1 Nutrient neutrality: The Government has allocated £47m via round 2 of the Local Nutrient Neutrality Fund to support the delivery of 28,000 homes that would otherwise be stalled due to nutrient neutrality. Broadland District Council has obtained nearly £8.9m of this funding.

1.2 Planning: £46m has been provided to boost local authority planning capacity through recruiting 300 planners, funding to accelerate large sites, and upskilling planning capacity.

1.3 Housing funding: £500m will be given in 2025/26 through the Affordable Homes Programme. Furthermore, the Public Works Loan Board Housing Revenue Account Rate will be maintained.

1.4 Brownfield Land Release Fund: £68m has been announced for councils to help clear urban sites for housing redevelopment. Within the East of England, the districts and boroughs of Basildon, Cambridge, Great Yarmouth, Mid Suffolk, and Welwyn Hatfield all received funding, along with Essex County Council, and the unitary authorities of Peterborough, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock. In total, the East of England received funding worth £5.1m.

1.5 Bus Improvement Plans: £640m will be provided to support locally-led bus initiatives, such as service support, fares initiatives, and capital schemes.

1.6 Infrastructure and transport projects:

- East West Rail: The Government has announced a consultation on the next steps that is due to run between 14 November and 24 January. They have outlined that they want the line to connect Oxford, Milton Keynes, and Cambridge, with the first trains to depart from Bedford to Oxford by 2030 via the acceleration of the Marston Vale Line.
- A47: Sections of the road will be dualled – though the Vauxhall Roundabout upgrade in Great Yarmouth has been discontinued.
- Road maintenance: An extra £500m has been provided on top of 2024/25 levels, an increase of 50%.
- Project Gigabit: £500m will be given in 2025/26 to improve rural internet.
- Sizewell C: £2.7bn of funding has been provided to continue development.
- Cambridge: £10m will be provided to the Cambridge Growth Company to develop a plan for housing, transport, water, and wider infrastructure including East West Rail

2. Economic Growth

2.1 “Connect to work”: £115m is being provided for a new scheme designed to match people with disabilities or health conditions into vacancies. Local authorities will be given flexibility on how this fund is administered, with well-progressed mayoral combined authorities given even greater flexibility.

2.2 Core sector support: A variety of funds have been announced for key sectors in the UK economy – of special relevance to the East of England is the Life Sciences Innovative Manufacturing Fund worth £520m in 2025/26, and a variety of tax reliefs for the creative sector worth £15bn over the next 5 years.

2.3 Economic development funding: The Government is minded to remove local government funding obtained from the dissolution of LEPs and to end funding for pan- regional partnerships. However, £900m will be provided to keep the UK Shared Prosperity Fund running until the end of 2025/26, after which it will be reformed.

2.4 Freeports and Investment Zones: Funding has been confirmed for Investment Zones and Freeports.

2.5 Levelling Up Funding: Core Levelling Up fund projects are to be funded – though the Government is minded to cancel unfunded Levelling Up Culture and Capital Projects.

3. Local Government Reform, Devolution, and Core Funding

3.1 Devolution: The Government has confirmed that the English Devolution White Paper is due to be published later this year, with the government expressing a preference for council reorganisation.

3.2 Core spending power and local government funding: £1.3bn of new grant funding has been allocated. If councils increase their council tax by the highest permissible amount without triggering a referendum, this will increase council spending power by 3.4%

3.3 Producer Responsibility Scheme: £1.1bn is to be made available for local authorities through this new waste scheme, with local authorities topped up if the amount they receive is below their 2025/26 estimate.

3.4 Public sector pay: The Employer’s National Insurance rate will increase from 13.8% to 15%. Furthermore, the National Living Wage will increase to £12.21/hour, and all other forms of minimum wage will be gradually harmonised to match the National Living Wage.

3.5 Business rates: Lower Business Rates multipliers will be introduced for high-street retail, hospitality, and leisure properties from 2026/27. Furthermore, the Small Business Multiplier will be frozen. English local authorities will be compensated accordingly. The Government has also asked for the views of councils on the future of business rates. The policy paper can be found on gov.uk.

3.6 Public Sector Reform and Innovation Fund: £165m has been allocated to support various objectives, including foster care recruitment and planning reform. A further £100m has been allocated to develop new approaches to public service reform with mayors and local leaders.

3.7 Office for Value for Money: An independent chair has been selected to help advise the chancellor with phase 2 of the Spending Review (See below) and will conduct an assessment on how to reduce inefficiency, undertake value for money studies, and assess investment proposals.

4. Education, Care, Health and Homelessness

4.1 SEND provision: £1bn in extra funding for SEND and Alternative Provision Funding has been provided, equivalent to 6% real growth in funding.

4.2 Social care spending: Of the £1.3bn for local government, £600m is earmarked for social care.

4.3 Carers Allowance: The Allowance Weekly Earnings Limit has been increased to the equivalent of 16 hours at the National Living Wage, and there will be a review into overpayments of Carer's allowance.

4.4 Further education: £300m has been provided help young people develop skills.

4.5 Capital projects: The capital budget for the Department for Education has increased, with the following identified as priorities:

- Children's home estate: To receive £90m.
- New schools: An extra £550m for the school rebuilding programme, an increase of 65%.
- Existing schools: An extra £300m to improve the condition of existing schools an increase of 17%.
- Colleges: £300m has been provided to enhance their estate.

4.6 Household Support Fund and Discretionary Housing Payments: £1bn has been provided to extend these funds to cover the 2025/26 financial year.

4.7 Social housing: A consultation has been published on gov.uk for a long-term social housing rent settlement of CPI+1% for five years. In addition, right-to-buy discounts will be limited, and local authorities will be able to keep the full receipts of sale.

4.8 Homelessness: £223m will be provided for homelessness in 2025/26, an increase of 29%.

4.9 Children's services: £250m will be provided to continue the delivery of pilots within the children's social care sector in preparation for reform, including £44m in new funding to pilot a Kinship Allowance.

4.10 Warm homes plan: £3.4bn over the next three years has been pledged to assist with heat decarbonisation and household energy efficiency. Furthermore, £1bn will continue to be provided over the next three years through the Public Sector Decarbonisation scheme.

4.11 Disabled facilities grant: Funding to be increased by £86m.

5. Phase two of the spending review – What can we expect?

5.1 The budget announced on 30 October is being described as phase one, covering the 2025/26 financial year for the most part. In spring 2025, the Government will announce a three-year spending review covering 2026/27 – 2028/29, which it is calling phase two. A short summary of the measures due to be announced within this phase 2 spending review is as follows.

5.2 Future housing grant investment: This will look to support greater investment in new affordable housing from social housing providers, looking at a mix of tenures, particularly the provision of housing for social rent. This investment will run until the end of the parliament at least.

5.3 Children's social care reform: Including early intervention to help children stay with their families, and measures to reform the care market.

5.4 Local growth funding: In tandem with local growth plans, the industrial strategy, and sector plans, the Government is looking at how to better fund growth. This will be done by moving away from competitions, instead integrating it with plans for infrastructure, investment, and the Industrial Strategy.

5.5 10-Year Infrastructure Strategy: This will give more detail on Government's approach.

5.6 Industrial Strategy and Sector Plans: These will outline the long-term growth direction of the UK, focussing on the eight "core sectors" identified by Government.

5.7 Final decision on Sizewell C: The Government has stated that it will be treated like any other major multiyear commitment and will therefore be subject to a Final Investment Decision as to whether to proceed in phase 2.

5.8 10-Year Health Plan for the NHS: The Government will look to move towards a more digital, preventative, and community-orientated NHS.

5.9 Devolution and local government funding simplification: The Government will establish multi-year settlements, consolidate grant funding into the Local Government Finance Settlement, and act upon the English Devolution White Paper.

5.10 Homelessness: Further announcements are expected, with HM Treasury and MHCLG working together.

5.11 Transport: Changes to fares, services, and workforce practices.

5.12 Social impact investment vehicle: Will mobilise private investment, along with the voluntary sector and government, to deliver social impacts.

5.13 10-year budgets for key R&D funding: To help industry stay productive.

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