

District Councillor's Report to Parish Councils February 2025

Cllr. Diana Garrod - Bumpstead Ward

Scheduled Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders & Roadworks

The closure of the Haverhill Rd, Steeple Bumpstead is scheduled until 28th February 2025 when Anglian Water intends to continue their next phase for installation of new water pipes. Contact: E: steeple@anglianwater.co.uk or call 03457 145 145 quoting ref. number 61886011.

Intended closure of Bumpstead Road from 24th February to 28th March 2025 whilst Anglian Water undertakes mains replacement. <https://one.network/?tm=140902069>

Intended closure of Kedington Road, Sturmer, B1061, 24th February 2025. NB: PAA is 'pending'. Note: Carriageway resurfacing will usually involve planing off all or some of the existing surface and removal of this material from site. The planed area will have the manholes and gullies adjusted and replaced if required.

Intended closure of Sturmer Road, Rowley Hill, The Street, due commence 19th May 2025 for 6 nights (20:00-06:00) for inlay surfacing. <https://one.network/?tm=141938179>

Intended closure of Sturmer Road and Hill Lane, Maltings Lane, The Endway (access only) 11th March 2025 9am-4pm whilst UK Power Networks undertakes pole replacement.

Notification received: ECC Scheduled Repairs to Sign (Ref: 2882812) Four Ash Hill, Baythorne End

Issue: Signing defects **Last updated:** 31/01/25

Street: Ridgewell Road, Birdbrook

Status: We've investigated and assessed this issue, and we're scheduling work to be carried out.

Steeple Bumpstead Neighbourhood Plan

The SBNP is a step closer towards intended adoption. The Examiners report on the Steeple Bumpstead Neighbourhood Plan was received in September 2024. Following the report, Braintree District Council confirmed by delegated decision that The Steeple Bumpstead Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions and other legislative requirements, and should proceed to a Neighbourhood Planning Referendum. The Decision Statement says the date the referendum will be held on is 13/03/25. Full details at: <https://www.braintree.gov.uk/planning-building-control/neighbourhood-planning/15>

Garden Waste Collection Service - Subscriptions

The subscription is for the 12-month period commencing April 2025 and ending March 2026 is open. The service runs all year except for a 2-week break over the Christmas/New Year period.

If you want to opt-in you must register/ sign in to My account to access the Waste Portal at:

<https://www.braintree.gov.uk/gardenwastesubscription> or contact customer services 01376 552525

- The subscription fee is £55 which will cover 12 months commencing 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.
- Each additional subscription fee will be £30.00.
- The cost of an additional or replacement bin will be £35.50.
- Biodegradable sacks (for households not on wheeled bins) are £8 per roll of 20 sacks.

Post Office – Steeple Bumpstead

Steeple Bumpstead Post Office - 41 North Street, Steeple Bumpstead, Haverhill, CB9 7DP

The Post Office has written that following the resignation of the postmaster and the withdrawal of the premises for Post Office use, the above branch will be closing on Thursday 20 March 2025 at 12:30.

Local Plan Review 2041

This is the 'Issues & Options' stage of the review. It is where BDC outlines the key challenges for future development and ask for your views on how we can best address these through planning policies. You have an opportunity to help shape policies around new housing, transport and road improvements, green infrastructure, and community facilities like healthcare, education and allotments. The survey is live until 7 March 2025. <https://engage.braintree.gov.uk/>

Essex Air Quality Strategy

BDC would love your opinions on a new draft Air Quality Strategy for Essex. Air pollution is the largest environmental risk to public health in the UK. It reduces life expectancy by causing heart and lung diseases and is connected to other health impacts, such as dementia. Braintree District Council has come together with all other councils across Essex to jointly develop the new strategy, through the Essex Air Quality Consortium. The strategy outlines actions to tackle air pollution and help improve people's health and is supported by local NHS trusts, Essex Police and the Essex Fire and Rescue Service. The consultation will run until Sunday 2 March 2025. <https://www.essexair.org.uk/>

Planning Appeal – Sturmer

Site Address:	Land Opposite Dearsley Kedington Road Sturmer Essex
Description of Development:	Change of Use of land from Agricultural to Commercial Open Storage (of scaffold tube & fittings on 4 wheeled trailers)
Planning Application Ref:	24/02064/FUL
Appellant's Name:	Mr Nick Claydon
Planning Inspectorate Ref:	APP/Z1510/W/25/3358626
Appeal Start Date:	4 February 2025

If you wish to make comments, or modify/withdraw your previous representation, you can do so online at <http://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>. If you do not have access to the internet, you can send your comments to:

The Planning Inspectorate
Team East 1
Room 3B
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

All representations must be received by 04 March 2025 and sent directly to the Planning Inspectorate. Any representations submitted after the deadline will not usually be considered and will be returned. The Planning Inspectorate does not acknowledge representations. **All representations must quote the appeal reference, APP/Z1510/W/25/3358626.**

Verge Cutting

BDC has successfully negotiated with Essex County Council, additional funding for additional highway/verge cuts. Two cuts per year are proposed to return. Further information to follow.

Budget Proposals at BDC

BDC has published their 2025/26 budget proposals which shows they are able to balance their budget whilst protecting essential services and giving them a much-needed funding boost.

- No cuts to services
- No increase in charges in things that are important to residents, like the garden waste subscription service and car parking

- Support for community – community groups to support local initiatives, continued cost of living support, investment in sports and community facilities
- £500,000 to address growing pressures around temporary housing accommodation
- Investment in community assets and pride in place, with extra money for things such as litter and dog bins, A120 cleaning and a new rapid response team

They are proposing to increase their share of council tax for 2025/26, a rise of around 2.97% or 11 pence per week based on a Band D property. To support low-income households, a council tax support scheme and hardship fund will be maintained for those most in need. Final decisions will be made at the next Full Council meeting scheduled 17th February 2025.

The proposed budget includes funding for the Councillor Community Grant Scheme with £1,250 allocated to each Member to use to support community projects. Funding paid to parish councils for the Street Scene Partnership is being retained and substantial funding is being made available to partners such as Citizens Advice, and the Braintree Museum Trust. The balance of the Cost of Living Fund is being rolled over to continue supporting residents with the cost of living, working again with key partners. A one-off allocation from balances is being set aside for planning appeals, which have historically been funded from reserve; and a £100,000 top up to the Climate Change Reserve for delivering projects against the Action Plan. Funding is also being made to extend staffing resource for community engagement helping to embed projects previously supported through the Shared Prosperity Fund. With the Government providing an extra £339,081 for 2025-26, further projects and initiatives across the district will be supported.

Crime Prevention Advice from Essex Police – Mobile Phones

Snatch thefts of mobile phones soared by 150% in London last year.

Every phone has an IMEI (International Mobile Equipment Identity) number. If your phone is stolen, you can use this ID to block it. To find your phone IMEI number key in *#06# and press dial and make note of it. You can also download 'find your phone' apps to find your phone and, more importantly, wipe the data stored on it.

Essex Accepted into Government's Devolution Priority Programme

On 5 February 2025 BDC received the news that Essex has been accepted into the Government's Devolution Priority Programme. A request was submitted by Essex County Council, Southend-On-Sea City Council and Thurrock Council in January. Essex County Council and Thurrock Council also requested the postponement of elections scheduled for May this year in their areas. The Government has agreed their request to:

- Commit to take part in the Devolution Priority Programme. This would see a new Strategic Authority established in April 2026 and a mayoral election take place in May 2026
- Commit to explore local government reorganisation (LGR). Essex has the most complex local government system in the country so future reorganisation will mean less confusion, less duplication and more joined up services for residents and businesses. Our focus on essential day-to-day services remains important
- Postpone Essex and Thurrock's May 2025 elections for an initial period of one year, though this is likely to be extended.

A consultation exercise on Devolution proposals for Essex will begin in the next few weeks and more information will be provided in due course. Essex proposals will be subject to the Government approving a business case later this year and any changes would take place over several years. Councils are looking into more detail at timings and next steps. Very early conversations are taking place and last week a majority of Essex Leaders indicated a preference for five unitary authorities, but it's important to note that no decisions have been made.

Cllr. Diana Garrod
Braintree District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward