

## **District Councillor's Report to Parish Councils March 2025**

### **Cllr. Diana Garrod - Bumpstead Ward**

#### **Scheduled Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders & Roadworks**

Continued works with 3-way traffic control at junction of B1057 and A1017 to 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025 whilst Anglian Water undertakes mains replacement. <https://one.network/?tm=140902069>. Contact: E: [steeples@anglianwater.co.uk](mailto:steeples@anglianwater.co.uk) or call 03457 145 145 quoting ref. number 61886011.

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

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

#### **Former Woodlands Hotel site in Sturmer to be replaced with a Care Home**

BDC's planning committee recently unanimously granted planning permission to re-develop land at the former Woodlands Hotel in Sturmer and replace it with a 64-bedroom care home.

The site was formerly used as a hotel but has been vacant since 2018. The building will be demolished to be replaced with a care home for dementia patients with shared spaces, including offices/meeting rooms, staff facilities and a small café. As part of the plans, improvements to the adjacent village green around landscaping and planting will also take place.

It will create 20 full time or equivalent employment opportunities, and whilst there would be an impact with the loss of 18 trees for this development, there is some confidence that the impacts of the proposal can be effectively mitigated by planting 53 new trees, 10 fruit trees and 410 whips in the village green.

#### **Plans for new Hedingham Medical Centre a step closer**

BDC has completed the process to transfer a plot of land located in Sible Hedingham to OneMedical Property, which means the construction of a new medical centre for the local community is one step closer. OneMedical Property is set to proceed with the development of the facility that will replace the three GP surgery sites currently run by the Hedingham Medical Centre. The practice currently cares for around 9,000 patients, and the new facility will accommodate 12,000, including extended operational hours and better use of new technologies to provide virtual consultations for patients unable to visit in person. When planning permission was granted to build homes on the old Premdor site, BDC secured the land as part of a Section 106 agreement for the development of a new medical centre. With the land deal now finalised, OneMedical Property will soon be entering the final stages of the construction tender process. Following the award of the contract, work will begin on preparing the site, with construction set to follow shortly thereafter.

#### **Response from Environment Agency concerning gap in fencing around Sturmer Gauging Station**

EA Ref: GE39361. East Anglia Water, Land and Biodiversity Asset Management:-

*Thank you for contacting us regarding concerns over the safety of the fencing at Sturmer Gauging Station. A public safety risk assessor has attended site and agreed that the gap in the fencing should be blocked to prevent the public from being tempted to access the weir at this location. We have planned works to remove two trees adjacent the gap which are causing damage to the weir wing wall. As part of these works, we will look to replant a hedgerow as a deterrent to the public.*

*We trust this response answers your enquiry. Should you require further information please contact us again at [EAnWLBAssets@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:EAnWLBAssets@environment-agency.gov.uk)*

## **Government Launches Devolution Consultation for Greater Essex**

Residents are being encouraged to take part in the government's consultation on devolution that launched online this week. The consultation, run by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) until 13 April, seeks your views on proposals to restructure local government in Greater Essex (Essex, Southend and Thurrock areas) and create a Mayoral Combined County Authority. This could bring more power and funding to the local area around housing and regeneration, local growth, adult skills (except apprenticeships) and transport.

The full consultation document can be found on the GOV.UK website:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/greater-essex-devolution>

## **Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV): Vaccination for Older Adults**

The NHS is urging older people in the East of England who have not yet had the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine to get jabbed, as health service chiefs warn it is "not just a winter illness". RSV spreads all year round and affects the airways and lungs, and for older adults can lead to severe lung infections like pneumonia or other life-threatening conditions. RSV is also a leading cause of infant mortality, with nearly 150,000 women being vaccinated since September.

Invites will be sent this week to people who are aged 75-79, or turned 80 after 1 September 2024 and have not yet been vaccinated against RSV, encouraging them to book an appointment with their GP. Pregnant women are also eligible for the vaccine from 28 weeks onwards.

## **Increased Litter – Bumpstead Ward**

Residents have complained that there is a very noticeable increase in litter in all villages in the Bumpstead Ward, but particularly along the A1017 between Sturmer and Ridgewell since the opening of McDonald's on the Suffolk/Essex border. In response, I asked questions at BDC:-

1. Can you please advise if any funding (such as S106) was obtained from this application to mitigate the impact of increased littering?
2. What other action has BDC taken to reduce the impact of increased litter? The use of littering signage is ineffective.

## **BDC Response:**

BDC wouldn't have received any funding, such as S106, as this doesn't fall within BDC's boundaries. Looking at the social policies that McDonalds have but what's unclear is how these are delivered through the different franchises. Therefore, BDC could look to make contact with McDonalds using the Street Scene Enforcement team, however, to do that they would need some evidence that the litter in the laybys are significantly from their store. With that, BDC could speak to them, but ultimately the responsibility sits with the public who are dropping litter. BDC will ask the streets team to monitor for any significance of litter from McDonalds. BDC will also look at the viability of putting bins in the laybys, but these are reliant on sufficient and appropriate space to put them and operational costs for emptying them. It could be reviewed again.

## **Government Announces: 100 New Towns Under Consideration**

Proposals for new towns on more than 100 sites across England have been submitted as part of what the Prime Minister calls the '*largest housebuilding programme since the post-war era.*'

The final decision of which of the new sites will be selected will reportedly be revealed in summer. The Prime Minister has also pledged to resolve regulatory disputes and to support housebuilders and councils to unlock around 700,000 new homes.

Cllr. Diana Garrod  
Braintree District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward