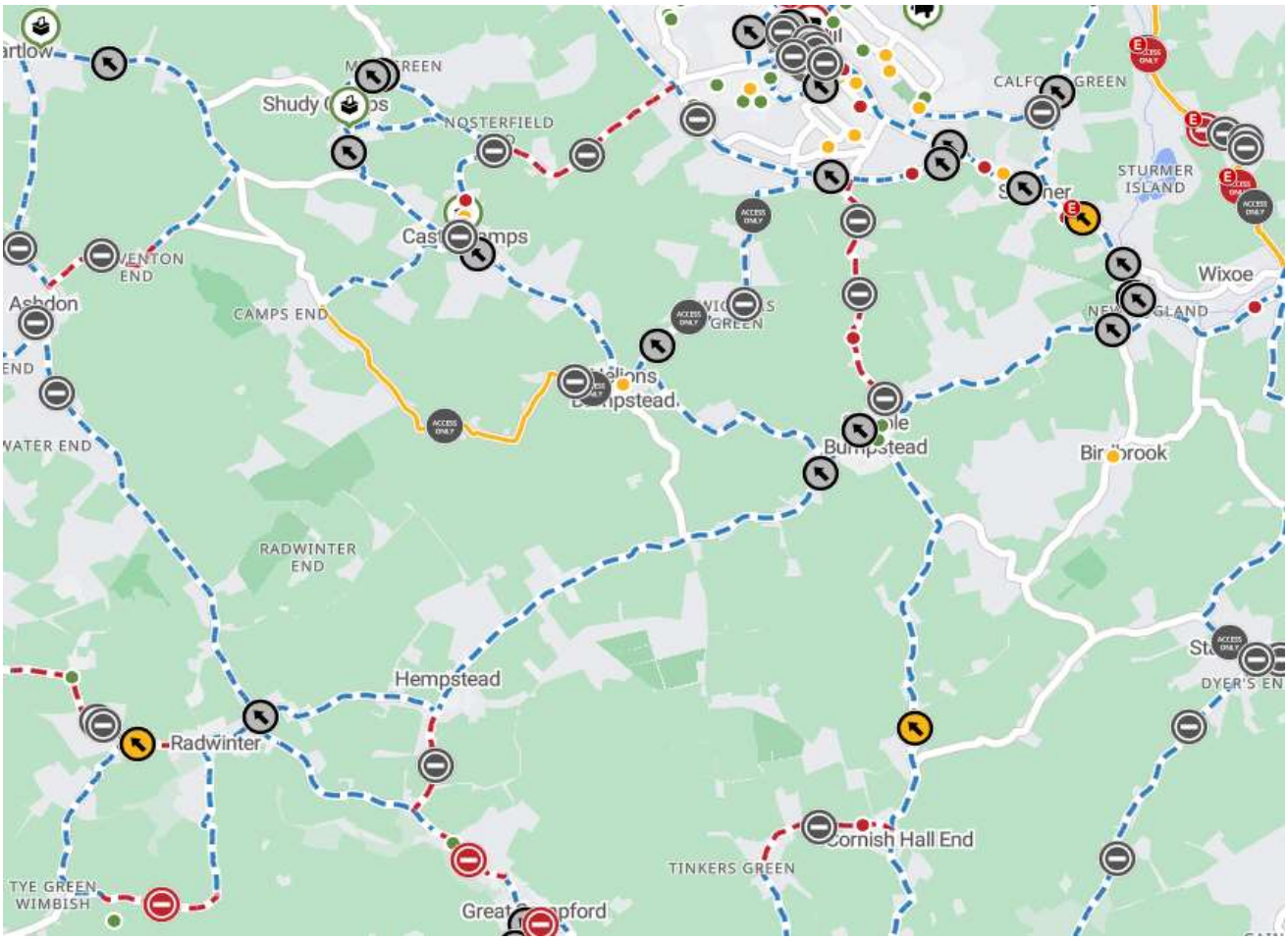
District Councillor's Report to Parish Councils October 2026
Cllr. Diana Garrod - Bumpstead Ward

Scheduled Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders & Roadworks

Local Scheduled Road Closures can be viewed at: https://one.network/en-gb

Intended closure of Sages End Road, Helions Bumpstead 3rd to 5th October 2026
Intended closure of Haverhill Road, Nosterfield End 5th to 6th October 2026
Intended closure of B1053 Radwinter In progress until 10th April 2027 – Affinity Water (in progress)
Intended closure of Church Hill, Bartlow Road, Ashdon 7th September to 2nd October 2026 – Affinity Water
Intended closure of Moor End Road, Gt Sampford 25th September to 31st October 2026
Intended closure of Burton End, Nosterfield End 15th & 16th October 2026.
Intended closure of Haverhill Bypass (Burton End to Homefield Road) 19th to 21st October 2026
Intended closure of Bumpstead Road, Sturmer B1057 on 21st October 2026 whilst ECC undertakes carriageway patching.
https://one.network/?tm=GB151285982
Intended closure of Hempstead Road, Steeple Bumpstead 20th to 21st October (20:00 – 05:00) – Surface dressing
https://one.network/?tm=GB152211922
Intended closure of Water Lane, Steeple Bumpstead 20th to 21st October (20:00 – 05:00) – Surface dressing
https://one.network/?tm=GB152211946
Intended closure of B1057 Bumpstead Road, Sturmer/Haverhill Road, Steeple Bumpstead
8th - 10th November 2026 – Anglian Water undertakes overbanding and remedial reinstatement.
https://one.network/?tm=GB150065503
Intended closure of Wiggens Green, Helions Bumpstead, scheduled for 22nd October 2026 for 2 days whilst Anglian Water undertakes frame and cover renewal: https://one.network/?tm=GB151604565
Intended closure of Water Lane, Steeple Bumpstead, scheduled for 11th January 2027 for 3 nights (20:00-05:00) whilst ECC undertakes surfacing works. https://one.network/?tm=GB152709513
Intended closure of Hempstead Road, Steeple Bumpstead, scheduled for 11th January 2027 for 3 nights (20:00-05:00) whilst ECC undertakes surfacing works. https://one.network/?tm=GB152709501

One Network – 3 month scheduled road works (as at 30/09/26): https://one.network/en-gb



Braintree Local Highways Panel

BDC has been advised by Essex Highways that all Local Highways Panels will be disbanding in April 2027 and will therefore no longer be holding any meetings. No further information has been provided by Essex County Council as yet and I would therefore suggest that parish councils and residents consult with their County Councillor regarding any highways matters.

Braintree District Draft Local Plan to 2043

At the Full Council meeting 21st September the Submission Draft Local Plan was approved for publication and consultation from 23rd September to 6th November. At this meeting, I raised concerns that requests for a Green Buffer have not been heard and that I remain concerned about coalescence between Haverhill, Suffolk and the Bumpstead Ward, Essex, particularly as West Suffolk Council have recently started a new Local Plan to 2045. Unlike previous consultations, the Regulation 19 stage focuses on whether the plan meets legal requirements and is considered "sound" in planning terms. This means comments should consider whether the plan has been positively prepared, is justified by evidence, can be delivered and is consistent with national planning policy.

Further information about the consultation, including supporting documents and guidance on making representations, will be available at: www.braintree.gov.uk/localplanreg19

A response form can also be submitted. You can download the form: https://www.braintree.gov.uk/directory-record/1065478/lpr-regulation-19-response-form-and-guidance-note

A series of engagement events, including drop-in exhibitions and an online webinar, will be held throughout the consultation period to help people understand the plan and how to respond. Hard copies of the documents and response forms will also be available in local Braintree district libraries and at the council's reception in Causeway House, Braintree. Representations received during the Regulation 19 consultation will be submitted directly to the Planning Inspectorate alongside the Local Plan and supporting documents. A Government-appointed Planning Inspector will then examine the plan, consider all comments received and determine whether any changes are required before it can be adopted. Once adopted, the new Local Plan will be used to help decide planning applications.

Reporting a Dead Animal to BDC or Highways England

In the unfortunate event that any dead animals are found on public roads, pavements and parks, BDC will remove them. BDC do not remove dead animals from gardens or private properties. To report a dead animal you can call 01376 552525 or complete the form at: https://www.braintree.gov.uk/advice-environment/report-a-dead-animal

To report a dead animal on the highway, you will need to call Highways England on 0300 123 5000 Provide details of the type of animal and the location of the dead animal (What3words is always helpful).

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Update for our Area

The Government announced on 7 September 2026 that it is withdrawing its current decision on Local Government Reorganisation in Essex (Suffolk & Norfolk) while it considers further legal matters and to allow for a review of the programme. Until this review has concluded, ECC and Partners were asked to cease work on implementing the decisions that were announced in July. Plans for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are being 'reviewed and paused' because a final structure decision had not yet been confirmed, leaving the future timeline for Cambridgeshire's proposed unitary structures uncertain.

This review also means that elections schedules to take place in May 2027 will go ahead to existing council boundaries (e.g. Braintree DC).

Climate Change Annual Report 2025-2026

Full details of the report can be found that the Cabinet Agenda dated 28th September 2026 at: https://braintree.cmis.uk.com/braintree/Committees.aspx

Highlights of progress made in 2025/26:

- Organisational carbon emissions fell by a further 45 tCO_2e compared with the 2019/20 baseline, avoiding an estimated £136,800 in carbon costs.
- In 2025/26, 28.34% of the Council's electricity was generated by solar PV on Council buildings, contributing to £878,000 in avoided electricity costs since 2019.
- A 407kW solar PV array and LED lighting upgrade at Witham Leisure Centre were completed in March 2025, and will generate enough renewable electricity to save around 60 tCO_2e and £85,000 each year, delivering more than £2.7 million in lifetime financial benefits.
- 89% of Council-managed lighting is now LED.
- All Council-managed car parks now provide at least four EV charging points.
- 120 low-flow shower head and bath buoy packs were distributed to residents in 2025/26.
- 934 volunteers are enrolled in the Green Heart Champions litter-picking programme, including 101 new volunteers in 2025/26.
- Fourteen electric light vehicles were added to the Council's operational fleet in Spring 2025 saving 35 tCO_2e of carbon.
- The Home Upgrade Grant 2 scheme delivered 59 energy-efficiency measures to off-gas households.
- The Green Doctor Scheme supported 944 households with energy advice and efficiency measures.
- The Solar Together scheme achieved 414 registrations in 2025/26.
- ECO and ECO Flex supported energy-saving improvements in 201 households.
- 10,377 residents subscribed to the Council's environmental newsletter.
- The Great British Insulation Scheme supported 226 households.
- £100,000 in Community Infrastructure Grants was awarded to community groups, parish councils and sports clubs, with funded projects expected to achieve an average carbon reduction of around 56%.
- The Council helped residents access 267 subsidised water butts through Essex County Council in 2025/26.
- The Council continued to support Essex County Council's Great Start green business accreditation scheme, which received over 2,200 website views.
- Two Biodiversity Net Gain agreements are in place at Spains Hall and Braxted Park Estate, alongside a third registered Habitat Bank operating under a Conservation Covenant.

Community Tree Planting Grant – Help to Grow a Greener Braintree District!

Did you know that the tree canopy cover in the Bumpstead Ward is documented as being significantly lower than the UK national average**.** Specific granular numerical benchmarks for this rural ward are part of broader district-wide citizen science assessments managed under the Forest Research UK Ward Canopy Cover project. https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/43ca8e70-6cba-47a1-b3a8-c6b318862610/uk-ward-canopy-cover

EXTENSIVE TREE FELLING AT STURMER

The Community Tree Planting Grant provides funding to support local organisations, community groups, schools, parish and town councils, charities, and other not-for-profit organisations to plant trees and create greener, healthier spaces across the district. The grant aims to support projects that deliver environmental, social, and community benefits, including: Increasing biodiversity and wildlife habitats, tackling climate change and improving climate resilience, enhancing parks, open spaces, and community areas, supporting pollinators and habitat connectivity, Improving community wellbeing and providing educational and volunteering opportunities.

Applications are welcome from: Charities, Community organisations with a constitution, Social enterprises and Community Interest Companies (CICs), Faith groups, Parish and Town Councils, Schools, Colleges and other educational establishments, other not-for-profit organisations.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate that they have permission to plant on the proposed site and that arrangements are in place for the ongoing maintenance of the trees.
Funding can contribute towards costs associated with:

- Trees, stakes, guards and ties
- Mulch and soil improvements
- Planting activities
- Watering and establishment works
- Ongoing maintenance during the establishment period
- Other project costs directly related to tree planting

Applicants will also be asked to provide details of how the trees will be cared for and maintained in the long term. The closing date for applications is Sunday 11 October 2026.

https://www.braintree.gov.uk/community-health-wellbeing/community-tree-planting-grant

Government Consultations

Planning Powers for Mayors in England

This consultation seeks to gather views on implementation of planning powers for mayors of strategic authorities in the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026. This consultation also seeks views on the implementation of provisions in the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026 for:

- Mayoral powers in relation to planning applications of potential strategic importance, principally for mayors outside London but includes further changes to the approach in London;
- Mayoral Development Orders
- Mayoral Community Infrastructure Levy for mayors outside London

Separately, it also seeks views on changes to secondary legislation for Local Development Orders (part 4).

https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-powers-for-mayors-in-england/planning-powers-for-mayors-in-england The consultation ends 23:59 on 5th October 2026.

Consultation on powers for local authorities to issue conditional cautions to fly-tipping offenders – Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

Government want to know what you think of introducing powers for local authorities to issue conditional cautions to fly-tipping offenders. These cautions are one of a range of pre-court community-based sanctions.

They want your views on how these cautions could be enforced, including whether to prosecute offenders who fail to comply or only partially comply.

They also want to know if you can share information on the likely:

- impact on prosecutions
- implementation requirements
- costs and potential savings from offender-led clean-up work
- organisations best placed to supervise such activity

Government would also like your views on any unintended or environmental consequences, and whether alternative measures would be more effective at deterring fly-tipping.

This consultation closes on 16 October 2026.

https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-powers-for-local-authorities-to-issue-conditional-cautions-to-fly-tipping-offenders

Cllr. Diana Garrod
Braintree District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward