

District Councillor's Report to Parish Councils 1st August 2023
Cllr. Diana Garrod - Bumpstead Ward

Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders. Intended closures:-

Water Lane/Hempstead Road, Steeple Bumpstead. Intended closure due to commence on 19th August 2023 for 2 days. Required whilst Anglian Water undertakes new connection.

Safety Cut Requests

I know that this time of year the verges have grown considerably and there might be areas where you feel it is a safety issue. Safety cut requests can be made at: <https://www.braintree.gov.uk/xfp/form/287>

There is also a report shown in the Verge Cutting Trial Final Report, with my comments shown on page 3 under 3.1 Reduced Visibility, demonstrating that I put forward the Bumpstead Ward's comments and concerns to BDC officers:-

Cllr Diana Garrod (District Councillor) - *"Whilst I can see the benefits of this trial, I thought I should inform you that several people have mentioned reduced visibility whilst driving (and cycling) around some of our small and winding country roads where the plants, in particular Cow Parsley, has grown beyond one metre in height. Difficulties are compounded by the navigation of some deep potholes which some residents feel have a lower priority on the country lanes and are not repaired until they become very large. There have also been several road diversions, which have therefore increased traffic on some lanes and several near misses conveyed to me in general discussions this weekend. I felt I should therefore convey this to you, so that this can be considered."*

Full report: <https://www.braintree.gov.uk/downloads/file/3557/verge-cutting-trial-report-2021>

Please note that hedges are the responsibility of Essex Highways to maintain and if these are growing over signage, it can be reported via the ECC interactive map system.

Stansted Airport draft Noise Action Plan 202428

This consultation ends on Monday 28th August 2023 and I understand that some parish councils in the Bumpstead Ward will not be meeting until September. Your Clerk may make a request for a dispensation to extend the time for a response at: community@stanstedairport.com

The NAP will be submitted to Defra in October 2023 with a view to adopting in February 2024 and publishing on their website. Consultation link: <https://www.stanstedairport.com/community/>

There is an undertaking to extend the period of fewer flights/reduced noise to 23.00-07.00 from 2026. The airport will be installing two additional noise monitors near the airport and there will be an on-line portal set up where noise and airport movements into and out of Stansted will be measured and recorded. This will be available to the public.

WebTrak Stansted, provides real-time and historical information for our area on aircraft altitude, decibel level and other information. The link advises how to use WebTrak: <https://www.stanstedairport.com/community/noise/investigating-aircraft-noise/>

PFCC Information

The 13 Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in Essex, working under the umbrella group Safer Essex, have developed the survey to help identify the impacts of crime and anti-social behaviour in the county.

This is the first time a single online survey is available for Essex and it will allow residents to not only respond about where they live, but also where they work or study in Essex, helping to create a complete countywide overview. Survey is open until Sunday 20th August 2023. Link to survey:

https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/equalities-and-partnership/community_safety_survey_2023/

PFCC Uttlesford Public Meeting – August 31st 2023. 6.30pm to 8pm. Dourdan Pavilion, The Causeway, Great Dunmow, CM6 2AA.

Corporate Strategy 2024-2028

BDC are inviting you to help shape the future of the Braintree district and our priorities. Share your views on how you feel about living and working in our district and what is most important to you. Your response will be used to develop a new Corporate Strategy for 2024-2028, which will help shape local priorities over the next four years. You can take part in the consultation online or if you are aware of someone who does not have access to or use the internet, they can request a paper version of the form by calling 01376 552525. The consultation takes about 15 minutes and closes at 5pm on Friday 1 September 2023.

McDonald's Drive-Thru Restaurant

Plans for a McDonalds drive-thru restaurant at Haverhill Business Park in Helions Bumpstead have been approved. This includes 48 car parking spaces, including electric vehicle charging spaces, and a new play area. BDC says it will create more job opportunities in the local area and it's great to see a big name willing to invest in the village. BDC recognises some of the concerns raised regarding traffic generation and access and these issues were previously considered when the original outline planning application was granted for the business park. There was also concern about potential litter issues. While the applicant is proposing to put in place their own litter management strategy, as part of the decision on the planning application, the applicant will be encouraged to consider other measures which can be put in place to tackle this issue and assist with prosecution for littering in the local area. The Minutes of the planning meeting 4th July 2023 state: *'The Applicant and/or the Restaurant Manager should ensure regular litter patrols to cover the perimeter of the site in accordance with the submitted Corporate Litter Management Plan and to consider the use of customer/vehicle registration identification technique(s) and other measures to assist with prosecution for littering in the local and wider area'*.

Dedham Vale & Stour Valley Forum 2023 (Free to attend!)

This is an annual event where anyone with an interest and passion for conserving and enhancing the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley can come together to discuss a range of issues affecting the area. It will take place on Thursday 14th September from 6:30pm (doors open at 6:00pm for light vegan refreshments) to 8:00pm with the option of a 'dark skies walk' afterwards. Our theme for this year is A National Landscape fit for the 21st century?

They have an outstanding range of speakers from the Farming in Protected Landscapes team, the National Trust and the voluntary sector via the Practical Actions for Climate and the Environment, Manningtree Group. Tickets are free, although a £5 donation is welcomed to cover costs. The full programme and booking details can be found online:

<http://www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org/dedhamvalestourvalley2023/>

Wixoe Solar Farm – Planning Ref: 23/01893/ODC at West Suffolk Council

Comments are now requested for the above application from West Suffolk Council for: Installation of a renewable energy scheme comprising ground mounted photovoltaic arrays with associated substation, invertors, landscaping, biodiversity enhancement areas, fencing, access gate and ancillary infrastructure - Water Hall Farm, Waterhall Road, Wixoe, Suffolk.

NB: Parishes in the Bumpstead Ward may wish to peruse the proposed traffic route.

Cllr. Diana Garrod
Braintree District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward