

District Councillor's Report to Parish Councils November 2025

Cllr. Diana Garrod - Bumpstead Ward

Scheduled Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders & Roadworks

Works at New England, Sturmer Road. Ongoing for Utility Asset Works. Anglian Water. Project: SEW-12079 - Stambourne Pump Away Scheme. Installing underground storm water storage pipes. E: onealliancecustomers@anglianwater.co.uk T: 03457 145 145.

Intended closure of Egg Shell Lane, Steeple Bumpstead on 19th November 2025 for one day for meter exchange works on Finchingfield Road are undertaken by Anglian Water. <https://one.network/?tm=GB145197277>

Intended closure of Four Ash Hill, Ridgewell Road, Baythorne End, Baythorne Park, Birdbrook, due to commence on 24th November 2025 for 3 days while Essex County Council undertakes carriageway patching. <https://one.network/?tm=GB145778005>

Local Plan Review to 2041 – Latest Information and Changes

Changes have been made to the Braintree District Local Plan Review timetable:-

- Braintree District Council is proposing to update its Local Plan timetable, as further work is required on highway modelling and a review of development sites.
- Having reviewed a series of smaller housing sites earlier this year, the Local Plan Sub-Committee have spent the last several weeks reviewing large strategic sites (500+ homes) submitted to the council by developers and landowners, alongside new infrastructure such as roads, healthcare and community facilities.
- Whilst the Committee has agreed for several of these larger sites to be included in their first draft of the Councils updated Local Plan, it has become clear that there is still a need to identify sites for the **remaining 1,097 homes that the Council needs to plan for**.
- Further evidence on the likely transport and highways impacts of the sites suggested to be included in the draft plan is also required. As a result, the council requires more time before it can move forward with the planned “Preferred Options” public consultation.
- Braintree District Council is required to allocate land for housing of around 1,300 homes a year up to 2041, a target that is mandatory and set by central government. If it doesn't, it risks applications for development being more likely granted at appeal by Inspectors, who act for the national government, and reduce the council's and community's influence over what kind of housing is built and where.
- The next stage of consultation known as '**Preferred Options**' is **expected to take place in February 2026**, with the aim of having an updated plan adopted in June 2027. The Preferred Options consultation, the first of two statutory consultations, **will ask residents for views** on the draft Local Plan including the proposed sites before any final decisions are made on sites. This is the best opportunity to have their say and help shape the draft Local Plan before it's finalised and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.
- Once the final plan is adopted, it will allocate land for development in the Braintree district up to 2041. This is why it's important for residents, businesses, communities and all interested parties to have their say, engage with the proposed plan and share ideas for shaping the district's future.

Housing target

- Braintree District Council is required to allocate land for where housing could be built of around 1,300 homes a year up to 2041, a target that is mandatory and set by central government.
- Targets are set by looking at population growth, housing affordability and existing housing stock.
- If it does not plan for the new homes needed, the council would not have a sound local plan. This means that applications for development are more likely to be granted at appeal by Inspectors who

act for the national government. This would reduce the council's and community's influence over what kind of housing is built and where.

- Over 300 sites have been submitted to the council for consideration, which would be able to provide over 100,000 new homes. Many sites have been discounted at this stage and are not currently planned to go forward into a draft plan.
- Existing site allocations and windfall development will also support to meet the housing target. Windfall development is on land which has not been specifically identified as available in the local plan process - typically these are previously developed sites or infill sites which become unexpectedly available e.g. small sites such as a barn conversion or a new flat over a shop.

How residents can keep updated:

1. The most up-to-date information on the Local Plan Review and timetable can be found on the council's website at www.braintree.gov.uk/localplanreview
2. Register to the council's Local Plan database to get notified first when Local Plan consultations launch: <https://braintree-consult.objective.co.uk/kse/>
3. Sign up to our planning newsletter to be the first to hear of latest updates relating to planning matters including the Local Plan Review: <https://pages.news.braintree.gov.uk/p/newsletters>

Green Buffer

I would again draw your attention to the Braintree District Settlement Fringe Study – Landscape Sensitivity Assessment 2025 (see P50+ agenda 24/09/25) it seems that BDC currently have no plans to ensure a green buffer between the villages in the Bumpstead Ward and Haverhill. I have been asked about requesting a Green Buffer by PC members; **it is during the February 2026 consultation (Reg. 18)** that Parish Councils, particularly Sturmer and Helions Bumpstead, and residents, put forward a request to BDC's planning team that a 'green buffer' is put in place by Braintree District Council and that this is included in their evidence base going forward.

The Current Local Plan Sub-Committee Timetable

6th November 2025 starting at 18:30
11th December 2025 starting at 19:15
21st January 2026; 19:15
5th, 11th, and 26th February 2026; 19:15
12th and 25th March 2026; 19:15

*Agendas are published 5 working days latest, before the meeting.

At this point in time, BDC needs to find sites for a further 1,097 homes. The North of the district (Bumpstead Ward) is still under consideration although Homes England have made it clear that the A1307 cannot cope with further traffic to Cambridge.

A1307 – Recent questions from PC members

PC members have recently asked me questions about assessment of the A1307. These links may assist:-

A draft Concepts Report on the A1307 Cambridge to Haverhill Corridor dated Jan. 2016 discusses congestion. This may be of interest:

<https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/asset-library/Sustainable-Transport/Public-Transport/Cambridge-South-East-Transport/Documents-pre-2020/A1307-Concepts-Report-26-01-2016.pdf>

The Executive Summary report dated February 2017 may also be of interest:

<https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/asset-library/Sustainable-Transport/Public-Transport/Cambridge-South-East-Transport/Documents-pre-2020/A1307-Preferred-Options-Exec-Summary-17.02.2017.pdf>

I have found a community group 38 Degrees (which calls the A1307 'The Road of Death') is asking for a formal assessment of the road with a petition:-

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/a1307-urgent-one-of-uks-most-dangerous-roads-taken-too-many-precious-lives>

Potential Funding for your Projects

Awards for All, and Reaching Communities – The National Lottery Community Fund (TNLCF)

TNLCF offer funding from £300 to £20,000 and can support your project for up to two years. You can apply for funding to deliver a new or existing activity or to support your organisation to change and adapt to new and future challenges.

They can fund projects that'll do at least one of these things:

- bring people together to build strong relationships in and across communities
- improve the places and spaces that matter to communities
- help more people to reach their potential, by supporting them at the earliest possible stage
- support people, communities and organisations facing more demands and challenges because of the cost-of-living crisis

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/funding-programmes?country=england&status=open>

NFU Mutual Charitable Trust grants

The objectives of Trust focus on the areas of agriculture, rural development and insurance in the UK and in particular:

- Advance the education of the public by means of research and dissemination of information in relation to agriculture
- Advance the education of young people within rural areas
- Relieve poverty within rural areas
- Promote the benefit and social welfare of inhabitants of rural communities by associating together with the inhabitants and local authorities, voluntary and other organisations to advance education and leisure
- Promote research into agriculture associated activities
- Advance the education of the public by means of research and dissemination of information in relation to insurance provided that the charity may also promote, facilitate and support any such other purposes as are exclusively charitable according to the laws of England and Wales

The Trustees meet twice a year to consider applications received. Applications for the June meeting must be submitted by 23rd May 2025 and for the November meeting, by 10th October 2025.

<https://www.nfumutual.co.uk/about-us/charitable-trust/applications-for-funding/>

The Major Housing Grant

BDC make major housing grants for:

- Installing hot water or heating systems
- Repairing hot water or heating systems

Residents can apply for a major housing grant if you are:

- An owner occupier of a property

- A leaseholder with at least five years lease remaining and have a repairing responsibility for the property
- The property you want to repair, must be your only or main residence and must have been in your ownership for at least three years. For first time buyers, you must have owned the property for at least 12 months.

Major housing grants are means-tested and you must repay the grant in full when you sell or transfer the property. Contact: phandh@braintree.gov.uk to apply for a major housing grant.

<https://www.braintree.gov.uk/housing/major-housing-grants>

Local Nature Partnership – Community Fund

The Essex LNP has launched the LNP Community Fund, a new grant scheme supporting local action for nature across Essex. Grants of £500 to £2,000 are available for groups to deliver projects that boost biodiversity, connecting people with nature and access to green spaces.

https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/waste-environment/essex-lnp-community-fund-2025-application-form/?utm_source=e-shot&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=LNRS+Newsletter+Nov+2025

Braintree Local Highways Panel Meetings 2026

Future meetings of Braintree Local Highways Panel are scheduled to take place on the following dates:- Thursdays at 17:00; 29th January 2026, 19th March 2026, 25th June 2026, 1st October 2026

Braintree District Council/Healthwatch Essex – FREE SLIPPERS

Worn-out slippers can present a dangerous health hazard and increase the risk of falls, and safe slippers will ensure that older adults stay safe, warm and steady on their feet this winter. No need to book. Only available for those living in the Braintree District.

Steeple Bumpstead Village Hall CB9 7EA on Wednesday 17th December 10am – 12PM

I am sending a poster and would be most grateful if it could be posted on your social media soon and again during w/c 8/12/25. Thank you!

Have your say on Future Funding Plans for Policing and Fire and Rescue in Essex

The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Roger Hirst is asking county residents for their views on funding plans for Essex Police and Essex County Fire & Rescue Service. To hear those views in maintaining or improving the current strength and ability of both services, all residents, businesses and people who work or travel in any Essex district are asked to complete the PFCC Precept Survey for the financial year 2026/27. You can complete the short survey here: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/PFCCSurvey26-27/>

Essex Highways User Survey - Have Your Say!

This is an annual survey, and the responses we received last year were extremely helpful in identifying what's important to you and ensuring this is reflected in Essex Highways annual plans. Please do take the time again this year to let us know your thoughts and help shape the highways service in Essex.

The survey is open until 23rd November 2025.

For further information regarding Essex County Council's highway boundary please click on the following link <https://www.essexhighways.org/highways-information-map> and select the highway record which is in the asset data section on the highways information map.

Cllr. Diana Garrod

Braintree District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward