

STURMER PARISH COUNCIL

Karen Simmons
 Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
 Email: clerk@sturmer-pc.gov.uk

19, Woodcock Close
 Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 0JP
 Tel: 07814339155

MINUTES OF MEETING OF STURMER PARISH COUNCIL held at STURMER VILLAGE HALL on TUESDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2024 AT 7:30PM

COUNCILLOR	IN ATTENDANCE
Cllr David Porth - Chairman	YES
Cllr Terrie Jones	YES
Cllr Coral Fordham	APOLOGIES SENT
Cllr Sean Mercer	APOLOGIES SENT
Cllr Gareth Morley	YES
Cllr Matthew Porth	YES
Dist Cllr Diana Garrod	YES
Cnty Cllr Peter Schwier	APOLOGIES SENT

CLERK – Karen Simmons

AGENDA

24/085	NOTE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE															
	As above															
24/086	WITH REFERENCE TO THIS AGENDA MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO DECLARE ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS, NON-REGISTRABLE INTERESTS AND OTHER REGISTRABLE INTERESTS															
	none															
24/087	APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON TUESDAY 22 nd October 2024															
	Done															
24/088	RECEIVE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS															
	Cllr Garrod's reports for November ad December are attached.															
24/089	<p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION</p> <p><i>This provides an opportunity for members of the public to raise questions and comment on items on the agenda or of import. Time for this session is limited to 15 minutes (03 minutes per person)</i></p> <p>None made</p>															
24/090	<p>REVIEW & COMMENT ON CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS/APPEALS</p> <p>1. Amendments to 24/02550/HH – no comment</p> <p>2. See attached new items for addition to Braintree Plan (a map is attached)</p> <table><tr><td>• Ref</td><td>• Proposed Use</td><td>• Site Address</td></tr><tr><td>• STUR2424</td><td>• Housing & Self/custom build</td><td>• Rowley Hill, Sturmer</td></tr><tr><td>• STUR2425</td><td>• Housing</td><td>• Jacksons Barn, Water Lane, Sturmer</td></tr></table> <p>Site amended:</p> <table><tr><td>• Ref</td><td>• Proposed Use</td><td>• Site Address</td></tr><tr><td>• STUR2292</td><td>• Housing/Self & Custom Build</td><td>• Land East of Water Lane, Sturmer</td></tr></table>	• Ref	• Proposed Use	• Site Address	• STUR2424	• Housing & Self/custom build	• Rowley Hill, Sturmer	• STUR2425	• Housing	• Jacksons Barn, Water Lane, Sturmer	• Ref	• Proposed Use	• Site Address	• STUR2292	• Housing/Self & Custom Build	• Land East of Water Lane, Sturmer
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	- Objections to all 3 sites made to BDC planning.															
	-															
24/091	<p>RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:</p> <p>a) Footpaths – Cllr S Mercer absent.</p> <p>In Addition, it was noted that FP21 has been cut back in significant areas.</p>															

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	<p>b) Flood Action Group – council rep still to be decided. Report:- New Design Code for Braintree District Council - I commented that developments should include trees and flood gardens to help alleviate flooding</p> <p>Soluform bags - As reported before Ariel Shepherd from the Essex Flood Team viewed these at the rear of the Red Lion pub and at the end of Linnetts Lane when she visited the village to check the woody dams. She agreed residents should monitor and take pictures of any problems. These could be reported to her by email.</p> <p>Silted culvert near Red Lion Pub - Ariel reported this to Highways, and I reported it on the website as it may cause flooding again on the main road. Only a vague reply was received - no promise of action.</p> <p>Planning application for scaffold business on field opposite Dearsley, Water Lane - I sent an objection mainly as this was previously a flood plain for Water Lane before various structures and hardstanding were put in place.</p> <p>A number of residents would like to object again if there is an appeal against the refusal of permission. SFAG log - This has been updated and is available to view at Rivendell, The Street.</p> <p>IN ADDITION – Cllrs D Garrod and D Porth have asked for Sturmer Flooding issues to be on the next Haverhill Forum as the Town water runs along the river.</p> <p>c) Play Area – Cllr G Morley. - currently reviewing the safety of equipment in situ and repairs from previous contractor that should be under warranty. Site visit due. Cost of visit to be refunded from manufacturer. It was also noted that the padlock to the area had been changed and ours had been disposed of. The padlock has been replaced and Fire/Ambulance access can be made through contact with the council.</p> <p>d) Parish Maintenance –As yet no one has come forward to help with litter picking. It has been noted that fly tipping is taking place around the common. Further action to offenders to be taken. Please ensure any information is past on to Braintree Street cleaning team.</p> <p>e) War Memorial – We are grateful to Volunteer Carter for the maintenance and cleaning of this area.</p> <p>f) Village Hall and Defib – Cllr T Jones. The Defib cabinet has been opened. The cabinet and the defib are owned by different companies. Registration with both has taken place. Mother Xmas is visiting the hall on 14th December 2024. Please look out for more information.</p> <p>g) Highways – Cllr Coral Fordham. 1. There was a road accident round by the cement works. We have reported that the debris and signage is a mess/completely broken and we would like it cleared and replaced. Karen has reported this online and the feedback we have had, is that it isn't that important and not essential! I have emailed Cllr Schwier to ask that we have this mess cleared away immediately and we should be entitled to a new village sign. 2. I did have a meeting with John Thorne and his colleague, who are the Braintree Community Police Officers, on 14th November and confirmed that the three main points of issue/concern, were: a) Speeding through the village; I am hopeful that they will be carrying out more speed checks on a more regular basis. They did also say they are more than happy to meet with our CSW group if that would be helpful. I do know that they</p>
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	<p>have been back since this meeting to check speeds. b) I have also asked that we have some more general police presence in the village and they have agreed that they are more than happy to park and walk up and down the village on occasion; this would include Pocket Park. They asked if we ever have the Village Hall open for coffee mornings or such like, as they are more than happy to attend anything like that. c) They also took registration numbers for the parked vehicles outside Riverside Bungalows, that are still there and this is the feedback I have been sent "Regarding the vehicles, the DVLA is responsible for untaxed vehicles, and can be reported directly to the DVLA. The DVLA Vehicle Enquiry Service can be used to find out what information is held on its database about a vehicle's Tax status." We have been down this route.</p> <p>Cllr Garrod has passed on this info to the Cabinet Minister meeting with Eastlight this month.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. I continue to chase on a number of ongoing highway issues and am pleased to say that the culvert seems to have been cleared. When I looked on Saturday, it was half full of water already, so we need to ensure that this is cleared on a regular basis. 4. I am waiting feedback on the ongoing Water Lane ditch clearing, in order for the road works to be carried out; I have also noted that quite a bit of spray has recently been added to many of the defects along the main road – so fingers crossed they may see their way to some repair work – and, I have chased again to ensure and confirm that the "Tourist" sign, at the top of the village, WILL be replaced this month, as we were previously advised! 5. Having had such a productive meeting with LHP (Local Highways Panel), I'm really disappointed that pretty much everything we had spoken about has come to nothing (so far!) I have emailed Daniel, who we met with, to ask if they can come up with ANY suggestions please... 6. The only other thing (which is not highways), is that I have asked the Village Hall Committee (and copied David Porth on the email), if they might consider having the Pizza Van here for the village, one evening. Other villages have them attend on a fortnightly basis and are very popular. All they need is to be able to plug in their fridge. I thought it might be something different for the residents. 7. WATER LANE is very quickly deteriorating back to the previous state it was in. I have chased Cllr Schwier (as you know) and am waiting for him to come back to me. It won't be long before that road is as horrendous as it was before!! That coupled with the rubbish by the cement works and the broken sign, really don't give the best introduction to Sturmer/Essex!!! 8. I will also be asked Cllr Schwier, whether they intend to do a litter pick of all the verges they've recently cut - the exposed rubbish is EVERYWHERE!!!!
24/092	<p>Popes Mill Bridge Progress – Cllr G Morley A survey is due to take place in January. A link has been made with the National Lottery Heritage Fund.</p>
24/093	<p>Discussion on large lorries diversions. Map is attached to this agenda AS SEPARATE PDF Any scheme that increases the number of vehicles through our village is unacceptable. There are concerns that vehicles will try to use Water lane and go via Kedington to Clare.</p>
24/094	<p>Start of Budget discussions – things to include/changes in 2023/24 Cllrs agreed the cost of £100 for Clerk to complete online training in Budget setting.</p>
24/095	<p>Policy review. - Emergency Plan. Amendments made to cascade tree.</p>
24/096	<p>FINANCIAL STATEMENT – AGREE ANY PAYMENTS - ATTACHED AGREE COST OF COURSE ON BUDGETING FOR CLERK</p>

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	AGREE SIGNATORY AUTHORITY TO AUTHORISE RAISED PAYMENTS BEFORE NEXT MEETING TO AVOID CHARGES/LATE BILLING WAS AGREED.
24/097	CLERKS REPORT Review of maintenance schedule needed due to climate change etc. 2025 meetings to be agreed – Tuesday 21 st January and Tuesday 18 th February 2025 March and April to be agreed later.
	DATE OF NEXT MEETING Tuesday 21st January 2025 - at 7:30 pm

Karen Simmons – Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer Dated **4TH DECEMBER 2024**, the Public and Press are welcome to attend.

District Councillor's Report to Parish Councils December 2024
Cllr. Diana Garrod - Bumpstead Ward

Scheduled Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders & Roadworks

The closure of the Haverhill Rd, Steeple Bumpstead is scheduled again in early 2025 when Anglian Water intends to continue their next phase. Contact: E: steeple@anglianwater.co.uk or call 03457 145 145 quoting reference number 61886011.

Intended closure of Drapers Green, Helions Bumpstead from 2nd December 2024 for 8 days whilst Essex County Council undertakes carriageway patching.

Design Code Consultation – Please complete a short questionnaire

BDC are creating a new Design Code, a planning policy document that aims to set out clear expectations of good quality design principles for the District. Design Codes outline in detail to developers, housebuilders and architects what is required from their proposal plans before they are submitted, guaranteeing standards are upheld and removing the uncertainty which can lead to delays in the planning process. It covers topics from the natural environment and buildings, to roads and street lighting. The code would be used when determining planning applications to help direct the look and feel of a development and how it should interact with the surrounding area. The consultation will close at 5pm on Monday 16th December. This is the first step in a series of consultation events. This initial consultation is quite concise in nature (following central government guidance) and seeks resident's views on the geographical coverage of the code, in addition to some questions around key design topics, developer engagement and gauging the level of desired future public engagement in the Design Code project.

BDC are initially seeking the views of local people, communities and stakeholders to help shape the Design Code. This is to understand what is important to residents when it comes to the design of new developments. Please complete the short questionnaire to answer some questions and express your interest in being involved in future engagement
<https://www.braintree.gov.uk/planning-building-control/design-code>

Government Consultation: 8 weeks from 24th October 2024

Enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings.

This is a short consultation which seeks views on the detail and practical implications of allowing remote and hybrid attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings in England. I would encourage parish councillors to provide their views.

Link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/enabling-remote-attendance-and-proxy-voting-at-local-authority-meetings/enabling-remote-attendance-and-proxy-voting-at-local-authority-meetings>

Rail Fares

Regulated train fares in England are to increase by 4.6% next year, while the price of most railcards will rise by £5, the government has announced. The increases were not mentioned by the chancellor in her Budget speech but it was instead noted in the Treasury's budget document. The changes will come into force on 2 March 2025.

Suffolk News: Haverhill Banking Hub – Now Open

A Banking Hub is a shared banking space on the high street. Hubs offer a counter service operated by the Post Office, where customers of all major banks and building societies can carry out regular cash transactions, Monday to Friday. They also offer a Community Banker service where customers can talk to their own bank about more complicated banking issue on the day their bank is in the Hub.

Unit 1, The Chantry Centre, High Street, Haverhill. CB9 8AA

<https://www.cashaccess.co.uk/hubs/haverhill-suffolk/>

Village Halls Week – Save the date

Village hall groups across the UK are being encouraged to put 17-23 March 2025 in their diaries by Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE).

The charity hopes to use the week as an opportunity to spotlight the efforts of volunteers who keep these important venues open for the benefit of local residents, groups, and rural businesses.

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A facility has been set up on ACRE's [website](#) that village hall groups can use to register their interest in the campaign, receive news and updates as well as resources to help them get involved. Thanks to sponsorship from [Utility Aid](#), rural community buildings in both countries are being offered free resources including bunting, badges and posters to help them hold local events and draw attention to their good work.

Info at: <https://rsnonline.org.uk/village-halls-week-2025-save-the-date>

Local Plan – Call for Sites

Braintree District Council has received additional proposals for development which are within Bumpstead Ward. Sites will then be considered by the Local Plan Sub Committee in spring 2025, followed by formal public consultation on the sites.

Sturmer

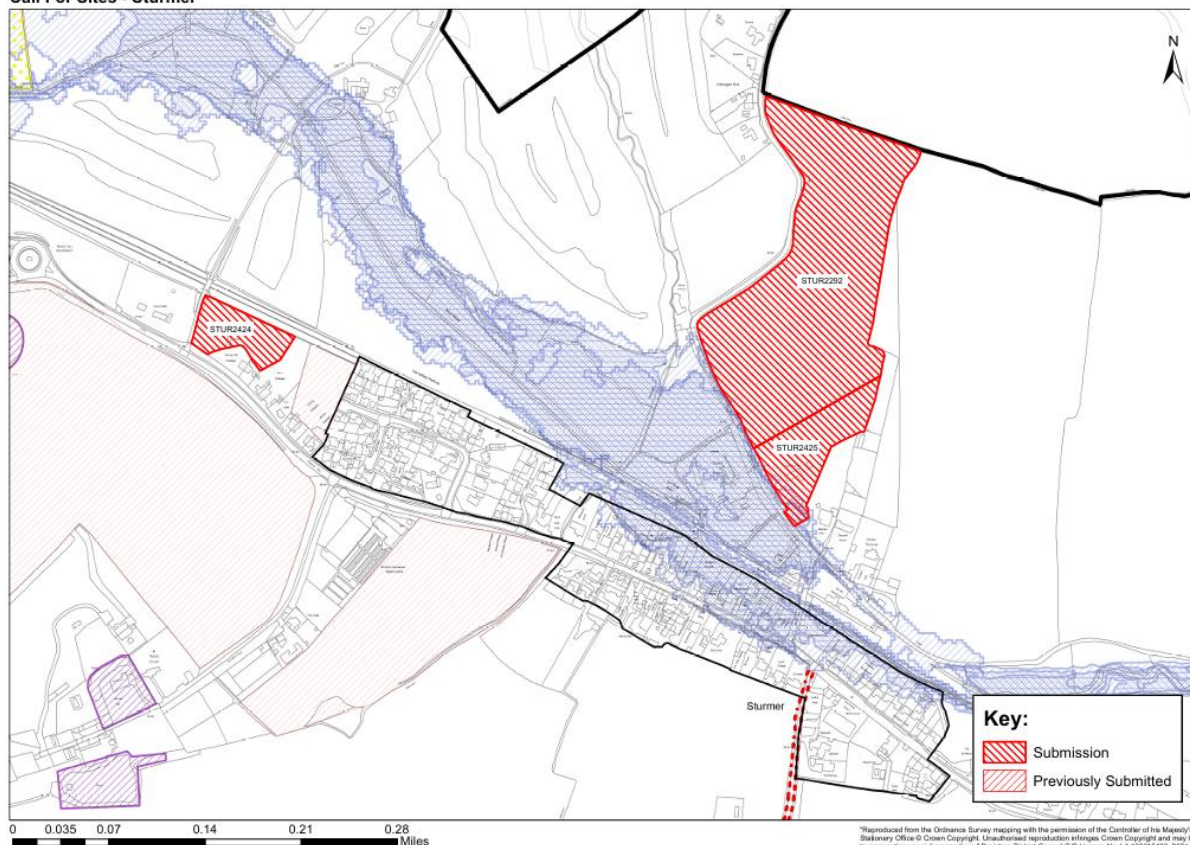
Additional sites:

Ref	Proposed Use	Site Address
STUR2424	Housing & Self/custom build	Rowley Hill, Sturmer
STUR2425	Housing	Jacksons Barn, Water Lane, Sturmer

Site amended:

Ref	Proposed Use	Site Address
STUR2292	Housing/Self & Custom Build	Land East of Water Lane, Sturmer

Call For Sites - Sturmer



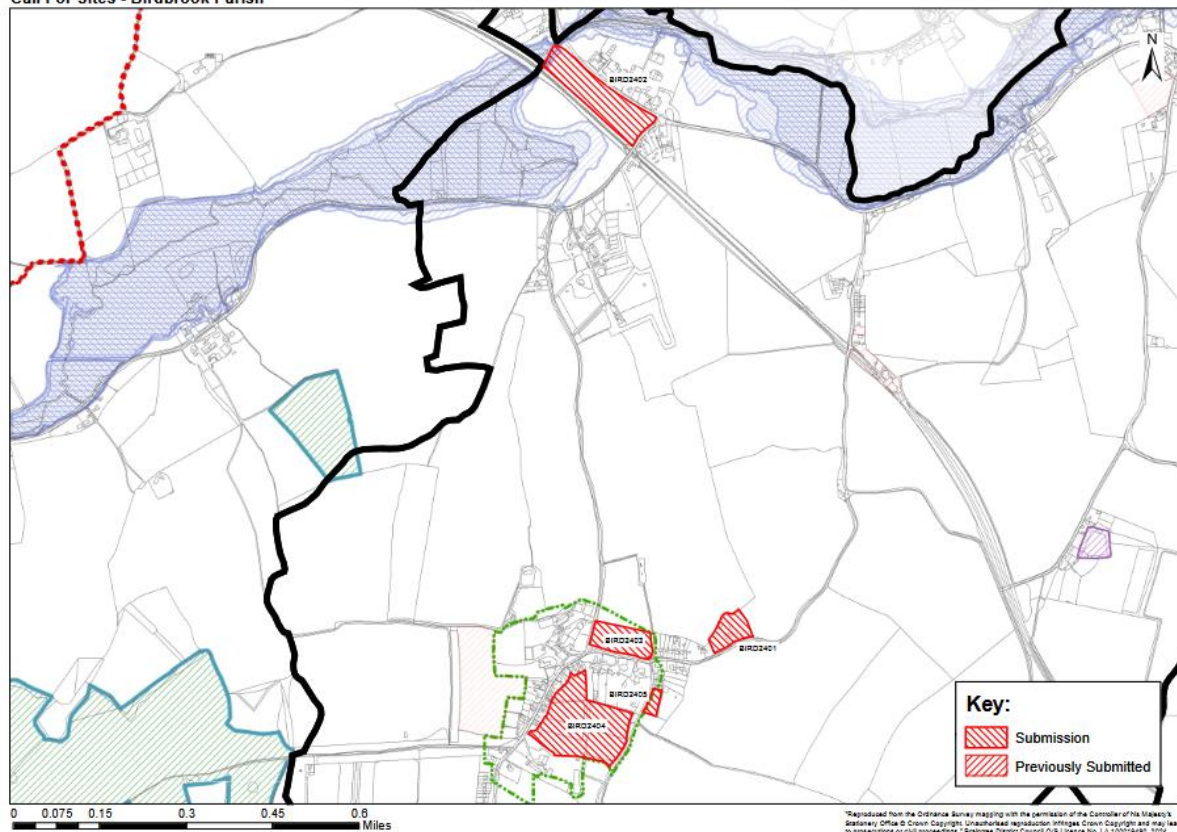
Birdbrook

(Summer 2024, Map 1 still awaiting comment from parish council)

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Call For Sites - Birdbrook Parish

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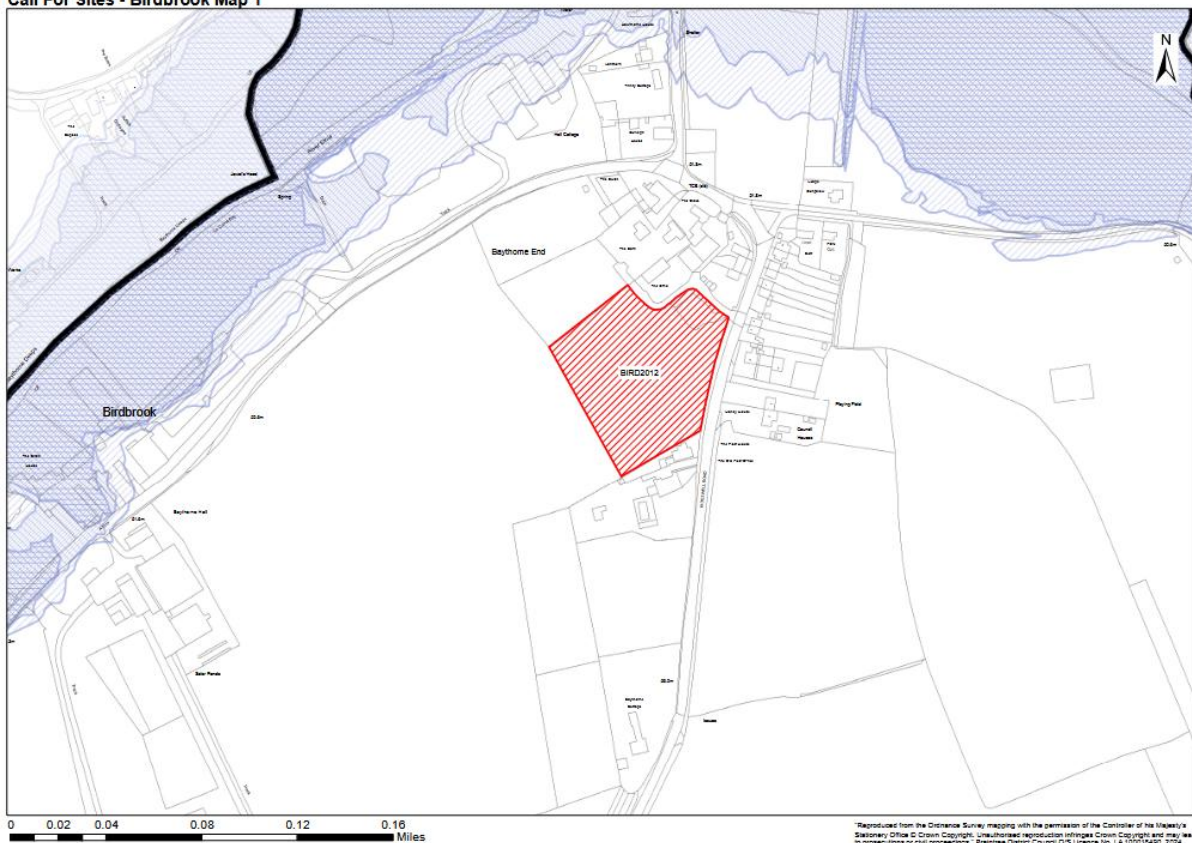
Additional site:

Ref	Proposed Use	Site Address
BIRD2401	Housing	Ricmar, Moat Road, Birdbrook, Halstead
BIRD2402	Housing/Employment/Specialist housing and care home/Mixed use/Affordable Housing	South of Sturmer Road, New England
BIRD2403	Housing	Land East of Birdbrook Hall Farm
BIRD2404	Housing & Community	Daw Street, Birdbrook
BIRD2405	Housing	Land East of Daw Street, Birdbrook

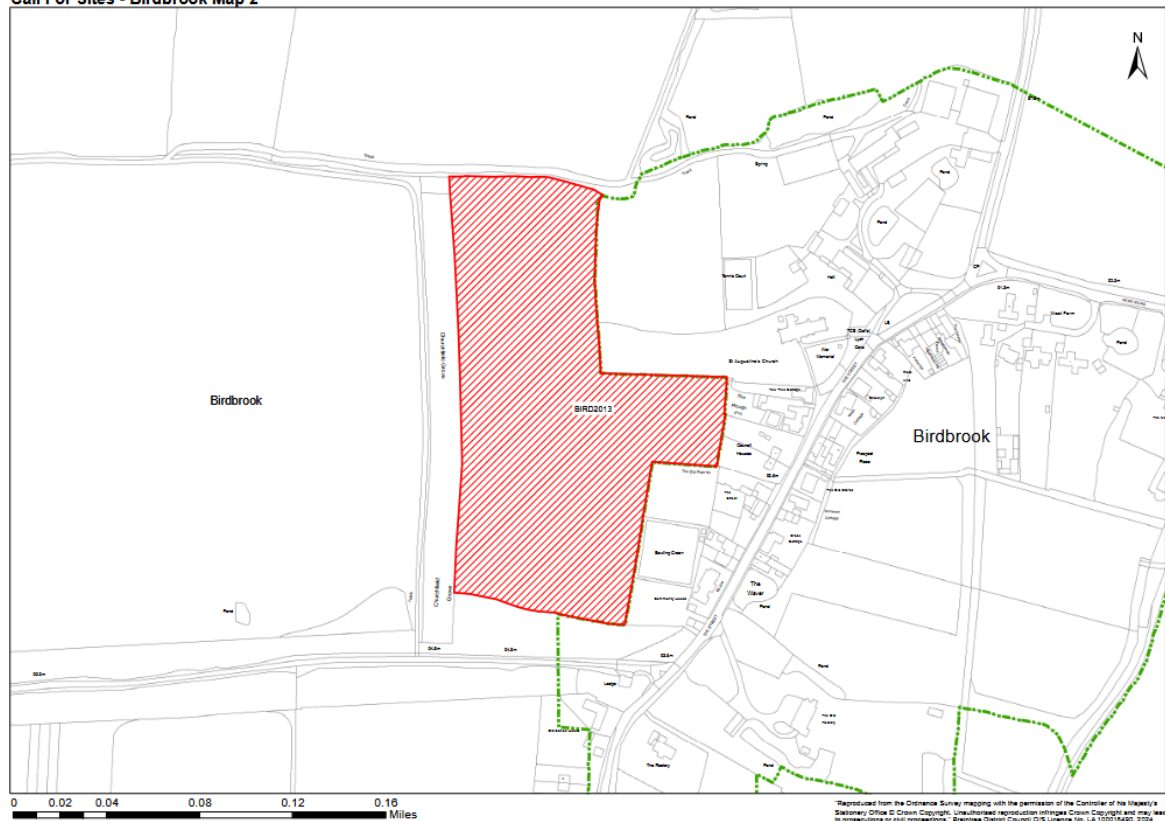
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Call For Sites - Birdbrook Map 1

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Call For Sites - Birdbrook Map 2



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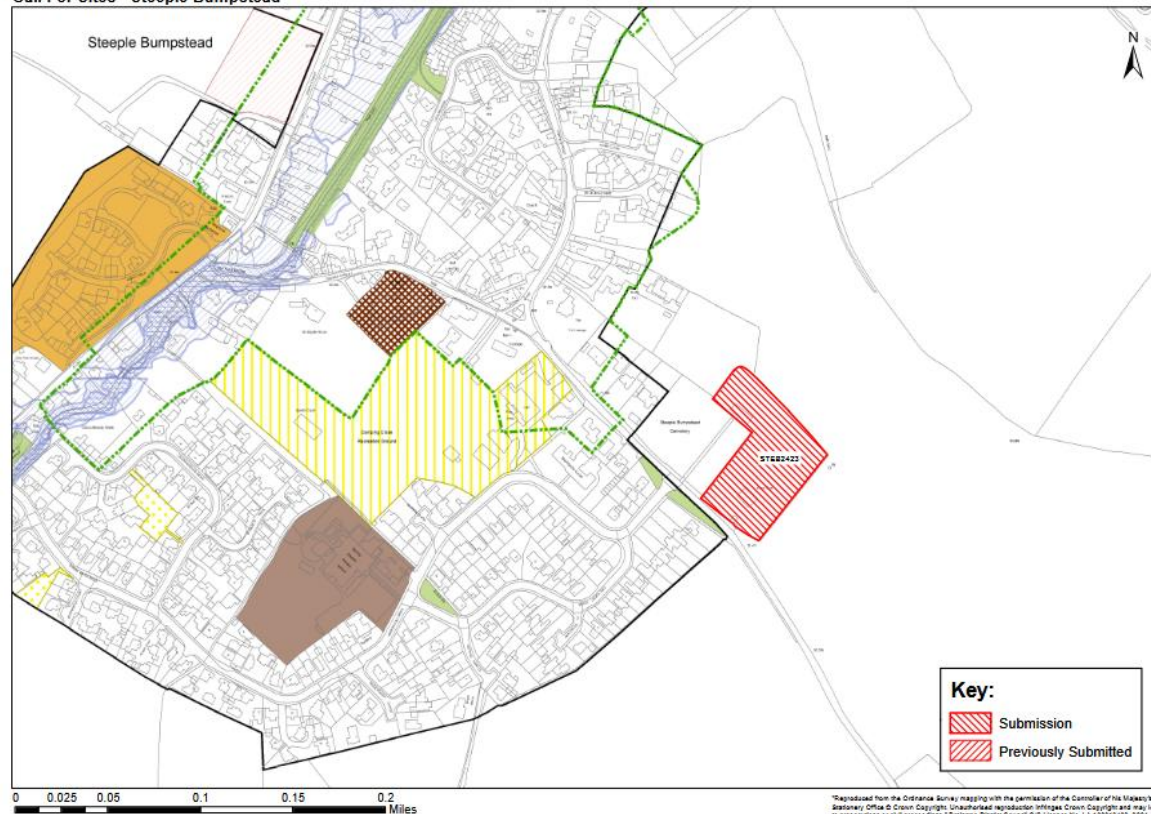
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Steeple Bumpstead

Additional site:

Ref	Proposed Use	Site Address
STEB2423	Housing	Bowcroft, Finchingfield Road, Steeple Bumpstead

Call For Sites - Steeple Bumpstead



Comments are requested by mid January 2025. All the additional sites will be added to BDC's existing online Call for Sites Map in the next few weeks: <https://www.braintree.gov.uk/planning-building-control/local-plan-review-2/3>

Please note that as previously, this is very early, informal consultation. There will be several further opportunities to comment throughout the Local Plan review process. The next planned public engagement does not consider specific sites, but will be the Issues and Options Consultation which will look at BDC's existing document to determine how effective the policies continue to be and how they could be updated. This consultation will take place in January/February 2025.

Clr. Diana Garrod
Braintree District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward

District Councillor's Report to Parish Councils November 2024
Clr. Diana Garrod - Bumpstead Ward

Scheduled Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders & Roadworks

The closure of the Haverhill Rd, Steeple Bumpstead is scheduled again in early 2025 when Anglian Water intends to continue their next phase. Contact: E: steeples@anglianwater.co.uk or call 03457 145 145 quoting reference number 61886011.

Intended closure of Moat Road, Birdbrook commencing 31st October 2024 for 5 days whilst Anglian Water undertakes sewer main installation. <https://one.network/?tm=139922151>

Intended closure of Helions Road, Steeple Bumpstead from 3rd November 2024 for 3 days whilst Openreach undertakes duct laying. <https://one.network/?tm=139725859>

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Intended closure of Fell Road, Birdbrook commencing 5th November 2024 for 7 days whilst Anglian Water undertakes sewer main installation. <https://one.network/?tm=139922082>

Intended closure of Sturmer Road, Maltings House Road, Steeple Bumpstead from 18th November 2024 for 7 days whilst UK Power Networks undertakes pole replacement.

Intended closure of Steeple Bumpstead Road, Helions Bumpstead from 25th November 2024 for 8 days whilst ECC undertakes carriageway patching. <https://one.network/?tm=139117497>

Intended closure of Broad Green, Steeple Bumpstead commencing 25th November for 2 days whilst UK Power Networks undertakes pole replacement. <https://one.network/?tm=139059696>

News from Anglian Water

Ref: 6344641/SEW-12079/@onealliance (Stambourne to Birdbrook)

Investing in local communities

We're committed to providing a reliable and resilient water supply to you and 4 million other residents in our region, that's why we're investing in this area and installing new pipes. It's all part of our biggest ever programme of investment. We clean, supply and treat a billion litres of water a day and all our pipes laid end to end would stretch around the world three times - so keeping everything running smoothly is a huge challenge. This year we're investing £930 million in pipes, treatment centres, customer service and the environment. What are we doing and why?

We're making some changes to how we treat wastewater in the area. That's why we're building a new pumping station at our existing site in Stambourne, and laying a four-kilometre pipeline from Stambourne to Birdbrook.

How will our work affect you?

You can see [our pipeline route here](#). We started work in September and if everything runs smoothly, we'll be finished in Spring 2025.

Most of our work will be through fields but we will cross some roads. And to complete this work safely, we'll need to close: [Wesley End Road](#) 28th to 30th October, [Moat Road](#) 31st October to 4th November, [Fell Road](#) 5th to 11th November

What else is happening?

We'll soon be doing some work to increase the capacity of the sewer system to protect homes and the environment from flooding.

Because climate change means extreme weather events like flooding are becoming more common, we're investing into improving our underground infrastructure across our region.

We plan to install new storm water pipes in the field opposite A1017, shown [here](#). And when our work's finished, the new system will improve drainage for decades to come and significantly reduce the risk of pollution and flooding during heavy rain. Before we start the work, we need to complete archaeological and investigative digs. They'll help us understand the ground conditions, expose any existing underground utilities we're not already aware of, and to make sure we don't disturb anything important and when we install the new tank. This shouldn't affect you, but you might be able to see and/or hear us working if you live nearby. Once we know more, we'll be back in touch to let you know our plans.

How can you find out more?

If you have any questions about our work, you can email us at: onealliancecustomers@anglianwater.co.uk or call us on 03457 145 145.

You'll just need to mention the reference number 6344641.

Disposal of Sharps (e.g. medical needles)

Concerns have been raised with me about the lack of places to dispose of Sharps in the locality. Some pharmacies in Haverhill, which residents in the Bumpstead Ward normally use, are no longer providing this service. Sharps are classified as Hazardous Waste and must be disposed of responsibly. They must not be disposed of in household waste. Your GP surgery will supply a Sharps Box and you can arrange collection of the box by contacting GB Holdings – Tel: 01245 464214.

<https://www.braintree.gov.uk/bins-waste-recycling/dispose-clinical-waste>

Essex Highways Survey for Councillors (Let your thoughts be known!)

Essex Highways would like councillors to complete a survey on priorities and satisfaction levels to help them prioritise and consider how best to target their limited resources. It doesn't take long – say 10 mins. At the end there is time to make your own comments, so please provide constructive feedback! It is open until 14th November 2024. <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/essex-highways/129be43e/>

Autumn 2024 Verge Cutting Schedule

BDC works in partnership with Essex County Council (who holds ultimate responsibility) to ensure rural verges across the district are cut annually. The schedule is dependent on weather conditions; periods of heavy rainfall mean the contractor is unable to cut the verges without doing damage. Sturmer and Steeple Bumpstead were scheduled to be completed late October 2024. Birdbrook and Helions Bumpstead are not cut by BDC and are subject to arrangement between ECC and the respective parish council.

Process for Requesting Safety Cuts

Where a need is justified, anyone can request a safety cut to verges to maintain clear sight at junctions road splays and roundabouts, etc. Safety cuts can be requested either by an online form at www.braintree.gov.uk/contact or by contacting Customer Services: Email: csc@braintree.gov.uk Tel: 01376 552525. Following receipt of a request, a site inspection will be made to verify the need for a cut and this will be added to BDC's work programme as required. The person reporting the request is notified of BDC's decision.

Rt Hon Angela Rayne MP Writes to Leader of Braintree District Council 30/10/2024 (extracts)

"This Government is taking decisive action to kickstart our commitment to deliver the biggest increase to social and affordable housebuilding in a generation. Today's Budget announces an immediate one-year cash injection of £500 million to the existing

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Affordable Homes Programme, which will deliver up to 5,000 new social and affordable homes. The Government will set out details of new investment to succeed the 2021-26 Affordable Homes Programme at next year's Spending Review".

"Sufficient capacity in the planning system is also essential to getting Britain building. Building on recently announced initiatives including the New Homes Accelerator and New Towns Taskforce, this Budget also provides over £50 million additional funding to support our ambitions on Planning, including the recruitment and training of new graduates and apprentices into local planning authorities; accelerating large sites that are stuck in the system; and boosting local planning authority capacity to deliver the government's wider planning reforms".

East of England, Local Government Association 2024 Autumn Budget Briefing

I have included this so that parish councils can see what is planned for the East of England as a whole.

Date: 31/10/24 Report By: Matthew Stewart, Policy and Programme Manager: matt.stewart@eelga.gov.uk

1. Planning, Infrastructure, and Housebuilding

1.1 Nutrient neutrality: The Government has allocated £47m via round 2 of the Local Nutrient Neutrality Fund to support the delivery of 28,000 homes that would otherwise be stalled due to nutrient neutrality. Broadland District Council has obtained nearly £8.9m of this funding.

1.2 Planning: £46m has been provided to boost local authority planning capacity through recruiting 300 planners, funding to accelerate large sites, and upskilling planning capacity.

1.3 Housing funding: £500m will be given in 2025/26 through the Affordable Homes Programme. Furthermore, the Public Works Loan Board Housing Revenue Account Rate will be maintained.

1.4 Brownfield Land Release Fund: £68m has been announced for councils to help clear urban sites for housing redevelopment. Within the East of England, the districts and boroughs of Basildon, Cambridge, Great Yarmouth, Mid Suffolk, and Welwyn Hatfield all received funding, along with Essex County Council, and the unitary authorities of Peterborough, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock. In total, the East of England received funding worth £5.1m.

1.5 Bus Improvement Plans: £640m will be provided to support locally-led bus initiatives, such as service support, fares initiatives, and capital schemes.

1.6 Infrastructure and transport projects:

- East West Rail: The Government has announced a consultation on the next steps that is due to run between 14 November and 24 January. They have outlined that they want the line to connect Oxford, Milton Keynes, and Cambridge, with the first trains to depart from Bedford to Oxford by 2030 via the acceleration of the Marston Vale Line.
- A47: Sections of the road will be dualled – though the Vauxhall Roundabout upgrade in Great Yarmouth has been discontinued.
- Road maintenance: An extra £500m has been provided on top of 2024/25 levels, an increase of 50%.
- Project Gigabit: £500m will be given in 2025/26 to improve rural internet.
- Sizewell C: £2.7bn of funding has been provided to continue development.
- Cambridge: £10m will be provided to the Cambridge Growth Company to develop a plan for housing, transport, water, and wider infrastructure including East West Rail

2. Economic Growth

2.1 "Connect to work": £115m is being provided for a new scheme designed to match people with disabilities or health conditions into vacancies. Local authorities will be given flexibility on how this fund is administered, with well-progressed mayoral combined authorities given even greater flexibility.

2.2 Core sector support: A variety of funds have been announced for key sectors in the UK economy – of special relevance to the East of England is the Life Sciences Innovative Manufacturing Fund worth £520m in 2025/26, and a variety of tax reliefs for the creative sector worth £15bn over the next 5 years.

2.3 Economic development funding: The Government is minded to remove local government funding obtained from the dissolution of LEPs and to end funding for pan-regional partnerships. However, £900m will be provided to keep the UK Shared Prosperity Fund running until the end of 2025/26, after which it will be reformed.

2.4 Freeports and Investment Zones: Funding has been confirmed for Investment Zones and Freeports.

2.5 Levelling Up Funding: Core Levelling Up fund projects are to be funded – though the Government is minded to cancel unfunded Levelling Up Culture and Capital Projects.

3. Local Government Reform, Devolution, and Core Funding

3.1 Devolution: The Government has confirmed that the English Devolution White Paper is due to be published later this year, with the government expressing a preference for council reorganisation.

3.2 Core spending power and local government funding: £1.3bn of new grant funding has been allocated. If councils increase their council tax by the highest permissible amount without triggering a referendum, this will increase council spending power by 3.4%

3.3 Producer Responsibility Scheme: £1.1bn is to be made available for local authorities through this new waste scheme, with local authorities topped up if the amount they receive is below their 2025/26 estimate.

3.4 Public sector pay: The Employer's National Insurance rate will increase from 13.8% to 15%. Furthermore, the National Living Wage will increase to £12.21/hour, and all other forms of minimum wage will be gradually harmonised to match the National Living Wage.

3.5 Business rates: Lower Business Rates multipliers will be introduced for high-street retail, hospitality, and leisure properties from 2026/27. Furthermore, the Small Business Multiplier will be frozen. English local authorities will be compensated accordingly. The Government has also asked for the views of councils on the future of business rates. The policy paper can be found on gov.uk.

3.6 Public Sector Reform and Innovation Fund: £165m has been allocated to support various objectives, including foster care recruitment and planning reform. A further £100m has been allocated to develop new approaches to public service reform with mayors and local leaders.

STURMER PARISH COUNCIL

Karen Simmons
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3.7 Office for Value for Money: An independent chair has been selected to help advise the chancellor with phase 2 of the Spending Review (See below) and will conduct an assessment on how to reduce inefficiency, undertake value for money studies, and assess investment proposals.

4. Education, Care, Health and Homelessness

4.1 SEND provision: £1bn in extra funding for SEND and Alternative Provision Funding has been provided, equivalent to 6% real growth in funding.

4.2 Social care spending: Of the £1.3bn for local government, £600m is earmarked for social care.

4.3 Carers Allowance: The Allowance Weekly Earnings Limit has been increased to the equivalent of 16 hours at the National Living Wage, and there will be a review into overpayments of Carer's allowance.

4.4 Further education: £300m has been provided help young people develop skills.

4.5 Capital projects: The capital budget for the Department for Education has increased, with the following identified as priorities:

- Children's home estate: To receive £90m.
- New schools: An extra £550m for the school rebuilding programme, an increase of 65%.
- Existing schools: An extra £300m to improve the condition of existing schools an increase of 17%.
- Colleges: £300m has been provided to enhance their estate.

4.6 Household Support Fund and Discretionary Housing Payments: £1bn has been provided to extend these funds to cover the 2025/26 financial year.

4.7 Social housing: A consultation has been published on gov.uk for a long-term social housing rent settlement of CPI+1% for five years. In addition, right-to-buy discounts will be limited, and local authorities will be able to keep the full receipts of sale.

4.8 Homelessness: £223m will be provided for homelessness in 2025/26, an increase of 29%.

4.9 Children's services: £250m will be provided to continue the delivery of pilots within the children's social care sector in preparation for reform, including £44m in new funding to pilot a Kinship Allowance.

4.10 Warm homes plan: £3.4bn over the next three years has been pledged to assist with heat decarbonisation and household energy efficiency. Furthermore, £1bn will continue to be provided over the next three years through the Public Sector Decarbonisation scheme.

4.11 Disabled facilities grant: Funding to be increased by £86m.

5. Phase two of the spending review – What can we expect?

5.1 The budget announced on 30 October is being described as phase one, covering the 2025/26 financial year for the most part. In spring 2025, the Government will announce a three-year spending review covering 2026/27 – 2028/29, which it is calling phase two. A short summary of the measures due to be announced within this phase 2 spending review is as follows.

5.2 Future housing grant investment: This will look to support greater investment in new affordable housing from social housing providers, looking at a mix of tenures, particularly the provision of housing for social rent. This investment will run until the end of the parliament at least.

5.3 Children's social care reform: Including early intervention to help children stay with their families, and measures to reform the care market.

5.4 Local growth funding: In tandem with local growth plans, the industrial strategy, and sector plans, the Government is looking at how to better fund growth. This will be done by moving away from competitions, instead integrating it with plans for infrastructure, investment, and the Industrial Strategy.

5.5 10-Year Infrastructure Strategy: This will give more detail on Government's approach.

5.6 Industrial Strategy and Sector Plans: These will outline the long-term growth direction of the UK, focussing on the eight "core sectors" identified by Government.

5.7 Final decision on Sizewell C: The Government has stated that it will be treated like any other major multiyear commitment and will therefore be subject to a Final Investment Decision as to whether to proceed in phase 2.

5.8 10-Year Health Plan for the NHS: The Government will look to move towards a more digital, preventative, and community-orientated NHS.

5.9 Devolution and local government funding simplification: The Government will establish multi-year settlements, consolidate grant funding into the Local Government Finance Settlement, and act upon the English Devolution White Paper.

5.10 Homelessness: Further announcements are expected, with HM Treasury and MHCLG working together.

5.11 Transport: Changes to fares, services, and workforce practices.

5.12 Social impact investment vehicle: Will mobilise private investment, along with the voluntary sector and government, to deliver social impacts.

5.13 10-year budgets for key R&D funding: To help industry stay productive.

Cllr. Diana Garrod
Braintree District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward

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16-Sep	EALC	training course	17981	FPO		Y		96.00	16.00	80.00
17-Sep	A&J Lighting	Lighting Maintenance	sept	DD		Y		27.00	4.50	22.50
27-Sep	clerk	salary	sept	FPO		Y		350.12		350.12
27-Sep	clerk	WFH	sept	FPO		Y		26.00		26.00
25-Sep	clerk	travel	sept	FPO		Y		25.48		25.48
26-Sep	Precept part 2	Acct Ref3361	BGC	FPO		Y	6894.00			0.00
26-Sep	DH Maintenece	Parish Maintenance	25/09/2024	FPO		Y		150.00		150.00
30-Sep	INTEREST					Y	100.80			0.00
30-Sep	SERVICE CHARGE					Y		18.00		18.00
SEPTEMBER							6994.80	1436.92	79.36	1357.56
Month Closing Balance							<u>£21,013.76</u>			
15-Oct	A&J Lighting	Lighting Maintenance		DD		Y		27.00	4.50	22.50
15-Oct	HMRC	PAYE	TO OCT 2024	FPO		Y		262.14		262.14
23-Oct	solagen	parish maintence speed sign	6493	FPO		Y		546.00	91.00	455.00
23-Oct	Val Evans	Auditing 2023/24	9100042	FPO		Y		100.00		100.00
23-Oct	DH Maintenance	Parish maintence	20/10/2024	FPO		Y		150.00		150.00
28-Oct	clerk	salary	oct	FPO		Y		350.12		350.12
28-Oct	clerk	wfh	oct	FPO		Y		26.00		26.00
23-Oct	volunteer carter	fuel	oct	FPO		Y		26.20	4.37	21.83
31-Oct	service charge			DD		Y		5.40		5.40
31-Oct	village hall hire		20 oct	FPO		Y		48.00		48.00
OCTOBER							0.00	1540.86	99.87	1440.99
Month Closing Balance							<u>£19,472.90</u>			
08-Nov	ICO	Land Registry	ZA278582	DD		Y		35.00		35.00
15-Nov	A&J Lighting	Lighting Maintenance	38733	DD		Y		27.00	4.50	22.50
14-Nov	S ALLWORTHY	Wreath		FPO		Y		35.00		35.00
29-Nov	Clerk	salary	nov	FPO		Y		349.92		349.92
29-Nov	Clerk	WFH	nov	FPO		Y		26.00		26.00
30-Nov	Service Charge	bank	nov	DD		Y		6.00		6.00
NOVEMBER							0.00	478.92	4.50	474.42
Month Closing Balance							<u>£18,993.98</u>			
01-Dec	A&J Lighting	Lighting Maintenance	38808	DD				27.00	4.50	22.50
01-Dec	DH Maintenance	Parish maintence	01/12/2024	FPO		Y		150.00		150.00
01-Dec	ukpower networks	re awa gauging station 24/25	w0000001	FPO			3.45			