**District Councillor's Report January 2023 to Parish Councils**

**(Cllr. Diana Garrod - Bumpstead Ward)**

**Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders. Intended closures:-**

The Endway, Steeple Bumpstead to commence on 11th January 2023 for 3 days whilst Essex County Council undertakes carriageway patching.

Broad Green, Steeple Bumpstead. Due to commence on 13th January 2023 for 5 days whilst Essex County Council undertakes carriageway patching.

The Street, Sturmer on 23rd January 2023 for 9 hours whilst Openreach undertakes cabling.

**Lanpro Solar Farm Exhibition**

Sturmer Parish Council has arranged for Lanpro to exhibit their plans for a Solar Farm across Sturmer and into Steeple Bumpstead. This will be held on Thursday 12th January 2023; 3pm to 6.30pm at Sturmer Village Hall. Residents should receive a paper invitation through the post. However, I would be grateful if this is advertised through your social media channels.

## **Housing Strategy Consultation**

Braintree District Council is developing its new strategy to guide its approach to housing need and demand up to 2028, which is now out for public consultation until 5pm Tuesday 7th February 2023. Residents can read and comment on the document on the council’s website at [www.baintree.gov.uk/housing](http://www.baintree.gov.uk/housing) strategy The three main commitments from the Council in the draft strategy are:

* Facilitating a consistent programme of high quality, affordable homes which best meet the needs of the current and future residents.
* Supporting communities and enabling housing across the district to meet the needs of all our residents, especially those who are vulnerable.
* Improving access to and the quality of the Private Rented Sector and make best use of assets and existing properties.

**Christmas Tree Collection**

BDC will be providing a drop-off service from 10 locations across the district on Saturday 14 January 2023. Steeple Bumpstead Village Hall, Finchingfield Road, CB9 7EA, 08:00 - 08:30am. The Old Council Yard, Hedingham Road, Great Yeldham, CO9 4HS, 09:00 - 09:30am.

* BDC will collect real trees and wreaths
* You must remove all decorations before recycling the tree
* BDC cannot take artificial trees or wreaths containing wire
* Trees must not be taller than 6’7”

**Members Allowances**

At the meeting of Full Council on 3rd January 2-23, it was agreed to amend Rule 20.8 of the Members Allowance Scheme as set out in the Constitution and to not increase Members Allowances in line with the Local Government Staff Pay Award for 2022/23.

**PFCC Public Meeting**

Put your questions to Roger Hirst, Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex: County Wide Public Meeting – 15th February 2023 – Facebook Live.

**Second Quarter Performance Management Report (1/7/22-30/9/22). Sample extracts:-**

The purpose of the report is to demonstrate the performance of the Council at the end of the second quarter of 2022/23 in relation to the publication of ‘Bouncing Back Together’, the Council’s plan for the district up to March 2023.

The Council continues to support and monitor Superfast Essex in the delivery of Superfast Broadband across the district:- The Braintree district is currently at 95% of premises able to access superfast broadband and is forecast to reach 99% coverage within 3 years. The district wide take up of superfast broadband is currently at 30%. Superfast Essex and Gigaclear have been running campaigns to increase uptake and to raise awareness of 5G.

The Council continues to work with partners including Essex Highways on the delivery of our Cycling Strategy and implementation plan which includes developing integrated, high quality cycle routes that are safe to use and connected across our district:- The cycle video launched in conjunction with National Bike week in June was used again for Bike to Work week in August. The council has also supported three local  
cycling organisations who have now received cycling grants up the value of £12k. The recommendations from scrutiny reviews of the Cycling Strategy and into cycling and walking in the Braintree district have been undertaken and presented to Cabinet in October 2022.

Carry out air quality reviews in known air pollution hot spots across the district to improve the knowledge of local air quality and the proposed actions to take:- The results of the air quality monitoring in Halstead have shown that no measures need to be put in place. The review of air quality in the district has been completed by the Consultants. A report will be taken to Management Board in the third quarter.

Facilitate the delivery of a purpose-built medical centre in Sible Hedingham:- Planning permission has been granted. The land transfer continues to be delayed and the end date was pushed back to December 2022. This is to allowed adequate time for the necessary process requirements to complete within the NHS to exchange contracts.

Revitalise Community Transport scheme and increase the number of volunteers:- The service currently has 20 volunteer drivers shared between the social car scheme and minibus hire scheme. In the second quarter of the year, the Community Transport team provided 6,530 journeys. Demand for the service post pandemic is starting to increase. The Community Transport service have been working with Community 360 to promote volunteer driving opportunities at various events across the district.

Continue to deliver our LiveWell programme, focussing on:  
• Supporting children and their families to have the best start in life  
• Supporting older people to age well  
• Supporting children and adults to have good mental health  
• Tackling obesity in adults and children  
• Reducing hip fractures in over 65’s

The health and wellbeing panel are reviewing the priorities of the health and wellbeing board. A number of activities continue to be delivered under the Livewell programme including numerous organised walks (which average 200 walkers each month), fitness classes for people with health conditions and the over 60’s, seated exercise classes, dance lessons and weight management sessions.

Work with Community 360 and Active Essex to provide support to children and families who need it during school holiday periods through the provision of activity sessions:- We continue to work with Active Essex and Community 360 to provide activities and a nutritious meal through the school holiday periods. The summer holiday sites saw 82% of children return to an activAte club. During the summer, 11 clubs were  
provided by ten organisations providing support to 644 children and young people.

Continue to work with Essex County Council on the Governments ‘Next Steps Accommodation Programme’ on initiatives to prevent rough sleepers returning to the streets:- The Next Steps accommodation programme to provide stable accommodation and tailored support to prevent people returning to rough sleeping and begin to rebuild their lives is now up and running with all six units of accommodation now occupied.

Review the criteria for the discretionary business rates scheme for charitable and non-profit organisations:- The criteria for the discretionary business rates scheme has been reviewed and no changes to the criteria are being made. The relief scheme has been published and all current recipients of this relief have been contacted and asked to reapply so that entitlement can be reassessed against policy.

Monitor changes to various legislation to understand the impact on services including but not limited to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, Environmental Bill 2020 and Planning reforms:- The Specialist Domestic Abuse Officer is now in post and is providing support to colleagues within the Housing Service. They are also establishing links with others in similar roles in other Authorities and looking into DAHA (Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance) accreditation to enable the council to respond to domestic abuse  
situations more effectively.

Review and adopt a new Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Essex and enhance the value of joint working through the waste management partnership:- As part of the project to review the Joint Municipal Waste Strategy, we have agreed  
the baseline data for our waste management service and six collection methodology options. External consultants are currently modelling the options to assess the impact on our waste collection service.

The full PM Report can be found in Cabinet agenda 6th December 2022: https://braintree.cmis.uk.com

**Free Workshops from Business Growth Experts**

A series of free workshops, designed to help boost knowledge and skills, will begin towards the end of next week. Each workshop is open to two employees per business. Register early to reserve a spot as spaces are limited. Follow the links (below) for more on the sessions and to reserve a spot:  
  
✅ **13 January: How to trade out of the cost-of-living crisis**

Reserve a spot: [https://bit.ly/3VnROJO](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMDQuNjkyMDA0NzEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2JpdC5seS8zVm5ST0pPP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.29yOI-1MMtNFjFP519i7knGvcI23zi65xjO4tpk-T10/s/772318973/br/151637260400-l)  
  
✅ **17 January: How to motivate staff**

Reserve a spot: [https://bit.ly/3HQ36TV](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMDQuNjkyMDA0NzEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2JpdC5seS8zSFEzNlRWP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.6sCzqe_TXWAkvIDjV4HIq16JVwG-AFTogW11OY8NyMw/s/772318973/br/151637260400-l)  
  
✅ **20 January: How to increase productivity**

Reserve a spot: [https://bit.ly/3G6wmV8](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMDQuNjkyMDA0NzEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2JpdC5seS8zRzZ3bVY4P3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.cDzaCw8e_pZd0GN8cgzfkCmXVlbJQ8OJK-wROR5a99k/s/772318973/br/151637260400-l)  
  
✅ **25 January: How to recruit staff and upskill employees**

Reserve a spot: [https://bit.ly/3hCPbpD](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMDQuNjkyMDA0NzEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2JpdC5seS8zaENQYnBEP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.DowaPcyzeabYhTumyZQxIKIPB-tIQm1PSadiq2BUE8k/s/772318973/br/151637260400-l)

The workshops will take place at [The Plaza in Great Notley, CM77 7AU](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMDQuNjkyMDA0NzEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy50aGVwbGF6YWNlbnRyZS5jby51ay8_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.GYt17YpoELUZ0oRuF-cfs85jK_9AzoGilycP_lscQD0/s/772318973/br/151637260400-l)

Your business must be from the Braintree District to be eligible. The workshops are funded by the UK Government through the [UK Shared Prosperity Fund](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDUsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMDQuNjkyMDA0NzEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5nb3YudWsvZ292ZXJubWVudC9wdWJsaWNhdGlvbnMvdWstc2hhcmVkLXByb3NwZXJpdHktZnVuZC1wcm9zcGVjdHVzP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.tXc6ubqDPoVbPegvky_YZRQifzHxSlHH0BqSi5-qyJQ/s/772318973/br/151637260400-l).

**News from Suffolk – Public Meeting**

Acorn Bioenergy wants to create an anaerobic digestion plant on land currently occupied by Spring Grove Farm, owned by the Thurlow Estate and situated next to the A1307 just outside both [Haverhill](https://www.suffolknews.co.uk/haverhill/) and Withersfield. A public meeting is planned at the Epicentre on 12th January 2023 at 7pm.

**Cllr**. Diana Garrod

Braintree District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward