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**October 2008**

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

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# MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: All

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY

SUBJECT: Affordable Housing Development, July - Sept 2008(2nd qtr)	CONTACT OFFICER: Tim Lucas, David Steel
TEL/EMAIL No.:01376 551414 ext. 2124, 2138 <a href="mailto:timlu@braintree.gov.uk">timlu@braintree.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:david.steel@braintree.gov.uk">david.steel@braintree.gov.uk</a>	BACKGROUND PAPERS: None
INFORMATION:	
<b><u>Development Programme Update – 2008/09</u></b>	
<b>Site Acquisitions, New Starts and Completions, second quarter 2008/09:</b>	
<b><u>Site Acquisitions 15 units:</u></b>	
‘The Edge’ Bocking: This forms part of a scheme that originally had no affordable housing. During July 2008 RSL assisted by Housing Corp funding purchased 15 units from developer that will comprise 9 units at affordable rents and 6 units for intermediate rent	
<b><u>New Starts 25 units:</u></b>	
Water Lane, Pebmarsh: started on site during May 2008 and will provide 10 units for rent anticipated for completion July 2009.	
‘The Edge’ Bocking: started on site April 2008 providing 9 affordable rented and 6 intermediate rented units with completion anticipated February 2009.	
<b><u>Completions 25 units:</u></b>	
Bailey Bridge Road, Braintree: 20 rented units and 3 shared ownership units completed during July and August 2008.	
Braintree Bus Garage, Fairfield Road: 2 shared ownership units completed during September. This completes the affordable housing provision within the scheme.	
<b><u>New developments currently in progress 81 units:</u></b>	
Braintree, Bailey Bridge Road: 9 rented units that were started on site June 2007 are expected to be handed over during October 2008. This will represent completion of the affordable homes on scheme.	
Braintree Football Club Site: Funding approved by Housing Corporation to enable the whole scheme of 35 units (20 rented and 15 shared ownership units) to be for affordable housing. First handovers anticipated November 2008.	
‘The Edge’ Bocking: 9 affordable rented units and 6 intermediate rented units are anticipated for completion February 2009.	
Sudbury Road, Gestingthorpe: Exception site comprising 4 rented units and 2 shared ownership units anticipated for completion June 2009.	
Water Lane, Pebmarsh: 10 units for rent were started during May 2008 and are expected to complete July 2009.	
Witham, Spring Lodge: Work started on site May 2008 with 6 units for shared ownership on site and anticipated to complete March 2009. A further 15 units for rent and 5 units for shared ownership delayed because of site complexities and market conditions.	

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

**Housing Corporation funding / RSL funding has been allocated for the following developments with a start on site during this financial year (2008/09):**

**Halstead, Parsonage Street:** Planning permission granted December 2007 for 13 affordable units. Housing Corp funding allocated to RSL. Start on site delayed and now anticipated for November 2008.

**River View, Witham:** Application submitted to planners October 2008 for new 55 unit 'extra care' housing scheme for elderly. Housing Corp funding allocated to RSL and start on site is anticipated March / April 2009.

AREA: All

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: MEETING COMMUNITY NEEDS

SUBJECT: Asbestos Campaign	CONTACT OFFICER: Nadine Horsewell – Technical Officer (Food and Health and Safety)
TEL/EMAIL No.: (01376) 551414 x 2216 nadine.horsewell@braintree.gov.uk	BACKGROUND PAPERS: None
<p><b>INFORMATION:</b> The Health Protection Department, Environmental Services has recently participated in an Asbestos Campaign.</p> <p>The Asbestos campaign was a joint venture between Essex Local Authorities and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). The HSE together with the Environmental Health Departments in Essex are carrying out targeted inspections in Essex over three week in October, to make sure companies are not exposing employees to potentially harmful asbestos fibres.</p> <p>At around 4000 deaths per year (15 times the fatal accident rate), asbestos related diseases are still the largest occupational killers in the UK and are continuing to rise.</p> <p>Over 20 representatives from HSE and Essex LAs spent a number of days visiting businesses across the county to confirm that duty holders have appropriate measures in place to comply with their responsibilities under the asbestos regulations.</p> <p>The main aim of the event was to raise awareness among those who are working in areas where they are often unaware that asbestos containing materials are present. Officers are trying to visit 80 premises in each Local Authority area.</p> <p>The outcome of the asbestos campaign will follow in a future article.</p>	

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

**AREA:** Community Services - Community Safety & Development Team  
(& CDRP)

**CORPORATE THEME HEADING:** *Everyone Can Enjoy a Healthy Lifestyle*

<b>SUBJECT:</b> Changes to Team & Events	<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b> Helena Goodwin
<b>TEL/EMAIL No.:</b> Ext 2756 <a href="mailto:helgo@braintree.gov.uk">helgo@braintree.gov.uk</a>	<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS:</b> Structure Charts; Home Office Correspondence
<b>Date:</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> October 2008	
<p><b>INFORMATION:</b></p> <p>Over recent months the Community Safety Development Team have been through a number of changes. Historically they have been community safety and development officers who undertaking the work as one job. Due to the statutory requirement under the Crime and Disorder Act legislation (1998) and subsequent legislation, much of our work has been focused upon addressing crime and disorder issues with partners across the Braintree District. Collectively with partners we have managed to continually meet our crime and disorder and associated targets under the many guises that they have and are now known as (e.g. Building Safer Communities, Safer Stronger Communities, Local Area Agreement etc.). Over the past year the BDC team has been restructured, and dedicated and experienced Community Development Officers have been recruited. This has resulted in the Team concentrating on two distinct specialist areas - one being community safety and the other, community development. In addition to these new Officers, a Partnership Officer has been recruited by the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership to provide a coordination, cohesion of action plans and a support function for the thematic groups of partnership. The changes within the team is enabling further personal development to facilitate them in reaching their full potential. These changes have also assisted with the expansion of our business into new and exciting areas. Part of the work of these three Officers is to create and develop new ideas with partners and to put these into physical implementation.</p> <p>One of the first events organised by Community Development was with Essex Police and this was the national 'Old People's Day', this was held on 1st October 2008 at the council offices. This event was so successful that the aim for next year is to hold this type of event across the whole District.</p> <p>From the beginning of October there have been a variety of national weeks created by the Home Office, and with the assumption that each Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership has sufficient resources to create and develop a comprehensive plan for their local area. With very short time scales, my team have been liaising closely with operational Officers of Essex Police to try and put something in place so we do not miss the opportunity to become involved in, and showcase some of the initiatives and projects the we undertake jointly. It is acknowledged that the imposed timescales has not permitted wider consultation</p>	

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

or realistic public relations opportunities. This has meant that partners have been unable to have quality time and inclusive engagements with colleagues in developing plans for our District, ensuring that the national events do not pass us by. Hence, we have managed to provide levels of activity engagement within the three towns of our District. The indication is that these events will be held on an annual basis, and as such, a small project team will be pulled together to discuss and develop initiatives and timescales of implementation. These initiatives cross cut so many strategic and corporate objectives and interests of Elected Members, as such partners would welcome Elected Members to join the planning group and assist with ensuring that the outreach worker consultation with the general public is maximised.

## **CDRP Partnership Engagement / Events 2008**

- **Week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> October 2008** 'Not in My Neighbourhood Week' (an email was sent to all Councillors')
- **Week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> November 2008** - National Anti-Bullying Week (planned being developed by BDC Community Development Officer, Essex County Council, and Essex Police.

Across Essex the Braintree District has the most engaged schools and also has the highest level of work being delivered by partners into the schools agencies. However, data from our schools is showing that the Braintree District schools also have highest rates of fear of being bullied in Essex! This is possibly due to the amount of work that the partnerships do in schools. The projects that we run are - 'Making It Happen' (anti-bullying and peer mentoring projects) & 'Being Safe' (project that provides options and choices for young people on the following topics- anti social behaviour, homophobia, racism, and personal safety. We run this project with partners from the Essex Race Equality Council, Men's Action Team, Essex Police and Braintree District Council's Community Safety and Development Team. Both projects raise awareness and discuss methods of taking action. In addition we also run the Crucial Crew & Reality Roadshow Projects for schools. The joint **CDRP & CYPSP Conference - *Young People as Targets of Crime*, 20<sup>th</sup> November 2008**, Towerlands, will be the main focus of the Anti-Bullying week. This conference will be our third joint conference and is the only one of its kind nationally. Elected Members are encouraged to attend and if you would like further information and booking forms please contact Janet Peatling at BDC (01376 551414).

- **Week Commencing 24<sup>th</sup> November** - National Domestic Abuse Awareness Week (the plan is being developed by the Domestic Abuse Panel.

If you would like to become involved in the planning and/implementation of future national event weeks, please contact me at your convenience.

**Prepared by: H Goodwin, Community Safety & Development Manager, Ext 2756**

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: Member Development

CORPORATE THEME HEADING:

SUBJECT: Member Seminar January 2009	CONTACT OFFICER: Linda Morgan
TEL/EMAIL No.: 01376 551414 x 2602	BACKGROUND PAPERS:
INFORMATION:  You will remember that a short survey was sent out to Members last month asking, amongst other questions, whether you would prefer the next Members Seminar to be held on a Saturday or a weekday. Ten of you said Saturday, ten said a weekday, one could attend either, and one would attend neither.  At a meeting of the Local Government Review Sub-Group on Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> October, it was agreed that the next member Seminar would be held on <b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2009</b> at the Towerlands Centre in Panfield Lane.  Further details will follow as they become available, and in the meantime would you please put this date in your diary.	

AREA: Finance

CORPORATE THEME HEADING:

SUBJECT: National Fraud Initiative	CONTACT OFFICER: Lesley Day
TEL/EMAIL No.: <b>(01376) 557821</b> <a href="mailto:lesley.day@braintree.gov.uk">lesley.day@braintree.gov.uk</a>	BACKGROUND PAPERS:
INFORMATION:  Since 1996 the Audit Commission has run the <b>National Fraud Initiative (NFI)</b> , an exercise that matches electronic data within and between audited bodies to prevent and detect fraud. This includes police authorities, local probation boards and fire and rescue authorities as well as local councils. To date, an estimated £450 million of fraud and overpayments have been identified from this work and the initiative has attracted international recognition. In 2006/07 this approach has led to £140 million of fraud and overpayments being detected.	

## MEMBERS' FOCUS

In early October 2008 Braintree DC submitted data in respect of:

- Market traders
- Licensed Taxi Drivers
- Personal licences for the supply of alcohol
- Concessionary Fare passes
- Residents Parking Permits
- Payroll
- Creditors

For further information regarding this initiative please go [www.braintree.gov.uk](http://www.braintree.gov.uk)

# News

## Local stars launch Braintree District Cultural Celebrations 2008 – 2012

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September at Braintree District Museum saw the launch of the Braintree District Cultural Celebrations 2008 – 2012 as part of the national launch of the Cultural Olympiad. Three groups of street performers including sporting stilt walkers and swimming on dry land interacted with the public at George Yard Shopping Centre. Braintree BMX Club and Braintree and District Athletics Club were on display outside Braintree District Museum and the EAST textile group inside the Exhibition Gallery. The event was launched by young, local textile designer, Nicola Straethern and local BMX star, Matthew Kirk.

Having attended Tabor High School in Braintree, **Nicola Strathearn**, now aged 24 is currently studying at the Royal College of Art and has already achieved substantial success as a textile designer. Awards achieved include first prize in May 2008 by the Haberdashers' Benevolent Foundation; in 2007, the Armes Prize for the highest grade at the Leeds College of Art and Design and in May 2006 winning the prestigious SETLR Fashion Competition in Lyon, France against 950 students from 12 European countries. Her work is inspired by natural objects that are reflected in the creation of beautiful, intricate and innovative textiles for wearers to treasure in fashion.

**Mathew Kirk of Braintree BMX Club** finished fifth in the British BMX Championship in Peterborough on 24th August 2008. This year was the first for BMX as part of the

## MEMBERS' FOCUS

Olympic Games. BMX races have plenty of thrills around the 350 metre track, including jumps, banked corners and other obstacles. It is hoped that Mathew and other members of Braintree's BMX Club will be competing in the London 2012 Olympics.

**Three street acts performed at George Yard.** The Fairly Famous Family performed in rotation between 11.00am and 2.00pm as comedy life guards and are winners of "Birmingham International Street Entertainer of the Year 2005". Perched high on their chairs the lifeguards attempted to impose the timeless values of the municipal baths on to the streets of Braintree. Cirque Bijou performed on stilts as footballer Willy Wreckham and irritatingly accurate referee Bernard Bookem to recreate magical moments from the beautiful game. Artizani are cricketers on stilts that spin a great performance.

We want to hear from Braintree District's residents to find out how they can become involved in showcasing the talent, innovation and creativity of the people of Braintree District, past and present to the world, by the end of 2012. Do you have any creative ideas for local celebrations over the next four years throughout the District? If anyone belongs to a sports club with an interesting history to celebrate, get in touch. Please contact Robert Rose, Braintree District Cultural Celebration 2008 – 2012 with any of your ideas or information on 01376 325266 or [robert.rose@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:robert.rose@braintree.gov.uk).

**Cllr Tim Wilkinson, Chair of the Braintree District London 2012 Working Group**, commented that "the London 2012 Games are about more than sport. The Cultural Olympiad is a United Kingdom wide, four-year celebration of cultures on a scale that has never been done before. It will highlight the UK's diversity by using both culture and sport to create works and events that will bring people and places together, encourage audiences to take part, involve and inspire young people, welcome the world to the 2012 Games and create a lasting legacy. To find out more go to [www.london2012.com/culture](http://www.london2012.com/culture). Braintree District Council was delighted to celebrate one of the 500 UK launch events to mark the start of an exciting four year journey."

**Bill Morris, Director of Culture, Ceremonies and Education at LOCOG** said: 'After we have watched the successes of Team GB and Paralympics GB in Beijing, the Cultural Olympiad and Open Weekend is an opportunity for everyone in Braintree District and right across the UK to begin to see how they can be part of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Our promise was and still is to make our Games accessible to everyone and which inextricably links sport, culture and education.'

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## ENDS

For more press information or enquiries contact: Robert Rose, Museum Services Manager on 01376 325266, 0797 099 3705, robert.rose@braintree.gov.uk

Issued by Braintree DC PR 29 September 2008.

On BDC8: Cyclist with blue gloves – Matthew Kirk the other is Tom Elvin from Braintree BMX Club Nicola Strathearn holding up her textile designs. Chairperson for Braintree District Athletics Club Claire Rolewicz and committee member Barry Everton ( under cricket bats) BDC staff: Robert Rose; Rose Webb; Alison Dando; Joby Humm. Volunteer: James Ashbey (bottom left) Cllr. Tim Wilkinson, Chair of the Braintree District London 2012 Working Group Artizani are the name of the group of the two cricketers

# News

## Halstead polling station anomaly to be resolved

**Braintree District Council** is consulting local people on a proposal to change a polling station in Halstead. The current arrangements mean that many voters walk past the polling station at Holy Trinity primary school in Beridge Road on their way to their designated station at St Andrews church hall near the top of Halstead's hill.

**Three options are offered**, using notable features of Halstead as natural boundaries. They have been presented to Halstead Town Council who have indicated that their preferred option is to divide the polling district using the High Street as a natural boundary. This will provide a new polling station for around 800 electors at Beridge Road, with 2,100 voters continuing to use St Andrews church hall. Electors for Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural polling districts who previously used Beridge Road will be allocated a new polling station at Attwoods Manor.

**Three maps show the options** which have now been presented to Halstead Town Council for comment and the options can be seen at Mill House from 22<sup>nd</sup> September. A period of 21 days of public consultation closes on 9<sup>th</sup> October and any elector who wishes to make representation or comment on the proposals can do so by writing to the returning Officer at Braintree District Council. The outcome will be reported to Braintree District Council on 20<sup>th</sup> October. Whichever option is chosen, it will become effective from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2008.

Voters will know which polling station to use, when they receive their polling card at the next election.

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**Council leader Graham Butland** comments: "Democracy underpins everything in our society and it is important to make voting as easy as possible to encourage everyone to use their vote and improving access is an important of this."

ENDS

For more press information or enquiries contact Steve Daynes 01376 557751, or Chris Trim.

Issued by Braintree DC PR 19 September 2008.

## News

### Sible Hedingham picks up £11,000 for community use

Over £11,000 has been granted to Sible Hedingham for community projects this summer, by Braintree District Council's Halstead area local committee. £2650 supported several new activities and attractions at the Hedingham Festival for young people during the holidays; new swings were installed in the recreation ground and new planter tubs located along Swan Street.

Sible Hedingham parish clerk Adrian Corder-Birch and local Councillor Jo Beavis collected the cheque for £11,032.72 at Causeway House this week.

**Jo Beavis comments:** "The new local committees can offer significant cash help to local groups for community projects. The bidding process is very straightforward and local councillors make all the decisions. I would encourage people to get in touch to see how councillors can help."

For more information, see [www.braintree.gov.uk](http://www.braintree.gov.uk) / council and democracy / going local for on-line grant application forms.

ENDS

Issued by Braintree DC PR 24 September 2008.

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

## News

### Icelandic banks put Council savings at risk

Braintree District Council has confirmed that it has a total of £5million invested with three Icelandic banks, which are now in administration or receivership.

Council Leader Graham Butland has assured taxpayers that there will be no short term effect on services or the Council's ability to make payments to suppliers and staff.

- The Council stands to lose £230,000 worth of interest this financial year.
- It is too early to predict what may happen to any of the invested funds.
- The £5million represents around 9% of the Council's investments (£56.5m)
- The investments were made up to 18 months ago, in accordance with government and professional financial guidance and with banks of the highest credit rating at the time. Investments of this kind make a valuable contribution to council cashflow and help to pay for local services, by contributing to the council's overall budget and helping moderate changes to council tax rates

Cllr Butland says: "Although it's too early to say, we're studying what effect this will have on this year's budget and we hope that the government will offer protection to taxpayers' investments in the same way as personal savings. The situation shows how everyone will be affected by the financial crisis and we're very aware that many people live on fixed incomes."

ENDS

#### Notes

Kaupthing Singer & Friedlander is in administration: which means that the Icelandic financial services authority has over-ruled the bank's board of directors and placed officials into the bank to enable continued business. The Council has £1million invested here – and was due for repayment next week.

The Glitnir and Landsbanki banks are in receivership, which means that the bank has ceased trading, because it is unable to meet the demand by investors for the return of their money. The Council has £4million invested with these banks, of which £3m would not be due back until March next year. Braintree is one of a number of councils working with the Local Government Association to resolve the situation. The Chairman of the LGA, Margaret Eaton, has written to Alistair Darling to seek 'whatever action is needed to safeguard and support the position of local authorities and the communities they serve.' For the full statement, please see:

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageld=1080534>

Issued by Braintree DC PR 9 October 2008

## MEMBERS' FOCUS

# News

### Malcolm Muncher arrives in Braintree

Children from local primary & junior schools who took part in the Grand Schools Council event in June joined **Chairman of Braintree District Council Cllr Lady Patricia Newton** outside Braintree District Museum to celebrate the arrival of Malcolm Muncher, the talking litter bin bear. During the Grand Schools Council event, a talking litter bin was proposed by the children of St. Francis R.C. Primary School and won the vote of the other participants.

Earlier in the morning the children visited the Town Hall Centre to deliver the birthday cards they had made to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the building and visit the main council chamber.

**Later that day Chairman hosted** the launch of Local Democracy Week at the Town Hall Centre. Lady Newton welcomed district, town and parish councillors, past Council Chairman, headteachers and representatives from the participating secondary schools. Special guest was George Courtauld, descendant of William Julian Courtauld who donated the Town Hall Centre to the town in 1928.

**In the evening**, to commemorate the anniversary and Local Democracy Week **the Cabinet meeting** was held in the council chamber at the Town Hall Centre.

During **Democracy Week (13-17 October)**, three secondary schools will visit Causeway House Braintree to take part in talks and inter-active discussions with Councillors, officers and representatives of Braintree Youth Council on the topics of democracy and citizenship. During their visit the young people will be encourage to take part in the Youth Assembly Essex elections due to be held in December 2008.

ENDS

For more press information or enquiries contact Steve Daynes, 01376 557751

Issued by Braintree DC PR 9 October 2008

## MEMBERS' FOCUS

# News

### Sale of Braintree Riverside pool site imminent

**Braintree District Council** has agreed to accept an offer to redevelop the former Braintree swimming pool site off St Johns Avenue. Croudace Homes and the Home Group housing association have put together a proposal which would bring a very high proportion of affordable homes to the site (57 out of 87 – subject to planning permission) and a small proportion of flats – just 10.

**Croudace Homes offer** is in excess of £3million, with a choice of different combinations of property types based on securing grant from the Housing Corporation. The bid contrasts with most current schemes which have a higher proportion of homes for private sale. Home Group would use the grant to manage the development and become landlord for most of the properties. The Council is relying on sale of the site to balance the funding of the new swimming centre at Freeport and other community investments.

Negotiations over the value of the site with other developers have varied considerably. The proposal is subject to planning permission and approval by the Housing Corporation, however it is seen as very positive. **Cllr Wendy Schmitt comments:** “This will be a really positive outcome for the site and provide many new affordable homes close to the heart of the town. Redeveloping the site will help close a chapter for the Riverside neighbourhood which can now enter a new phase with new residents in a very convenient location.”

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Home Group is part of the Braintree Housing Partnership, which includes the Council.

For more press information or enquiries contact Chris Trim, 01376 557752

Issued by Braintree DC PR 13 October 2008.

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

## News

### School children draw winning robots

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**Cllrs Wendy Schmitt and Robert Mitchell** presented remote controlled WALL.E robots to six primary school children for their winning drawings of their own environmentally friendly robot, who helps to keep the planet tidy. The six winners then each took their whole class to a special screening of the latest Disney blockbuster WALL.E.

The competition, organised by Braintree District Council, was open to all 54 primary schools in the Braintree District, 610 children took part and one winning drawing was chosen from each of the six year groups. The judging panel included Cllrs Wendy Schmitt and Robert Mitchell, Paul Douglas – Manager at Cineworld and Patrick Keeble from Florida Coaches.

**Cabinet member Councillor Wendy Schmitt** believes young children can play an important part in keeping our communities tidy, “you can see from the drawings that the children really care about their environment, the pictures are just brimming with enthusiasm and inventiveness. The competition has encouraged the children to think about how litter and recycling affects the planet and helped them to start thinking about what they can do to protect it.”

ENDS

#### Notes

**The winners are:-**

**Daniel Pratt, Gosfield Community Primary School Year 1 (aged 5 - 6)**

**Amaya Feriz Barnes, Bocking Church Street Primary School Year 2 (aged 6 – 7)**

**Isobel Ellen Parkes, White Notley Primary School Year 3 (aged 7 - 8)**

**Lucy Greenaway, Cressing Primary School Year 4 (aged 8 - 9)**

**Callum Gilhooly, Cressing Primary School Year 5 (aged 9 – 10)**

**Georgia Willis, Notley Green Primary School Year 6 (aged 10 – 11)**

For more press information or enquiries contact Jenny Mayes – 01376 551414 – just say the name

Issued by Braintree DC PR 17 October 2008.

## MEMBERS' FOCUS

# News

## Thousands use new on-line scheme to re-register

**Over 15,500 residents** have chosen to use the new on-line re-registration service: by phone, text or internet.

The service works where there are no changes to make to household names or details and for most people their registration form does not change from year to year.

They can also request a postal vote or change their right to 'opt out' of published lists in the same way.

The form has a unique two part security code, which is needed when dialling or logging-on: at any time, day or night. Most people have used the service morning and early afternoon, with a slight increase around mid-night and the early hours.

**Here are some comments** received by people who have used the new service.

"On-line registration makes life easier, being disabled I have difficulty getting about and would have to use the car just to go to the post box or rely on someone else to post it for me. I don't like having to rely on other people all the time, so thank-you for helping me keep some independence."

"Just to let you know that the procedure for online registration was straight forward and very simple to follow, even for an old age pensioner like me!!"

"As a property owner living overseas, this is an excellent innovation. It is easy to log in and complete the registration. Even overseas, I got the email confirmation in less than 2 minutes."

**17,000 reminders were posted on 1<sup>st</sup> October** and electoral registration staff appeal to people to renew their registration before the next reminder date of 15<sup>th</sup> October. This will save considerable administration time and postal costs.

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**Notes:** Elections are scheduled in May for Essex County Council followed by a European Election on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2009. It's never too early to apply for a postal vote and the system is already run by the Electoral Reform Society for over 200 local authorities, in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

Additional lines are available in other languages.

Issued by Braintree DC PR 3 October 2008.

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: FINANCE

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: LOCAL TAXATION

<b>SUBJECT: Non-payment of Non Domestic (Business) Rates.</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b> Dave Ekins, Local Taxation Manager
TEL/EMAIL No.: Ext 2910 David.ekins@braintree.gov.uk	<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS:</b> None
<b>INFORMATION:</b> <p>Two high profile businesses, Woolworth plc and Whittard of Chelsea Ltd have written to all Councils requesting a reschedule of business rate payments. The main reason for briefing Members is that these businesses have set out how and when they intend to pay their business rates without negotiation at any level within this authority - or with any other authority in England and Wales.</p> <p>Woolworths wish to defer instalments due on 1 October 08, 1 November 08, 1 December 08 and 1 January 09 to 1 January 09, 1 February 09 and 1 March 09. Prior to writing to all Councils, Woolworths instructed their bank not to honour their existing direct debit.</p> <p>Whittard of Chelsea Ltd intends to spread their remaining four instalments (October 08, November 08, December 08 and January 09) over six months (Oct 08 to March 09). Prior to writing to all Councils, Whittard's cancelled their direct debit, but enclosed a cheque for one-sixth of the remaining balance and requested our bank details to allow a standing order to be set up.</p> <p>Both businesses assure us that they will pay their rates in full by March 2009 and are looking to the Christmas season to generate cash flow from which to meet their liabilities.</p> <p>We have refused to these imposed arrangements on the basis that smaller local traders are facing similar trading issues and we would expect them to honour their liabilities and feel that it is impossible to draw a fair criteria for decisions.</p> <p>A few years ago, the Council agreed to defer business rate instalments for Crittall Windows Ltd, when they approached us. The Council was seen to be supporting a firm who employed a significant number of people working, living and contributing in a large way to the economy of the district.</p> <p>Recovery processes on these accounts has been expedited to protect the income and the use of bailiffs asap is intended.</p>	

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

**AREA:** Community Services - Community Safety & Development Team  
(CDRP & CYPSP)

**CORPORATE THEME HEADING:** *Everyone Can Enjoy a Healthy Lifestyle*

<p><b>SUBJECT: Performance Reward Grant Submissions (BD CDRP)</b></p>	<p><b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b> Helena Goodwin</p>
<p><b>TEL/EMAIL No.:</b> Ext 2756 <a href="mailto:helgo@braintree.gov.uk">helgo@braintree.gov.uk</a></p> <p><b>Date:</b> 15<sup>th</sup> October 2008</p>	<p><b>BACKGROUND PAPERS:</b> LAA2; BD LAA; Performance Reward Grant process; The Essex Partnership; BD CDRP Minutes; PRG submission documents.</p>
<p><b>INFORMATION:</b></p> <p>The two bids (Creative Communities &amp; Safety First) have been submitted by the CDRP &amp; CYPSP through the Braintree District LSP. A third bid is being submitted involving ECC, Braintree District Crime &amp; Disorder Reduction Partnership (BD CDRP) and Braintree District Childrens' &amp; Young People's Strategic Partnership (BD CYPSP) to the Essex LSP.</p> <p><b>“Creative Communities”</b> A project to reduce perceived anti-social behaviour and create more integrated communities in areas where there is growing tension amongst residents, using arts and cultural activities to engage, educate and create opportunities for interaction. The type of activities which might be chosen by the resident communities may include art competitions, community music schemes, video diaries and film projects, recycled art competitions.</p> <p>The project is aimed at reducing ‘perceived’ Anti-social Behaviour and to create more integrated communities in areas where growing tension amongst residents is evidenced. This will address key themes that impact on the quality of life for residents such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ environmental awareness,</li> <li>➤ intergenerational relationships and,</li> <li>➤ cultural awareness</li> </ul> <p><b>“Safety First”</b> – This project will involve people of all ages and backgrounds with a focus on those of senior years, the young and parents. The aim of the project is to reduce the numbers of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People becoming victims of crime,</li> <li>• Young people becoming involved in crime and anti-social activities,</li> <li>• Young people experimenting with drugs and alcohol and;</li> <li>• ASB in the community.</li> </ul> <p>The methodology is to expand upon the existing work of partners through providing additional education, intervention &amp; enforcement activities. This is</p>	

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through a combination of outreach work in communities, businesses and schools, along with the hosting of seminars and events for the public.

If successful BDC and Essex Police will begin bringing working with other partners to develop the project further and maximise its impact.

### **“Perceptions & Interventions to Stay Safe”**

This project is initially a research project about understanding the why youngsters do not feel safe and are in fear of being bullied.

Within the Braintree District, ECC, the CDRP & CYPSP implement numerous projects in schools around prevention, education and providing the forum for youngsters to make informed decisions about how they conduct themselves in schools as a community, as well as in the communities where they live. The following projects are examples of the extensive work:-

- Being Safe (Year8 (racism, homophobia, anti-bullying, keeping safe & ASB))
- Making It Happen (Year 7 (Anti-bullying project))
- Reality Roadshow (Year 9 (ASB causes and consequences))

### **The Facts**

1. Across the whole of Essex, the Braintree District has the highest level of this specialist work being undertaken.
2. Schools in the Braintree District have the most inclusive schools across Essex.
3. Yet – Braintree District has the highest Fear of Bullying in Essex!

Surveys detailing qualitative and quantitative data have been undertaken across the County. Three years worth of data will be available from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009. To understand what the reasons are for the high fear of bullying in our schools, an in-depth analysis of the results is needed. The data will provide the true reasons behind the stats and what is it that has created the greatest fear in Essex. This could be:-

- a) Are the projects creating a fear of bullying because of the awareness raising?
- b) Is the clientele within the schools creating a fear?
- c) Girls are in more fear of bullying than boys – why?
- d) Black & minority ethnic boy's are of higher risk from bullying – why?
- e) If youngsters have changed schools – why is this?

Once the data has been analysed in greater detail (by ECC Planning & Development), then focus groups will be held with:-

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- Targets and perpetrators of bullying
- Peer mentors
- Teachers and Learning Assistants
- Parents

The focus group work will be undertaken by specialist staff from ECC SENAPS, PHSE, and will include partnership working with the Schools, North & East Braintree Inclusion Network (NEBIN) and, Kids Inspire Charity.

When the true reasons are identified then an action plan to bridge the gaps and possibly the refocusing of existing services will be developed and implemented with the most suitable partners. This is anticipated to commence in year 2.

The pilot project will take place with Braintree schools that will be identified from the available data. Existing data identifies that the ages groups where the project is likely to be focused is Year 4 (Age 7-8) in Primary School and Year 7 (Age 11-12) in Secondary schools. The results and methodologies being used will create a template of activities which can be rolled out across Essex.

The key focal targets that this project will impact on is 'feeling safe', 'perceptions of anti-social behaviour', 'attendance in schools' and 'children & young people realise their potential in education'. In reality, this project will also contribute towards many other LAA2 targets across the four themes.

Partners should know the outcomes of the bids on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

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