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**January 2005**

# 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 Update January 2005	CONTACT OFFICER: Joanne Albini
TEL/EMAIL No.:01376 551414 ext. 2118 <a href="mailto:joaal@braintree.gov.uk">joaal@braintree.gov.uk</a>	BACKGROUND PAPERS: None
INFORMATION:	
<b><u>Development Programme Update – 2004/05</u></b>	
<b>Site Acquisitions, New Starts and Completions third quarter 2004/05:</b>	
<b><u>Site Acquisitions:</u> Witham: land at Bridge hospital for 50 units, and land at Maltings Lane for an additional 21 units. Braintree: land at St Michael's hospital for 48 units</b>	
<b><u>New Starts - 55 units:</u> Maltings Lane 53 units – 38 for rental and 15 shared ownership. Grove Villas – 2 for rental</b>	
<b><u>Completions – 32 total this financial year:</u> 20 units in third quarter for this financial year – 10 units at Maltings Lane (ML4) site now completed and let. First 2 completions at Atlas Works, Earls Colne now let, 2 Homebuy and 6 Key Worker homes.</b>	
<b><u>Key Workers:</u> Moat Housing have assisted 13 key workers to purchase homes this year</b>	
<b><u>Homebuy:</u> Estuary have helped 2 households with their purchases</b>	
New developments currently in progress:	
<b>Witham - Maltings Lane (ML3,8 &amp; 9):</b> 53 units started on site in December 2004 with at least one full year expected before completion.	
<b>Earls Colne - Atlas Works:</b> 24 units in total – 2 bungalows completed for December, 11 due for completion January and the final 11 in February 2005	
<b>Hatfield Peverel - Wilkinson House:</b> 12 units in total – now in the final stages of completion and all units are due to be let in March	
<b>Great Saling - Grove Villas:</b> 2 units in total – completion expected May 2005	
The following developments are in varying stages – it is anticipated that the following sites will have started by the end of this financial year:	
<b>Braintree, Gypsy Corner:</b> 59 units (rental and shared ownership) work started on site and affordable units due to start in February	
<b>Braintree - Bartrams Avenue:</b> 4 fully adapted bungalows – transfer of land due to take place shortly	
<b>Braintree - Coggeshall Road:</b> 35 units - Extra Care Scheme	
<b>Halstead - Abels Road:</b> 11 units – redevelopment of garage site, garages to be demolished soon in preparation for development	
<b>Witham - Bridge Hospital:</b> 50 units – including 8 x 1 bed flats for care leavers. Land	

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transferred in November 2004

**Witham - Maltings Lane:** all land on phase 2 now transferred to relevant Housing Associations and some of the developments have started

**Steeple Bumpstead - North Crescent:** 8 units – existing garages on site have been demolished and removed. Land not transferred yet.

Various other potential development sites are in the pipeline for the future. These sites are both in the towns and villages throughout the district.

**Key worker funding:** Moat Housing Group have grant funding from the Housing Corporation for £5.1 million to assist with the purchases of Key worker housing units in Essex over the next two years. They estimate that this should assist up to 170 units to be purchased throughout Essex. 13 key workers from within the district have completed this financial year.

In the third quarter of this year Moat have assisted six households with purchasing properties: 2 currently working in Braintree and 4 moving into Braintree of these there are 4 working in education, 1 working for NHS and 1 social worker.

Two key workers have found properties and waiting to complete and there are currently 6 key workers registered who are looking for properties.

**Homebuy funding:** Estuary Housing Association has been granted funding from the Housing Corporation for £173,940 towards six properties this financial year. Two properties have been completed, both of these in the third quarter: 1 household had BDC tenancy and moved out of the area therefore freeing up a property, the other purchased in Silver End and were on the waiting list.

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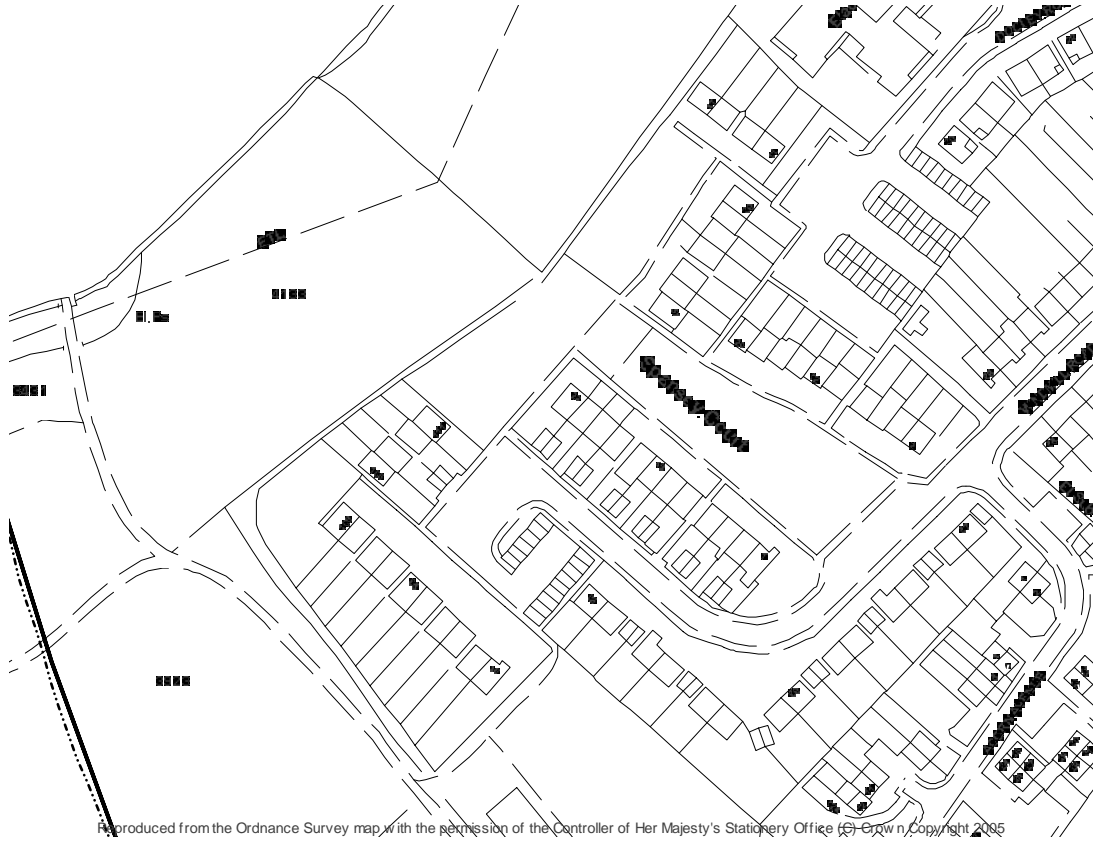
AREA: Community Safety & Development

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: Meeting Community Needs

SUBJECT: Spansey Court, Halstead	CONTACT OFFICER: Julie Payne
TEL/EMAIL No.: x 2344 julie.payne@braintree.gov.uk	
<p><b>INFORMATION:</b>  <u><b>“Kick About Area” Spansey Court, Windmill Road, Halstead</b></u></p> <p><b>Background</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>For several years there has been concern regarding youngsters in the Spansey Court Area. The kick about area of land previously used by the youngsters is no longer available. As a result there is no longer a safe area for the youngsters to use. They are now hanging around on the streets playing in the roads and the garage block, this has created an unsafe environment for the youngsters which potentially could lead to risks for their own well being</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Following consultation with a local landowner an area of land has been offered for use as a “kick about area” Research has been undertaken with local residents &amp; partner agencies. Funding applications were made by BDC community safety team to 3 funding streams all of which have been successful. The project has been developed and a planning application will be submitted imminently.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>It is evident that there has been a noticeable increase in Anti Social Behaviour incidents being reported to BDC Community Safety, Housing, Essex Police, and Halstead Town Council Hence, something had to be done since the youngsters lost their play area.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Multi Agency consultation has identified the need for this project, the nearest play area is ½ mile away and youngsters have to cross a busy main road. Various public consultation has also taken place with the residents and youngsters</i></li> <li>➤ <i>There is a community group consisting of 30 local residents including youngsters who have come together and want to manage this project in partnership with the Braintree District Community Safety Partnership</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Allowing the youngsters to have their own safe play area would be beneficial to both the residents and the youngsters. It will also be an opportunity to re-establish some harmony between the two.. Ultimately the number of ASB incidents should be curtailed. After all, the youngsters just want somewhere to play.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>With support from parents and the youngsters we can encourage community ownership of this project and to take some responsibility for the facility whilst also encouraging community involvement.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>This project will be led by the community group that has been formed and support provided by BDC and Essex Police</i></li> <li>➤ <i>The project will last initially for 3yrs. This will provide the landowner with a suitable timeframe to assess the success and problems experienced.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>This facility will be in place this year. Please see attached map. For further information,</i></li> </ul>	

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*please contact Julie Payne ext 2344*



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# MEMBERS' FOCUS

**AREA:** All Area's

**CORPORATE THEME HEADING:** Create a better place to live, work and play

<b>SUBJECT:</b> <b>VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENING</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b> <b>BRENDAN WALSH</b> Ext. 2342
<b>TEL/EMAIL No.:</b> brewa@braintree.gov.uk	<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS:</b> <b>NONE</b>
<b>INFORMATION:</b>  <h2>VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENING</h2> <p>During the month of December the Braintree Community Sports Project in conjunction with partner projects held a Volunteer Appreciation Evening at the Marconi Sport and Social Club in Chelmsford on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2004.</p> <p>The event was held in recognition of the work members of the community are completing within the district of Braintree. The volunteers are key members of the Sport Project Team being the primary front line staff in delivering sport, building relationships with young people and helping to harmonize the different members of communities through the power of sport. The volunteers tirelessly give their time and effort to offer opportunity and engagement that serves to provide activity and distraction away from anti social behaviour that leads to safer and stronger communities.</p> <p>There are 12 volunteers who work on the project with each receiving an award and certificate. As well as this 2 volunteers were also awarded Volunteer of the Year Awards for the special contribution and impact they have on the project during the past year. They received gifts from the Nike Store, Colchester United FC and Leyton Orient FC.</p> <p>The event was attended by members of Braintree District Council as well as key partner agencies of the project including the Youth Service and officials from Halstead Town FC.</p> <p>If you would like to know more about the project or the event please contact  Brendan Walshe  01376 552525 ext. 2342</p>	

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

## News

### Braintree Council united in call for rail loop

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Group leaders at Braintree District Council have written a joint letter to Tony McNulty MP, Minister of State for Transport, asking for his support to improve the Braintree branch line with a passing loop.

The line is a single-track line about 7 miles long connecting the Great Eastern main line at Witham with White Notley, Cressing, Braintree Freeport and Braintree. Usage of the line has increased by 75% over the last seven years and is still growing with over 750,000 journeys per annum.

Development and growth of line are constrained by single track working which limits the frequency of trains on the line. As a result many rail users from the Braintree area continue to drive to Witham and other stations on the main line putting pressure on car parking and the local road network. A passing loop would also allow more flexibility when there is disruption in the service, helping to avoid the use of buses to transport passengers.

A strategy for improving the line has been developed jointly by Braintree District Council, Essex County Council, One Great Eastern and Network Rail, the strategy has included the regeneration of Braintree station in 1997, construction of a new station at Braintree Freeport in 1999 and the extension of platforms currently under construction. The passing loop is essential to maintain and develop sustainable transportation for the area.

**Leader of Braintree District Council Graham Butland** comments:

"We were disappointed that the franchise awarded to National Express last year for operating the Greater Anglia franchise did not include a commitment to the passing loop so we are asking the Minister to support the scheme and to identify funding for it."

**ENDS**

**For more information** please contact:

Paul Munson, Head of forward planning, 01376 551414 ext 2560

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## MEMBERS' FOCUS

# Diary Date

### **Drinking Fountain removed in Market Place, Braintree 10.30am Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2005**

On Thursday morning Councillors Jackie Pell, Chairman of Braintree District Council, and Michael Gage, portfolio holder for regeneration and transportation, will be in Market Square Braintree to see the drinking fountain lifted away for cleaning and repair. The fountain was donated to the town in 1882 by George Courtauld and will undergo complete restoration by local company Stone Restoration Services of Ongar.

The work around the fountain marks the beginning of the partnership scheme to restore the historic Market Place and Great Square in Braintree. Each phase of the project will last about four weeks during which time clearance and excavation is followed by kerbing and channels, street furniture and paving work. Next will be the area in front of The Bull, then over the road to the opposite corner, moving on to Great Square which should be finished by the end of May. The last part of the scheme is the carriageway clearing and paving, with a road closure from around 23<sup>rd</sup> May for just over two weeks.

Over all, the project should be finished by mid June, depending upon conditions and any unexpected obstacles under ground.

**With completion due for summer 2005**, local pubs and cafes are enquiring about special licenses to offer their service to pavement tables presenting the possibility of a safer and more relaxed atmosphere in Market Place.

As work progresses, people can call Customer Services at Braintree District Council for more information 01376 331616

#### **ENDS**

**For more information** please contact:

Barry Mills (Project Manager) (01376) 551414 x 2592 or Chris Trim / Anne Proudfoot (01376) 557752

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