

**WRITTEN QUESTION – NOVEMBER 2010**

No	Date received & 9 wkg/day target to respond	Question by	Response from	Sent to Cllr	Published
	<p><b>Received 10<sup>th</sup> November 2010</b></p> <p><b>Target response by 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2010</b></p>	<p><b>Councillor E Lynch</b></p> <p>Question to the Leader</p> <p>‘How does the treatment of the Community Association based in Victoria Street, Braintree by the Conservative Leader of the Council fit in with the vision of a ‘Big Society’ advocated by his leader David Cameron?’</p>	<p><b>Councillor G Butland, Leader of the Council</b></p> <p>The partnership with Braintree and Bocking Community Association is a prime example of the Prime Minister’s and my view of the Big Society. The Cabinet Office recently published five principles on how to work closely with the voluntary sector which underpin the effective delivery of the big society. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Communication.</b> Timely and honest communication by local authorities and the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCS) sector</li> <li>• <b>Collaboration.</b> Working in partnership to explore the impact of potential cuts, and ways in which the VCS can contribute to ongoing and future priorities</li> <li>• <b>Transparency.</b> Ensuring information on spending cuts and service redesign is quickly made available to the VCS</li> <li>• <b>Strong leadership.</b> From both public sector and VCS leaders. The report states the role of elected leaders and local infrastructure organisations is particularly important.</li> <li>• <b>Robust evidence</b> Decisions on spending reductions and service design should be based on high-quality evidence.</li> </ul>	<p><b>22/11/2010</b></p>	<p><b>22/11/2010</b></p>

			<p>I would recommend to the Councillor that he should read this publication to help him understand the new relationships and approaches that need to be forged.</p> <p>I believe we have followed these principles when dealing with the Braintree and Bocking Community Association and considering the overall benefits to the whole community through town centre improvements. There is minimum loss to the Braintree and Bocking Community Association with a huge benefit to the overall community. I believe this is working in the interests of 'the big society'.</p>		
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Last updated 22nd November 2010