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Focus

September 2008

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MEMBERS' FOCUS

Braintree District Council's Response – Flooding A Briefing Note for Members



With the publication of the Pitt report, (a report requested by ministers to carry out a review of the flood-related emergencies which occurred during the summer of 2007) it is timely that members are advised of the arrangements we have in place to combat flooding and the Council's level of response in an emergency, especially since the transfer of the drainage operatives to Greenfields Housing Association.

PREVENTIVE ROLE - EMERGENCY PLANNING

The Council cannot prevent flooding but in partnership with the Environment Agency, (the lead agency for flooding), and other partners, there are contingency plans in place to manage floods and minimise the impact on our district.

The Council works closely with Parishes to encourage them to develop a Parish Emergency Plan, using literature and information provided by the Environment Agency and Braintree District Council to promote self reliance, awareness and provide practical steps that can be taken to minimise the impact of flooding. Parishes that suffer from regular flooding have been actively encouraged by the Council to hold a stock of sandbags to be used as a last resort if residents do not have their own flood plan or flood defence arrangements in place.

In terms of its statutory duty, the Council is an "Operating Authority" which means that it has selective powers to deal with localised flooding that may arise from drainage ditches, pipes, and culverts. The Council will provide advice to landowners as to their responsibilities with regards to maintenance and rely on their co-operation and will only take enforcement action where a flood risk assessment has been carried out which indicates a direct threat to life or property (The threat to property will only be realised when the flooding is likely to enter the "dwelling" i.e. the house, not the shed, garage, garden, driveway, field etc).

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PREVENTING OR REACTING TO SURFACE WATER FLOODING;

WATER COMPANIES: Are responsible for the removal and treatment of waste water (sewage). Unusual heavy rainfall, typically in the form of severe localised storms, can overwhelm drainage systems and cause flooding, particularly in low-lying areas. In these circumstances untreated sewage may spill out onto the streets and gardens. The water companies will assist where

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possible to reduce the amount of water escaping from the system and will tidy up areas where sewage has been deposited, once the flooding has subsided.

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHWAYS: Have the responsibility to ensure that the roads in the district are kept flood free as far as reasonably practicable, to allow the passage of traffic and are responsible for preventing flooding from a road affecting property.

INDIVIDUAL LAND OWNERS: The owner of a property has the responsibility to protect their own property. In addition they are responsible for maintaining the bed and banks of any watercourse (including trees and shrubs growing on the banks) that flows through their property, and for clearing any debris, natural or otherwise, which may cause flooding even if it did not originate from their land.

A useful guide:

<u>SOURCE OF FLOODING</u>	<u>RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY</u>
Highways	Essex County Council
Main rivers	Environment Agency
Ordinary watercourses (streams, ditches)	Landowners - riverbank 'riparian' owners Internal drainage boards
Lakes	Landowners - riverbank 'riparian' owners
Sewers & Storm Water	Anglian Water
Screens & Blockages under Bridges/Culverts	Essex County Council – Highways

RESPONSE IN AN EMERGENCY

A brief summary of the responsibilities of the various organisations in a flood situation:-

Essex Police: THE POLICE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CO-ORDINATION OF RESCUE AND EVACUATION FOLLOWING FLOODING. THEY HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PROTECTION OF LIFE AND PROPERTY INCLUDING PUBLIC WARNING IF CALLED UPON BY THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY OR ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL. THEY WILL ASSIST WITH CO-ORDINATION AND INITIAL CONTROL OF ALL ACTIVITY WITHIN THE FLOOD AREA. THIS WILL INCLUDE EVACUATION, CONTROL OF TRAFFIC, NOTIFYING OTHER EMERGENCY SERVICES.

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service: IN FLOODING

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SITUATIONS, FIRE AND RESCUE WILL ONLY HAVE A DUTY TO RESPOND WHERE THERE IS A RISK TO LIFE.

BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL: If flooding occurs, the Council will activate the generic emergency plan. The response could involve the setting up a Communications Centre, Emergency Accommodation Centres and Information Centres to support and liaise with the Emergency Services, Parish Contacts and other partner organisations/agencies. Following the flooding the Council will lead the clean up and recovery programme. This is a partnership arrangement involving other public agencies, local businesses and local communities. We would promote and facilitate recovery and take the lead in the following areas:-

- Providing temporary shelter
- Restoring the physical environment and local infrastructure.
- Removal of flood damaged goods – Free Special Collections
- Promoting business recovery
- Information on “cleaning up” and any possible health risks.
- Seeking financial and other assistance to those affected.

Guidance in the council's Emergency Plan states that the Council **may** issue sandbags in an emergency to the elderly and vulnerable if requested by the Fire and Rescue Service the Council will assess the situation and assist if possible. However as highlighted above, sandbags should be used as a last resort due to their in-effectiveness in preventing flooding and protecting the home; and therefore the Council will encourage residents to purchase their own defence products (Guidance is available through the National Flood Forum 'Blue Book'.

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News

'The planners are coming' – BBC1 @ 8pm on 11 Sept

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Braintree and two other council planning departments feature in eight half hour documentary programmes to be screened from Thursday 11th September at 8pm. (Braintree does not feature in the first programme)

The TV camera crew shadowed planning officers over a period of ten months, accompanying them on site to see first hand the kinds of issues and decisions they face and to meet with residents, developers and others. The crew attended controversial planning meetings and also followed planning enforcement officers on their visits to resolve situations where developments have strayed from agreed permission, or have begun without permission.

Cllr Nigel Harley comments: "Our planning service is now one of the best in the country and the resulting extra grant won from government is ploughed back for yet further improvements. Even so, having a film crew shadowing you for several months adds an extra dimension to your work and I know our staff have done a great job in maintaining their professionalism throughout. People often forget that it's the daily and often unseen work of planners and building inspectors that assures safety and proper standards throughout the built and natural environment."

Tessa Lambert leads the development control team of planners at Braintree District Council. She comments: "We gave the BBC team full access to our work and offices throughout a very busy few months, which certainly put extra pressure on everyone. Of course we have no control over what is broadcast, but I hope that the series will offer people a useful insight into the planning process, showing how this Council department helps to ensure proper standards of design, construction and safety in all aspects of the built environment. It's a service which is rarely seen, yet has an impact on every neighbourhood and everyone's lives."

ENDS

Notes: Executive Producer Jane Merkin and Series Producer Nic Blower have worked on numerous sensitive and access driven observational documentaries with large organisations and government bodies. Previous programmes include 'Trawlermen', 'The Brain Hospital', 'On The Fiddle', 'Children's Hospital' and 'Airport', all for the BBC.

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

Issued by Braintree DC PR 5 September 2008.

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News

Three projects receive funding from Braintree Local Committee

Braintree & Bocking Public Gardens Trust awarded £9,705 for improvement programme

The aim of the project is to improve accessibility in and around the Public Gardens. To enhance its historic and visual character for local people and visitors and improve the environment for wildlife.

The programme will include - resurfacing footpaths, addition of security fencing, cleaning and restocking the pond with fish and the regeneration of the wildlife area with indigenous species. These enhancements would make the park more attractive and pleasant for the local community and encourage more visitors.

Sponsoring Ward Member: Cllr John Baugh
Contact: Mr Terry Ward Tel: 01376 322770

First Stop Centre awarded £4,000 for updating their basic skills education room

This request for funding was to purchase eight new computers and software/consumables for the basic skills education room.

The new computers and software will enable over 100 learners, with an age range of between 16-79 years of age, to gain the confidence and qualifications to enter the work force and familiarize themselves in preparation for further education and employment. This includes people who are suffering from mental health problems, are coping with addiction, have a physical disability. It also offers people who have often slipped through the net a chance to start their lifelong road to learning.

Sponsoring Ward Member: Cllr Moia Thorogood
Contact: Rachael Stone Tel: 01376 346535 Email: firststopcentre@btconnect.com

Essex Association of Boys Clubs awarded £8,000 for their Respect Project

The respect project aims to reduce local youth crime and improve quality of life and has been operating across Essex County for 7 years. The project targets year 9/10 boys and girls who are at risk of offending.

The project will offer the opportunity to up to 60 young people in the Braintree District the chance to return to education, obtain qualifications and be suitable for employment. It will also help develop an appreciation of each student's community, direct them away from distractions such as crime, alcohol and drugs, making the community a safer place to live.

Sponsoring Ward Member: Cllr Wendy Schmitt

Contact: Graham Goodchild Tel: 01245 264783 Email: graham@eabc-online.org

For more press information or enquiries contact Kitty Barrett, Locality Co-ordinator, 01376 551414 – just say the name.

Issued by Braintree DC PR 26 August 2008.

MEMBERS' FOCUS

Green flag raised in Halstead Public Gardens

Monday 22nd September, 10am Halstead Public Gardens

Councillor Roger Walters will be joined by local District and Town councillors, Friends of Halstead Public Gardens and council gardening staff to raise the Green flag and celebrate the gardens achieving this national standard.

The Green Flag award is a national standard for quality parks and green spaces. In receiving this award, Halstead Public Gardens have been judged to be welcoming and well maintained with the support and involvement of the local community.

The Gardens have also been awarded Green Heritage Site accreditation in recognition of this local historic importance. Over the years many individuals and local organisations such as Friends of Halstead Public Gardens, Halstead Town Council and the River Colne Countryside Project have given their time and support to the council teams.

These lovely Gardens were fully restored in 2001, exactly 100 years after the original opening, with the aid of a major grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Key features dated from the earliest days include the pond, dancing green, bandstand, shelters and a drinking fountain, all set within substantial boundary planting with spectacular bedding, specimen trees and fine-cut lawns. Later introductions include the garden of remembrance around a stone war memorial, swings and cycle racks.

Councillor Roger Walters, Cabinet member for the environment, said, "I am delighted that the years of hard work by Braintree District Council's officer team, supported by local organisations and individuals have been recognised by this national Green Flag Award. Joint working can benefit local communities in many ways, Halstead Public Gardens is a stunning example. The gardens provide an beautiful oasis of calm, a wonderful setting for events and are, without doubt, a great asset to the town."

ENDS

For more press information or enquiries contact
Nick Day, Parks & Open Spaces Manager, 01376 332314

Issued by Braintree DC PR 17 September 2008.

News

Volunteers collect 60 bags of litter

September 2008

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50 volunteers took part in the Hope 08, Braintree Churches' Litter Collection, on Sunday 31st August. The pick was co-ordinated by Reverend William Atkinson of the Elim Church, Manor Street, Braintree and was part of a nationwide initiative for churches to work together in service to their wider communities.

Before setting out the volunteers were briefed on health and safety aspects and good practice. They were equipped with high visibility waistcoats, litter picking sticks and bags supplied by Braintree District Council Street Scene.

Working in pairs, the volunteers covered a wide area, working over 16 pre-planned routes which spread out from the Elim Church on Manor Street. The routes took in the town centre, Coggeshall Road, the skate park in Weavers park, Station Approach, Bocking End and Lakes Road. The Lakes Road group was joined by Vice Chairman of Braintree District Council, Councillor Margaret Galione.

During the afternoon Council Street Scene officer John Cull, aided by William Atkinson, were on hand to collect full and heavy bags of waste, transporting them back to the church. Undeterred by the rain, the volunteers collected 60 bags of waste.

ENDS

Image 8087 01 – Vice Chairman of Braintree District Council Councillor Margaret Galione and other volunteers, with the 60 bags of waste they collected during the Hope 08 litter pick.

For more press information or enquiries contact John Cull, Project Support Officer, 01376 551414 – just say the name.

Issued by Braintree DC PR 3 September 2008.

News

Help influence planning guidelines for the future of the District.

Every household is sent the Council's quarterly newsletter "Contact". The September edition highlights proposals for the future of the District over the next 15 years. It's now that new policies and plans for every part of the district are written for you to see before they go to the Government for approval early next year.

It is called the Local Development Framework and the Core Strategy is a key part containing the overall vision for the future of the District.

It is scheduled to be published on these pages at the end of October. There will then be 6 weeks of public consultation when you can have your say.

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The latest position on the Council's vision for the future of the District can be seen via the link below.

- [Core Strategy Growth Areas Report](#)

Do remember to check back to these pages at the end of October to take part in our consultation on the full document.

For further information, please contact BDC Customer Service Centre at csc@braintree.gov.uk

News

Nominations for Witham West ward District election

The following persons have been nominated for election as a Braintree District Councillor for the Witham West ward. The election will take place on Thursday 2nd October 2008.

Geoffrey COHEN The Conservative Party Candidate
73 Powers Hall End
Witham
CM8 1NH

Wendy Anne PARTRIDGE Green Party Candidate
8 Albemarle Gardens
Braintree
CM7 9UQ

Joy Brenda REEKIE Liberal Democrat
113 Honeysuckle Way
Witham
CM8 2XQ

Kathie TEARLE The Labour Party candidate
97 Highfields Road
Witham
CM8 1LW

ENDS

For more press information or enquiries contact Steve Daynes, Electoral Registration Manager, 01376 551414 – just say the name

MEMBERS' FOCUS

News

Nominations for Witham (West Ward) town election

The following persons have been nominated for election as a Witham Town Councillor for Witham (West Ward). The election will take place on Thursday 2nd October 2008.

Jeffrey David ANDREWS

Independent

Vine Cottage
Church Green
Terling
CM3 2PH

Tony BENNETT

The Labour Party candidate

5 Tees Close
Witham
CM8 1LG

Andrea Hilton BUNN

Green Party candidate

4 Blunts Hall Drive
Blunts Hall Road
Witham
CM8 1LZ

John GOODMAN

The Conservative Party candidate

2 Chippingdell
Witham
CM8 2JX

Joy Brenda REEKIE

Liberal Democrat

113 Honeysuckle Way
Witham
CM8 2XQ

ENDS

For more press information or enquiries contact Steve Daynes, Electoral Registration Manager, 01376 551414 – just say the name

Issued by Braintree DC PR 8 September 2008

MEMBERS' FOCUS

News

Does your neighbourhood need a **Big** tidy up?

Braintree District Council has joined forces with Keep Britain Tidy to call on residents to take part in the biggest national clean up campaign being launched on the 1st September. Across the country people are being urged to get together with neighbours to clean up their patch.

The campaign has teamed up with Disney Pixar and their latest blockbuster movie WALL-E to encourage members of the public to run their own tidy up. The Big tidy up is open to everyone, individuals who want to clean up a local grot spot, school groups, businesses or larger groups taking on a team challenge.

Anyone can take part, register at www.thebigtidyup.org to receive a tidy up kit with posters, stickers, tabard bibs and badges, together with top tips, advice on carrying out the tidy up safely and details of competitions. People can also create an online profile page to advertise their tidy up and encourage others to join.

Environment portfolio holder Councillor Roger Walters thinks the Big tidy up is a great idea, "this campaign gives everyone the chance to do something for their community. You could simply pick up the litter outside your home to be part of the Big tidy up and help to keep our streets cleaner and greener."

The campaign is launched on the 1st September but tidy ups can happen any time through the year.

ENDS

For more press information or enquiries contact Tania Roberge, 01376 551414 – Issued by Braintree DC PR 29 August 2008.

Notes

The Keep Britain Tidy Campaign is run by ENCAMS, Elizabeth House, The Pier, Wigan WN3 4EX Tel: 01942 612621 www.encams.org

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NEWS

Community groups can renew neighbourhoods

Love of the local environment can be a powerful bond for local community groups, as shown by the successful environmental project along the Blackwater river walk in the Bocking wards of Braintree. It shows the strong desire by local people to improve other neighbouring areas, with grants and groups already in place working to improve 'Bradford meadows', between Bradford St and Coldnailhurst Avenue.

Local councillor Tony Everard is calling for local people to show their support for a new scheme around The Glebe area of Bocking. Visiting scouts have already helped improve a woodland area. The Council has transformed the playground area and Glebe Hall.

Cllr Everard says: "An ecological pathway right through the area would help people to understand the value and benefit of a well managed local environment and habitat for wildlife."

With a small team already in place, a dedicated group can apply for grants and carry out work to improve the wood and surrounding area.

Interested people can contact Tony Everard on 01376 321183 or Cllr David Mann on 01376 323539.

ENDS

For more press information or enquiries contact Tony Everard or David Mann

Issued by Braintree DC PR 20 August 2008.

News

Braintree bus park improvements from 15 Sept

Essex County Council is working in partnership with Braintree District Council to improve the facilities and safety of Braintree Bus Park.

From **15 September 2008** the bus park will be closed for approximately **4 weeks** to allow these improvements to take place.

The bus park will be a safer place for pedestrians and drivers alike, with modern facilities to improve and enhance bus travel and provide a valuable interchange for residents and visitors to Braintree.

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Improvements to the bus park will include:

Four new fully accessible bus shelters

Real-time electronic information signs

Re-decoration of the waiting room

Clearly marked pedestrian access and footways to the bus park with guard rails to improve safety

Five designated, clearly marked bus bays

The existing entrance and exit of the bus park will be closed and relocated to Manor Street, with restricted access for buses only. Cars will no longer be able to enter the bus park and will have a separate entrance to the car park.

The car park will remain open; there will be no loss of spaces to the car park and the work to the car park will be completed during the first week.

Alternative bus stops have been agreed with bus operators at points around the site.

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

Issued by Braintree DC PR 8 September 2008.

News

"Don't get caught in a fly-tip" Councillor warns

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Events last week show how people who leave waste on the ground at recycling centres can easily find themselves blamed for other people's fly-tipping as well.

Councillor Roger Walters points out: "People may not realise that just dumping any waste at a recycling site is illegal and treated as fly-tipping: especially on this scale. Waste for recycling must be put only in the containers provided. Any evidence found with fly-tipped material can lead us to identify the responsible individuals who will then be pursued vigorously.

September 2008

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Whilst fly tips are carefully examined we do not look through domestic bins and bags in that way.

So the message is simply – Just don't dump rubbish or any other materials.

Use the kerbside collection scheme to recycle as much as you can or take your waste to a recycling bank and put it in the appropriate container.

The containers are emptied very regularly but if they are full please call our customer service centre on 01376 552525 and let us know.

There are recycling centres for household waste at Shalford and Witham where residents can dispose of larger items."

ENDS

For more press information or enquiries contact 01376 557752

Issued by Braintree DC PR 11 August 2008.

News

Charity golf day hits £5,900

It's a tough challenge but an enjoyable one, for the 25 golfing teams which entered the annual charity golf day in aid of Braintree District Council's Chairman's charities. Over £47,000 has now been raised since the tournament began in 1997, thanks to the support of many local teams, companies and individuals who set about beating each other on the golf course with rare enthusiasm!

100 players in 25 teams competed – and Robert Potter of Ardleigh based property maintenance company ROALCO led the winning team for the third year running. After the tournament he commented: "It was a lovely day, brilliantly organised and hopefully we will have helped do some good for the charities. Everyone had a great time."

Chairman Councillor Lady Patricia Newton adds: "Once again the fantastic support shown by the teams of enthusiastic golfers and sponsors has raised £5,900 for three local charities who I know will put the money to very good use. It doesn't stop there: we'll continue to raise money throughout the year for these very good causes."

The day will contribute to three local charities: which this year are:
Braintree Rethink Carers Support Group - offers support to carers of those affected by mental illness and spreads awareness to the general public about mental health.

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Halstead Day Centre - for elderly, housebound people, especially from rural areas who may feel excluded from community involvement. The aim of the Day Centre is to deliver a preventative service that reduces isolation.

Home-Start - based in Witham is committed to promoting the welfare of families with at least one child under five years of age. Volunteers offer regular support, friendship and practical help to families under stress, in their own homes.

ENDS

For more press information or enquiries contact 01376 552525 x 2011

Issued by Braintree DC PR 11 August 2008.

Image - Cllr Lady Patricia Newton, Chairman of Braintree District Council, is pictured with Mick Parmenter, Captain of Braintree Golf Club. The club at Stisted played host once again to the charity golf tournament held on Wednesday 6th August.

News

Council agrees required gypsy site allocations

Braintree District Council agreed in principle the overall number of required sites in the District. The decision follows a hearing by an independent planning inspector and several years of uncertainty. However: the practical adoption of the sites does depend upon a planning application and construction by the owners of an acceptable highways access in what is currently a difficult location.

The inspector's view is that a previously unauthorised site could be considered if suitable highway access onto the busy A120 and other planning conditions are met.

The unauthorised 'Twin Oaks' sites on Coggeshall Road, Stisted have been subject to planning enforcement and appeals since 1995/1996, and last year the planning inspector decided that no further action should be taken for 12 months, to enable other potential sites to be identified. However the reality is that no other locations have been identified, or proposed by local communities.

Cllr Nigel Harley holds the portfolio for planning policy and comments: "Such sites are difficult to find, with proximity to schools for children and other required conditions; no local communities have offered suggestions despite continuing consultation. The planning inspector says the site is generally acceptable, but it's a problem the Council cannot solve without local help and co-operation. This is a pragmatic and practical outcome in difficult circumstances."

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The Twin Oaks sites comprise six plots (2 caravans each) established in 1992 and 15 plots (x2 caravans each) established in 2002. Plots in the later part (Twin Oaks 2) are all owned separately, though only intermittently occupied during the past 12 months.

The East of England Plan identifies the need for an additional 16 pitches in the District by 2011, and a further 17 pitches later. These would be in addition to the existing 48 authorised pitches with half at Sandiacres at Cressing and others at Yeldham Rd, Ridgewell.

Highway access could be enabled by grants which are available from Government.

For more press information or enquiries contact Chris Trim, 01376 551414 –

Issued to Dream 107 only: by Braintree DC PR 24 July 2008.

News

Council to resist household bin fines

Councillors have reacted to government guidance which suggests that residents should be fined if they put out too much 'side waste' with their bins.

Councillor Roger Walters is cabinet member for environment and sustainability and believes wholeheartedly that the Council's current approach of educating and persuading residents to reduce side waste, has been very successful. Together with recycling initiatives this approach has helped to reduce the overall amount of domestic waste collected.

He says: "In this District, we're proud of the way residents work with us and whilst we do need them to present closed bins without side waste, another heavy tax is the last thing the people of Braintree want.

At this Council, we are most unhappy with this latest government guidance and confirm that it's not the way that Braintree district will go."

The district ranks top among Essex councils for recycling and will only take enforcement action when all other approaches have failed.

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For more press information or enquiries contact Colin Batchelor, 01376 551414 – just say the name.

Issued by Braintree DC PR 5 August 2008.

MEMBERS' FOCUS

News

Recycling made easier

Recycling has come a long way in just eight years, with residents now recycling nearly a half of all waste (over 42%). Improved recycling and sorting technology, combined with new disposal contracts mean that residents no longer have to sort all the different materials themselves. Everyone in the Braintree District will find it easier and quicker from October – and there will be advantages to the collection services too.

Recycling vehicles will be loaded more easily and quickly, leading to lower fuel consumption, pollution and congestion. Making recycling easier should also help to reduce the amount going to landfill: as more residents are encouraged to recycle. Last year, nearly 4,000 tonnes less went into landfill: equal to 400 truck loads.

Councillor Roger Walters is cabinet member for waste and recycling. He comments: "Residents will be able to use just one sack for all their clean recycling. With the steady increase in the overall weight of waste being thrown away, making recycling easier will help residents to go even further to recycle even more and reduce the amount going to landfill." He adds: "Braintree residents have helped to pioneer methods of recycling, since the early days which relied on people sorting as much as possible themselves. Now that other areas have caught up and better recycling facilities are established, we're in a position to offer our residents this simpler and more convenient service."

Residents throughout the District will have received newsletters and calendars this month; also explaining how to sort waste for recycling.

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For more press information or enquiries contact Chris Trim or Ros Alam, 01376 551414 – just say the name.

Issued by Braintree DC PR 12 September 2008.

News

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Recycling scheme extended to another 2,700 homes

Another 2,700 homes in the District will be joining the alternate weekly collections scheme using wheeled bins in October. Ten parishes are affected by this year's extension of the scheme with the bins going into Bardfield Saling, Castle Hedingham, Fairstead, Faulkbourne, part of Finchingfield, Great Bardfield, Great Saling, Great Yeldham, Terling and White Notley. The villages are all next to existing wheeled bin routes and have been chosen to make most efficient use of the vehicles.

The wheeled bin alternate weekly system is the main form of waste collection in 75% of the Braintree District and has been in use in some parts for eight years. It gives very much higher recycling performance than weekly collections and has enormous climate change benefits, the Council is aiming to extend the scheme to the whole District by October 2009.

Environment portfolio holder Cllr Roger Walters said, "We are committed to providing an extensive recycling scheme for all our residents and the alternate weekly wheeled bin scheme does just that. With residents' co-operation it gives a recycling rate of over 50% compared to 14 to 20% achieved in the weekly black sack areas, which is a massive improvement.

And this stage of the roll out has been achieved with no additional cost, it's all been done by redeploying existing resources."

This is the fourth time the Council has run a project to roll out wheeled bins and there is a comprehensive communication programme to help residents understand why the change is happening, how it will be implemented and how it will affect them. It includes many opportunities to discuss problems or concerns before the bins arrive. In general residents have welcomed the new scheme, in particular the opportunities it offers to recycle more.

ENDS

For more press information or enquiries contact Ros Alam 01376 551414

Issued by Braintree DC PR 13 August

MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: Community Safety & Development

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: Meeting Community Needs

SUBJECT: Older People's Day 1 st October	CONTACT OFFICER: Nathan Rowland
TEL/EMAIL No.: Ex. 2348 nathan.rowland@braintree.gov.uk	
<p><i>INFORMATION:</i></p> <p>To mark the national "Older People's Day" organised by the Department of Work and Pensions, Braintree District Council and Essex Police will be holding an Activities and Information Fair for retired members of the public on the 1st of October at Causeway House.</p> <p>The day will feature stands and exhibitions from a range of local organisations providing information and advice to retired residents on a the types of services and activities available to help them live safer, more enjoyable lives and help them become more integrated members of the community. Information will be available on benefits and welfare, personal safety, home care support, though to healthy living and leisure activities, education and volunteering opportunities and membership of local community groups.</p> <p>The event will take place in the Council Chamber, Causeway House from 10am-4pm on Wednesday 1st October.</p> <p>Prepared by: Nathan Rowland – Community Development Officer. Ext. 2348</p>	