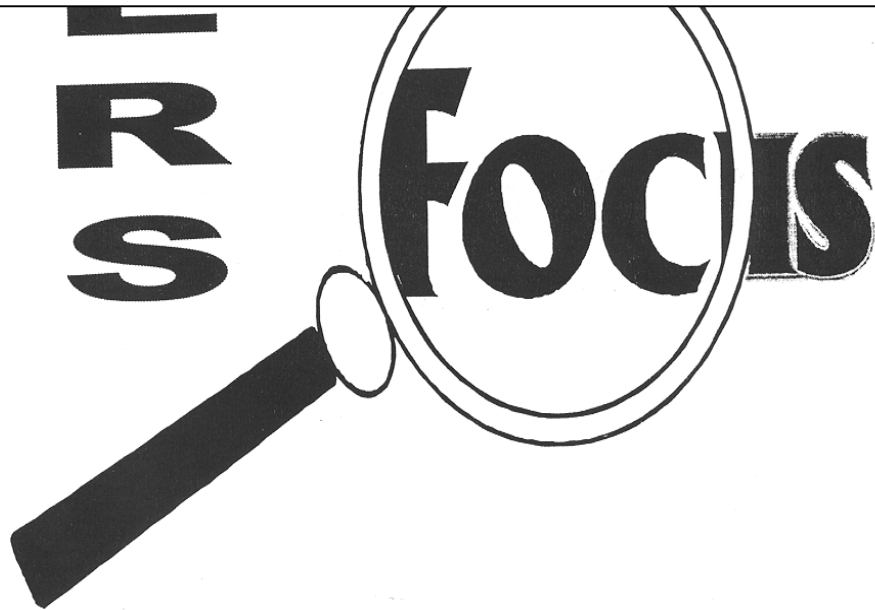


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*Members' Focus is available on-line at www.braintree.gov.uk
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Focus

January 2007

MEMBERS' FOCUS

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MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: All

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: MEETING COMMUNITY NEEDS

SUBJECT: Care Homes Event	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>INFORMATION:</p> <p>The Health Protection Department, Environmental Services, helped organize, run and actively participated in the Care Homes Event held in October 2006 in Chelmsford. This event was a joint venture between various agencies in the Essex area including Essex Local Authorities, the HSE, the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI), East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust, Essex Rivers Primary Care Trust, Tendering Primary Care Trust, Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust, Essex County Council and the Health Protection Agency. This free event offered a valuable opportunity for operators and managers of care homes in the Braintree District and beyond to learn of ways to reduce the chances of injury to staff and residents.</p> <p>The main aim of the event was to provide a coherent approach to the regulatory environment in which care homes operate, and focused on issues affecting both employees and residents. It helped demonstrate that the multiple organizations that assist, educate and enforce these businesses do actually work together and are <i>all</i> ultimately concerned with ensuring that the health, safety and welfare of residents and staff. One particular area that was covered was that of back injuries caused, or made worse, by work, and the event forms part of a national 'Backs! 2006' campaign, an initiative aiming to reduce instances of back injury at work. The Backs! campaign encourages innovative solutions to this problem, which causes pain and suffering to a large number of people at work and results in substantial costs to businesses from people taking time off for back injuries.</p> <p>The event comprised of a number of presentations, and stands providing leaflets, manned by staff offering advice and answering queries. The morning and afternoon sessions combined produced a total of 162 attendees. From the evaluations the overall consensus of the event was good and there was particular praise on the quality of the presentations given and also the amount of varied and largely relevant subject matter, which was presented in a limited time. At the same time it was felt that the event as a whole was fairly well structured and the balance was “about right”. Most attendees welcomed the opportunity at having all the agencies together, with fellow professionals, with the opportunity for asking questions and finding out information from stakeholders. It was recognised as an ideal opportunity for networking.</p> <p>This event has been a very successful joint venture.</p>	

January 2007

MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: CORPORATE

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: IMPROVE PERFORMANCE AND DELIVER BETTER VALUE

SUBJECT: Ethical Governance Audit and Members' obligations under the Code of Conduct	CONTACT OFFICER: P J Dempsey Monitoring Officer
TEL/EMAIL No.: Ext. 2620 patrick.dempsey@braintree.gov.uk	BACKGROUND PAPERS: Paragraph 7 of the Code of Conduct for Members (Part 5 of the Constitution)
INFORMATION: Paragraph 7 of the Code of Conduct (paragraph 6 in the Parish Code) states that a Member must “if he/she becomes aware of any conduct by another Member which he/she reasonably believes involves a failure to comply with the authority’s Code of Conduct, make a written allegation to that effect to the Standards Board for England as soon as it is practicable for him/her to do so”. Members of the Council will recall receiving a questionnaire in August 2006 designed to test understanding of the Council’s approach to ethical governance. Responses were received from 27 Councillors. Issues raised by a number of responses will be dealt with as part of training on the newly expected Code of Conduct following the elections in May. When the Standards Committee considered the responses to the audit, they expressed concern at the responses relating to paragraph 7 of the Code of Conduct. The Standards Committee has asked me to remind Members of the provisions of, in particular, paragraph 7 of the Code of Conduct and, although changes are expected to be in place by May, the Code does, in the meantime, remain in force.	

MEMBERS' FOCUS

News

Pupils get planting

Green-fingered pupils will be planting trees in the grounds of Ramsey School in Halstead on Thursday January 18.

The trees have been given to the school under a re-planting scheme linked to the number of aluminium cans recycled in the Braintree district.

Over the past 18 months an incredible 12 million cans have been recycled by residents, adding up to 184 tonnes. As Braintree District Council has signed up to the scheme to replant trees it can claim one for every tonne collected.

The aluminium recycling organisation Alupro has donated the trees, ten per cent of which go to be planted in Africa with the remaining 166 planted in the district.

Some have already been planted at Templars Junior School in Witham, John Bunyan Junior in Braintree and in Coldnailhurst Avenue in Braintree.

The pupils at Ramsey School in Colne Road will be spending their lunch hour planting on Thursday, starting at 12.10. They will be helped by Halstead district councillor Michael Gage, who is also the cabinet member for the environment.

He commented: "I am delighted to help with the planting, which helps to offset some of the carbon dioxide produced by our collection vehicles.

"Recycling aluminium is an excellent way of helping the environment because making a new can from recycled ones saves 95 per cent of the energy needed to make one from raw materials. It can also be recycled over and over again without losing quality."

ENDS

For more press information, contact Ros Alam on 01376 551414.

Issued by Braintree DC PR 9 January 2007

MEMBERS' FOCUS

News

A chance to have your say

Residents have been given the chance to have their say on the things that really matter to them.

Braintree District Council leader Graham Butland and other councillors, community wardens and staff of the council's customer service centre, were on hand at a series of consultations throughout the district.

It is one of the ways councillors can gauge what are local people's concerns and priorities ahead of the coming year's budget being put to members of the council's cabinet.

The views put forward at these consultations will then be taken into account when the budget for 2007 is set.

The special sessions were held in Braintree, Halstead, Witham, Coggeshall and Sible Hedingham.

ENDS

For more information contact PR section on 01376 557752.

Issued by Braintree DC PR January 15 2007.

MEMBERS' FOCUS

News

Residents recycle and replant

They came in wheelbarrows and on the top of cars, in trailers, vans and some were even brought on foot.

Braintree District Council's special recycling day for Christmas trees again proved a success. Seven sites were set up across the district and if residents wanted to close the recycling loop by planting another tree the council had some to give away. They were able to swap their old Christmas trees for a Swedish Spruce sapling.

Halstead was top of the trees with 308 collected, 122 were picked up in rural areas and 87 in Braintree, making a grand total of 517 Christmas trees.

Residents were given the option of taking their trees to the allocated sites or chopping them up and putting them in their green wheeled bin. Organisers were surprised to find as many trees were collected as last year despite many more people now having green bins for recycling.

The saplings were provided by one of Braintree District Council's partners, Holmen's, which is part of the Holmen Skog group.

ENDS

For more press information, contact Ros Alam on 01376 551414 – just say the name.

Issued by Braintree DC PR 9 January 2007

PRESS RELEASE

Date of Issue: 8 December 2006

Next Step in Review of Hospital and Community Services

The East of England Strategic Health Authority (SHA) has announced it is setting up a series of workstreams to look in depth at the issues raised in its analysis of hospital services across the area.

The analysis, which is published today (Friday), was the first phase of the comprehensive review of hospital services launched by the SHA in September. It sets out a detailed technical description of current hospital services, levels of activity, catchment areas and population projections. It also outlines the national guidance on clinical safety and clinical sustainability, and examines the impact of the full requirements of the European Working Time Directive.

Dr Paul Watson, Director of Commissioning for the SHA said: "The publication of the analysis is an important first step. We cannot discuss the way forward without a clear picture of where we are today and how that compares to modern clinical practice and thinking. The aim of the review is to produce recommendations that will provide services that deliver the best clinical outcomes, are clinically safe and sustainable for the next twenty years."

He continued: "The analysis shows there are particular issues around emergency surgery, maternity services and local emergency care. These and other issues will now be looked at by the workstreams in greater detail."

The workstreams are:-

- **Surgical Workstream** - This will take Royal College and other professional recommendations and test how they could be applied to East of England.
- **Maternity Workstream** – This will establish whether the smaller maternity units could be able to meet the proposed consultant cover requirements cost effectively or, if not, the problems of balancing the need to maintain local access with the need to deliver sustainable and affordable services.
- **European Working Time Directive (EWTd) Workstream** – This will ensure plans are in place to meet 2009 EWTd requirements primarily through service redesign.

- **Acute Commissioning Workstream** – This will involve PCTs preparing a medium-term strategy setting out their proposed future use of NHS acute trust and community services.
- **Technical Workstream** – This will ensure that common information and methods are established for looking at issues such as finance, activity and population data.

It is planned that these workstreams will be completed by summer 2007, after which the findings of each will be brought together to agree a sustainable pattern of hospital services for the future. The SHA will also be setting up a Service Reconfiguration Steering Group that will oversee the process, ensure consistency of approach and receive regular updates from the workstreams.

Dr Watson added: “There are some important questions that these workstreams will need to answer and we want to hear the views of staff, public and stakeholders. We will be holding a major event for stakeholders early in the New Year. We will also be setting up a special area of our web site where people can look at the information and feed back their views. We will then have a second meeting of stakeholders next autumn to look at the outcome from the workstreams.”

“We want to develop a system that delivers the best patient outcomes and is clinically safe and viable for the future.”

- Ends -

Note to editors

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<http://www.eoe.nhs.uk/>

Key points from this report are :-

- There are very large differences in catchment areas for hospitals in the East of England, ranging from the very small (160,000 population) to the very large (500,000 population), although the average for the region as a whole is higher than the national average.
- There are also very large variations in hospital usage by PCTs with some PCTs commissioning much more elective care than the national average.
- There is a strong clinical case that general surgical services require catchment populations in excess of 300,000 and ideally 450-500,000. Only four of the current 17 hospitals in the East of England have any prospect of achieving the higher figure.

- There is also a clinical case for reconfiguring some other services including paediatric surgery, cancer surgery, liver services, head and neck surgery and others to serve large catchments areas than at present. The increasing drive to specialisation is likely to continue, with inevitable pressures for more centralisation.
- The implementation of the 2009 European Working Time Directive, while not appearing to be a significant financial pressure, could require up to 360 (13%) more junior doctors. It is not clear that all of those doctors will be available. If not, certain services may face further pressures.
- Maternity units will be expected to provide progressively greater levels of consultant cover to improve clinical safety. It is unclear whether the smaller East of England maternity units will be able to do this.
- PCT activity requirements are changing. PCTs with high levels of hospital utilisation will wish to review this. PCTs will increasingly use Independent Sector (IS) providers to provide choice for patients; and PCTs will wish to transfer elements of hospital services into the community to provide care closer to home, in line with patient expectations. The expected reduction in acute hospital activity will, obviously, have knock on implications on acute trusts. Therefore, a full assessment of the sustainability of the current acute Trust configuration will need PCTs to prepare a medium-term commissioning strategy outlining acute activity requirements. Trusts will then be able to assess whether their full portfolio of services will be sustainable into the future.

Any detailed reconfiguration proposals that may follow from the workstreams would have to be the subject of further formal consultation, which would be conducted by the relevant PCT(s).

While the technical analysis talks about hospital services, the ongoing work will involve discussions on other relevant aspects of care such as the continuing movement of long-term condition management from acute to primary care and the future use of community hospitals and other community services.

MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: PLANNING

SUBJECT: Planning Appeals	CONTACT OFFICER: Linda Brown
TEL/EMAIL No.: 01376 551414 Ext. 2604 linda.brown@braintree.gov.uk	BACKGROUND PAPERS: Nil
INFORMATION: To provide details of recently lodged planning appeals and appeal decisions.	

INFORMATION: APPEALS LODGED

Appellant: Mr & Mrs W Loose
Site: Old School House, The Street, Middleton
Development: Erection of detached dwelling and garage including construction of new vehicular access
Application No. 06/01598/OUT
Start Date 14th December 2006

Appellant: Mr & Mrs R Goodall
Site: Rose Cottage, 2 Sportsmans Lane, Nounsley Green, Hatfield Peverel
Development: Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of a replacement house
Application No. 06/00685/FUL
Start Date 19th December 2006

Appellant: Paul Robert Developments Ltd
Site: Land To rear of 37 Broad Road, Braintree
Development: Erection of detached dwelling and garage
Application No. 06/01853/FUL
Start Date 4th January 2007

INFORMATION: APPEAL DECISIONS

Appellant: Mr R Trinder
Site: 6 Station Road, Sible Hedingham
Development: Provision of new dwelling on part of garden
Application No. 05/02378/OUT
Decision and Date: DISMISSED – 18th December 2006

Appellant: Mr & Mrs R Brand
Site: Mill Reef, Mill Road, Foxearth
Development: Proposed retention of haystore/cartlodge
Application No. 06/00560/FUL
Decision and Date: ALLOWED – 21st December 2006

January 2007

MEMBERS' FOCUS

Appellant: Woodhill Property Developments
Site: Kissingate, Church Road, Hatfield Peverel
Development: (Erection of 10 No. 2 bed residential units – Application No. 05/01991/FUL) and (Erection of 8 No. 2 bed flats – Application No. 06/00883/FUL)
Application No. 05/01991/FUL and 06/00883/FUL
Decision and Date: ALLOWED – 11th January 2007

MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: County Wide

CORPORATE THEME HEADING:

SUBJECT: Essex County Council Health Scrutiny Reviews	CONTACT OFFICER: Vivien Door, Essex County Council
TEL/EMAIL No.: vivien.door@essexcc.gov.uk	BACKGROUND PAPERS:
INFORMATION: <u>Essex: food and nutrition in hospitals</u> Councillor Susan Flack Essex County Council October 2006 This paper from ECC's Health Scrutiny Committee sets out the findings of short review into the choices and support available to patients in hospitals for eating and drinking. This issue had been raised by a number of PPI Forums, Committee Members and Councillors. It was also raised as an area of concern during a recent scrutiny review of diabetes services in Essex. The main recommendation is that Hospitals in Essex emphasise the provision of food and its impact on health. Hospitals do recognise that food is a public health issue, but this cannot be emphasised enough to the management and staff that work with patients on a day-to-day basis. The full report can be found at http://www.cfps.org.uk/pdf/review/1812.pdf , or a hard copy can be provided – please contact Linda Morgan on 01376 551414. The Health Scrutiny Committee will be starting an investigation into GP out of hours service in February, and I will keep Members informed of progress.	

MEMBERS' FOCUS

SUBJECT: Affordable Housing Development Update January 2007 (3rd qtr)

CONTACT OFFICER: Tim Lucas, David Steel

TEL/EMAIL No.:01376 551414 ext. 2124, 2138 timlu@braintree.gov.uk
david.steel@braintree.gov.uk

Development Programme Update – 2006/07

Site Acquisitions, New Starts and Completions third quarter 2006/07:

Site Acquisitions: There were no acquisitions this quarter.

New Starts – 20 units:

Maltings Lane (ML10), Witham, started on site with 14 rental units and 6 shared ownership units

Completions 86 units:

Maltings Lane, Witham, had 5 rental completions during October.

Steeple Bumpstead – North Crescent, had 8 rental units completed in December.

St Michaels Hospital, had 10 rented unit completions and 22 shared ownership completions during November.

Warley Close, had 5 rented completions and 2 shared ownership completions in October.

Braintree, Coggeshall Road (extra care scheme): 34 units completed in December.

New developments currently in progress:

Braintree – St Michaels Hospital: 48 units started on site January 2005. Scheme complete November 2006.

Braintree - Gypsy Corner: 59 units started on site February 2005. Scheme complete August 2006.

Witham – Maltings Lane LP3: 32 units started on site in December 2004. This phase complete August 2006.

Witham – Maltings Lane LP6 & 7 :37 units rental and shared ownership started on site September 2005. This phase completed October 2006.

Steeple Bumpstead – North Crescent : 8 Rental units. Scheme Completed December 2006.

Witham Bridge Hospital: 42 units – rented & shared ownership. Completion expected May 2007.

Braintree - Warley Close: 8 rental and 2 shared ownership completed October 2006.

Braintree – Coggeshall Road: (extra care scheme): 34 units completed December 2006.

Halstead – Abels Road: 10 rental and shared ownership units started on site March 2006. Completion expected February 2007.

Braintree – Mill Hill: 10 rental units due to be handed over by developers as Section 106 agreement. Handover expected July 2008.

Halstead – Tidings Hill: 8 rental and 6 shared ownership units started on site in April and completion expected August 2007.

Belchamp Water: 4 units for shared ownership started on site in September 2006 and expected to complete October 2007.

MEMBERS' FOCUS

Braintree Bus Garage, Fairfield Road: Started on site in July 2006 with 10 units for shared ownership expected to complete July 2007.

Witham, Maltings Lane (ML10): Started on site October 2006 with 14 rental and 6 shared units. Expected to complete December 2007.

Housing Corporation funding / RSL funding has been allocated for the following developments with a start on site during this financial year (2006/07):

Braintree, Baily Bridge Road: Redevelopment of 32 x 2 bed flats and incorporating the large allotment site to the rear of existing properties. Application for planning approval submitted to Planners and currently being considered. Start on site expected to be March / April 2007.

Water Lane, Pebmarsh: Development of 10 rented units, Application for planning approval submitted December 2006. Start on site expected to be March / April 2007.

Halstead – Abels Road: Planning permission granted for 2 bed shared ownership bungalow. Start on site expected February 2006.

"Expected" starts and completions listed are only those for which land, funding and timing are certain

NEW DEVELOPMENT STARTS			DEVELOPMENT COMPLETIONS		
Total Starts from 1999/2000 to 2005/06		725	Total Completions from 1999/2000 to 2005/06		577
Starts expected 2006/07			Completions expected 2006/07		
	Units	Total		Units	Total
Rented Units	51	80	Rented Units	101	199
Shared Ownership	29		Shared Ownership	64	
Starter Homes / Homebuy			Starter Homes / Homebuy		
Supported Housing Units			Supported Housing Units	34	
Starts expected 2007/08			Completions expected 2007/08		
	Units	Total		Units	Total
Rented Units	56	82	Rented Units	46	91
Shared Ownership	26		Shared Ownership	45	
Starter Homes / Homebuy			Starter Homes / Homebuy		
Supported Housing Units			Supported Housing Units		
Starts expected 2008/09			Completions expected 2008/09		
	Units	Total		Units	Total
Rented Units		5	Rented Units	72	97
Shared Ownership			Shared Ownership	25	
Starter Homes / Homebuy			Starter Homes / Homebuy		
Supported Housing Units	5		Supported Housing Units		
Starts expected 2009/10			Completions expected 2009/10		
	Units	Total		Units	Total
Rented Units		0	Rented Units	13	22
Shared Ownership			Shared Ownership	4	
Starter Homes / Homebuy			Starter Homes / Homebuy		
Supported Housing Units			Supported Housing Units	5	
Starts expected 2010/11			Completions expected 2010/11		
	Units	Total		Units	Total
Rented Units		0	Rented Units		0
Shared Ownership			Shared Ownership		
Starter Homes / Homebuy			Starter Homes / Homebuy		
Supported Housing Units			Supported Housing Units		
Total Starts/expected starts since 1999/2000		892	Total Completions/expected completions since 1999/2000		986