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If you would like me to e-mail you a copy or provide it on a CD, please e-mail me on linda.morgan@braintree.gov.uk. If we can avoid printing copies we will save in the region of £2,400 a year, but if you need a paper copy we will oblige.



November 2005

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MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: Housing Services

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

SUBJECT: ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR	CONTACT OFFICER: Richard Scott or Brenda Sipple
TEL/EMAIL No.:01376 552525 Ext 3221 or 2631	BACKGROUND PAPERS: None
<p>On Monday 3rd October 2005 Witham Magistrates Court granted a full ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ORDER on</p> <p>Robert Vincent Roulston – date of birth 17th June 1955</p> <p>From 19 Court 8 Munro Road Witham Essex.</p> <p>The reason for making the Order was because of anti social behaviour in the area of the Templars Estate, Witham, which has caused the residents alarm harassment and distress. This was the first ASBO obtained within the Braintree District area based on a collection of independent evidence rather than awarded at the same time as a successful criminal prosecution.</p> <p>The Court ordered that the defendant, Mr. Roulston, is prohibited from threatening abusing or intimidating any person which shall include the use of insulting or abusive words and or gestures to any such person or inciting or encouraging any person to do so within the <u>County of Essex</u> until 2nd October 2008.</p> <p>A similar application against Sharon Roulston from the same address failed as the Court felt that the evidence was not sufficient to prove that her behaviour was anti social.</p> <p>An interim ASBO had already been obtained against Mr. And Mrs. Roulston in March this year which has now expired.</p> <p>The Police have a copy of the Order and a copy has been put on display on the notice board on the estate where Mr. Roulston lives.</p>	

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AREA: HOUSING SERVICES

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

SUBJECT: ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR	CONTACT OFFICER:Brenda Sipple
TEL No.:01376 551414 Ext 2631	BACKGROUND PAPERS: None
EMAIL brenda.sipple@braintree.gov.uk	

On Tuesday 1st November 2005 Colchester County Court granted possession of property 241 Church Street Braintree Essex due to the tenant's anti social behaviour and the effect his behaviour had on neighbouring properties.

The matter was first before the Court on 25th May 2005 when the Court adjourned the claim to ensure that the mental health of the tenant was such that he could understand that his behaviour was such that it was deemed anti social.

The local authority were required to have the tenant medically examined and he was to co-operate with that examination.

On the 3rd August 2005 a consultant psychiatrist determined that he was capable of managing his affairs and could understand his obligations with regard to his behaviour at the property.

The matter went back before the Court and was adjourned again to enable the tenant to seek legal advice and then relisted for trial on 1st November 2005.

On hearing evidence from Brenda Sipple the tenant was required to give possession immediately.

The tenant is now deemed to be intentionally homeless.

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AREA: All

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: Help people Feel Safe and Well

SUBJECT: Update on the Implementation of the Civil Contingencies Act 2005	CONTACT OFFICER: Kathy Brown
TEL/EMAIL No.: 01376 557753 katbr@braintree.gov.uk	BACKGROUND PAPERS: Civil Contingencies Act 2004
<p>INFORMATION:</p> <p>The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 placed Statutory Duties on Local Authorities for Preparing and Responding to Emergencies. One of the first targets in the Act was to have published by the 14th November 2005 a Community Risk Register for the Local Resilience Forum Area. Working in partnership with Essex County Council, Districts and Unitary Authorities the Draft Community Risk Register will be published on time and will be available on a public web site www.essexresilience.info. A link to the new web site will be made from the Braintree District Council Web page under the Emergencies heading.</p> <p><u>The draft Community Risk Register will give:-</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An overview of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004• Introduction to the Community Risk Register• Overview of each District and Unitary Authority in Essex with information which is already in the Public domain. <p>The draft Community Risk Register is a live document and will be updated on a regular basis including the addition of links to other agencies and adding of the generic risk assessments for Essex which are currently being developed by various Working Groups. Braintree District Council has been allocated to the Severe Weather Risk Assessment Group.</p> <p>District Risk Assessments</p> <p>The Government in their guidance for Local Authorities highlighted Risk categories relating to, for example, Severe Weather, Fluvial Flooding, Transport incidents on Major roads, Industrial Incidents and Human Health. District Risk Assessments are the corner stones for the generic risk assessments, which are published in the Community Risk Register (as highlighted above) and are well underway with a target date for completion of the 18th November 2005. BDC is the first District in Essex to produce these Risk Assessments</p> <p>Of the 66 risks highlighted in the guidance 44 are related to our District.</p> <p><u>Of the 44 risk</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 22 have been completed• Of the remaining 20	

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- 11 relate to the Industrial which are being undertaken in partnership with the Essex County Council Emergency Planning Officer for Industry
- Target date of the 18th November 2005 for the remaining 9 assessments.

The draft Community Risk Register will be taken to the Essex Resilience Forum Management Group (Members and Chief Executives Group) on the 18th November 2005 and the Essex Resilience Forum on the 21st November 2005 in order to comply with our statutory duties under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

News

Help wildlife and win £200

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Projects helping wildlife in the Braintree District could win £200 in a Biodiversity Competition being run by The Braintree Wildlife Advisory Group. Any wildlife project underway can be entered such as tree planting, bird & bat boxes or building bug boxes for ladybirds, bees or spiders, etc. The competition is also open to management projects such as coppicing, pond clearance or planting wild flowers.

School groups, parish councils, community groups or individuals are encouraged to enter. The competition is open until November 2006 and entries will be assessed throughout the year.

Simon Amstutz, project officer of the River Colne Countryside Project, comments: "Helping wildlife is very rewarding for everyone involved and the competition is open to all biodiversity projects, big or small. In the Braintree District we are lucky to be surrounded by some of the most beautiful countryside in Essex and we hope the competition will encourage more residents to help wildlife in their area."

ENDS

For more press information, contact: Simon Amstutz on 07702 918980.
Issued by: Braintree DC PR 4 November 2005

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News

Braintree DC wins research industry award

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Braintree District Council has won a prestigious research industry award in relation to customer service, presented by the Market Research Society at their awards event in central London.

The award is the MRS public policy / social research effectiveness Award – made to the Council, Nineveh Consulting and RBA Research Ltd. Councillor Joanne Beavis attended, with Development Director Peter Crofts and Customer Services Manager Phil Wilson.

The judges liked the way that the council had used market research (especially the mystery shopper visits to Causeway House) to influence decisions about customer service and the Customer First programme. They commented: "It demonstrates how a combination of research techniques provides real insight to improve local services."

Other finalists included: Coca Cola, Nottinghamshire County Council, the government's Central Office of Information and Age Concern.

Lead Councillor for customer services Jo Beavis comments: **"Everyone at the council can take some credit** for this award, and especially reception staff who, unaware that they were being video recorded, impressed the judges by the quality of their service to customers and in the part that the video played within the research findings. One of the judges commented that it probably helped to swing the decision towards Braintree. Other councils are already watching and learning from our experience." Jo Beavis added: "It shows that this time, it's Braintree that's **the real thing!**"

ENDS

The Market Research Society is at 15 Northburgh St, London EC1V www.mrs.org.uk info@mrs.org.uk. The Customer First programme includes many new means of service delivery: including the customer service centre, the voice activated telephone system, the move towards a shared system of property and service records via computer, an improved web site and the aim to help seven out of ten callers to get what they want with their first call to the council.

For more press information, contact: Chris Trim on 01376 557752 or on 01376 551414 – just say the name. Cllr Beavis tel: (01787) 460553

Issued by: Braintree DC PR 3 November 2005

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News

Council takes Olympic lead in Braintree District

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Braintree District Council will be taking a lead role in co-ordinating the district's sporting, cultural and commercial involvement in the 2012 Olympic Games.

The Council's Cabinet Working Group has agreed a long-term approach, so that Braintree District Council will act as the District's lead partner for the 2012 Games bringing together local partnerships with a shared vision for 2012.

- Work with local businesses (through the district's Business Council) and community groups to make the most of social and economic opportunities
- Seek out investment opportunities for sports development activities in the district
- Identify and promote local events which raise the profile of the district in the UK and overseas.

In January, the group will hold an open meeting for interested groups to share their ideas and aspirations for 2012: enabling the working group to encourage working partnerships.

Any organised group or business based in the Braintree district with a sporting, cultural or commercial interest in the Games can contact Russell Everard at Braintree District Council (Russell.Everard@braintree.gov.uk) or visit the Council web site at www.braintree.gov.uk and click on **News and Events**.

Working group chairman Tim Wilkinson comments: "2012 provides the people of Braintree District with fantastic opportunities for sport, entertainment, and industry. We need to start planning now in order to make the most of those opportunities and ensure the District takes full advantage of this global event. The world's eyes will be on London in seven years time, and I'm hoping we can divert some of their attention our way!"

Brian Day, a member of Braintree Business Council and representing the business sector on the working group said "London 2012 is a tremendous opportunity for businesses in the Braintree district. Braintree Business Council is looking forward to working closely with Braintree District Council to ensure that every economic opportunity, including the considerable retail and tourism benefits, are fully explored for the benefit of the business sector. We will be working very hard to encourage businesses to look seriously at how their organisation could benefit from the lead up to the Games, and helping the Council to raise the profile of the district with the aim of increasing the number of visitors coming to our towns and villages."

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The working group includes six councillors, two business representatives and four specialists in culture, sport and economic development.

For more press information, contact: Russell Everard (3 & 4 Nov only) or Chris Trim on 01376 551414 – just say the name.

Issued by: Braintree DC PR 3 November 2005

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News

How involved do you want to be?

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Braintree District Council is asking residents and local organisations how they would prefer to be consulted and how involved they would like to be in the new planning system to be introduced over the next three years. People are asked to comment on the draft Statement of Community Involvement which sets out proposals for how and when the Council will involve local communities in all aspects of the planning system. Over 1,500 relevant local organisations have been contacted already to find out their views.

The Statement of Community Involvement can be seen at council offices in Braintree, Halstead and Witham, on the Council website or in local libraries across the District. Those interested have until the 1st December to send in comments using the comment form available at council offices and libraries or using the on-line form at www.braintree.gov.uk.

The new planning system has been introduced to speed up the planning process and ensure greater community involvement. Under the new system the Local Plan will be replaced by the Local Development Framework, which will deal with planning matters for every part of the Braintree District. The LDF will set out where building can take place, what kinds of development are acceptable for different areas and lay down the basis for making decisions on planning applications.

Cabinet member Wendy Scattergood comments: "The new planning system makes it easier for residents to be involved and we are keen to hear from local groups and organisations to ensure their early involvement."

ENDS

For more press information, contact: Paul Munson, Head of Forward Planning, on 01376 551414 – just say the name.

Issued by: Braintree DC PR 28October 2005

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Attended on Monday: Local teenagers, resident Helen Ralph, landowner Geoffrey Waterer, Community support officer Andrew Emery, BDC officers Mick Galley and Julie Payne

News

New play area meets neighbourhood need

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On Monday 24th October, at the start of half term, local residents and young people met at a new neighbourhood play area adjacent to Spansey Court in Halstead.

The idea for the area came about when local resident Helen Ralph saw the need for a nearby 'kick-about' area for young people to use for ball games; for their own safety and to reduce nuisance to local residents. Helen took a leading role in gathering local support and in liaising with the district council and local police.

The land has been made available by a former county councillor of 40 years, local farmer Geoffrey Waterer at a peppercorn rent and with a £5,000 grant from Essex County Council, was cleared, fenced and prepared by Braintree District Council. The result is a simple space, away from roads and houses, yet accessible to young people living locally.

This is a good example of how residents can take charge of a local problem by working with the community, local council, councillors and police – as exemplified by the recent 'Pride of Britain' awards. Local residents themselves will manage the area.

ENDS

Spansey Court is off Chapel Hill, near the Police station in Halstead. Take first left into Windmill Road and Spansey Court is off Windmill Road. The total cost of preparation was £17,000, including £4k from the Building Safer Communities fund.

For more press information, contact: Chris Trim or Anne Proudfoot on 01376 557752 or on 01376 551414 – just say the name or tap extension 2013

Issued by: Braintree DC PR 25 October 2005

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New kick-about area for Spansey Court (continued)

Comments:

'This is a fine example of the council, communities and police working together. There was a problem in the area and all of the above got together and came up with this excellent solution. I hope that the youngsters will appreciate what is being provided for them'

Councillor Wendy Schmitt

" It has been great to see everyone involved with the community from local residents, The Police, Braintree District Council & the landowner coming together to provide a recreational facility for a local community. Everyone has worked hard to provide a positive outcome for the local children."

Andrew Emery – Community Support Officer, Essex Police

"I am delighted that Essex County Council has been able to work with Braintree District Council, Essex Police and local people to provide the kick-about area for young people in this area of Halstead. It just shows what we can achieve when we work together."

Lord Hanningfield, Leader of Essex County Council

"There used to be a lot of complaints and calls to the Police about rowdy and even intimidating behaviour, but what we have achieved here shows that if you are determined enough and won't take no for an answer you can make it better for yourself, your neighbours and the local teenagers."

Helen Ralph, resident

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AREA: Community Safety & Development

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: Meeting Community Needs

SUBJECT: How To Engage with the Police Community Safety Tasking Groups	CONTACT OFFICER: Helena Goodwin
TEL/EMAIL No.: x2756 Helena.Goodwin@braintree.gov.uk	
<p><i>INFORMATION: How to Engage with the Braintree Division Police Community Safety Tasking Groups – Braintree District Community Safety Partnership (CDRP)</i></p> <p>What is the Purpose of Police Community Safety Tasking Groups (PCSTGp)? - The PCSTG works to reduce crime, nuisance and disorder and tackle other community safety issues in support of the Community Safety Strategy 2005 - 2008. It achieves this by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying crime, nuisance and disorder hotspots, prolific or other problem offenders, or individuals who are emerging as such. • Using SARA methodology to problem-solve (Scan, Analyse, Response & Action). • Create and deliver action plans aimed at specific issues. • Share information with the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and its sub-groups. (CDRP). <p>Who Organises Them? – The PCSTGs are administered by Essex Police and are chaired by the Police Area Inspector.</p> <p>Membership There are two levels of membership -</p> <p><u>Core membership.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District council - Community Safety ASB Liaison Officer; Representative of Housing. • Essex County Council - Representative of Youth Service; Youth Offending Team. • Essex Police - Section Inspector; ASB Officer; Representative from the Community Policing Team. (Ps, Pc or PCSO); Crime Reduction Advisor. • Children's Trust. <p><u>Other membership.</u></p> <p>This group will include representatives of any group or body that might assist in tackling the issues under investigation. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Council - Planning, environmental services, legal advisor etc. • Essex County Council - Road Safety Officer; Highways Officer; Education or Schools Officer. • Essex Police - Schools Officer; Community Officer; Road Policing; CID Officer. • Town and Parish Councillor Members and Officers. • Business Sector – Town Centre Manager etc. • SEAMS Mediation Service. • Learning Disabilities Action Group. • Victim Support. • Neighbourhood Watch. <p>This list is not exhaustive. The meetings are about effectively and quickly identifying problems and possible solutions, hence, the attendance and level</p>	

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of representatives from agencies fluctuates in accordance with demand and outputs.

Research is undertaken before the meetings and is brought to the table by the most appropriate people from necessary agencies. It is not necessary for each person to present what he or she knows personally.

When Do the PCSTGs Meet? – There are three PCSTGs to cover the whole of the Braintree District. The meetings will meet at regular intervals and not less than 8 times per year. To ensure the progress of action plans the groups currently meet monthly: -

Halstead – 10am on the first Tuesday of Every Month

Witham - 10am on the first Wednesday of Every Month

Braintree - 10am on the first Thursday of Every Month

How Do I Get an Item onto the Agenda? – The agendas are uniform to cover the essential elements of the meetings. Under **Hotspots**, any issues that are brought to an Officers notice (BDC, ECC, Police etc.) are completed onto a form that is circulated one week prior to the meeting (personalised information is shared with Core Members only). This means that other agencies can seek information from their own agency and attend the meeting with outcomes of the research. This maximises the effectiveness of the meetings.

Prevalent areas (top ten) become part of the Pre SARA process and then become an agenda item.

Information is sourced from

- The BDC Siebel database (calls to the customer contact centre),
- Work on localities and individuals coming to the notice of the ASB Officers.
- Persistent locations and names going through to the Police Service Desk.
- ASB Diary log sheets received from the public.
- ASB related emails (where appropriate).

SYSTEMS CURRENTLY BEING SET-UP

- A specific ASB email address for Members to report ASB is to be set-up (Town, Parish & District). This would be through to Customer Contact Centre and then forwarded in accordance with the responsible area e.g. Environmental Health, Housing, RSL or Community Safety & Development Team.
- A template to be piloted to encourage Parish & Town Councils and District Councillors to complete when ASB incidents are being brought to their attention by their constituents. This information will be taken to the Police Community Safety Tasking Group (see Annex 1).

Representation at the PCSTGs

Parish, Town and District Councils are able to attend the meetings to discuss persistent problems within their area. However, with the number of Councillors across the Braintree District it is imperative that the meetings are manageable in terms of size, focus, agenda and outputs. Hence, Parish Councils must contact the Area Police Inspector and request to attend if the

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meeting if there is a specific need. The Town Councils should have a nominated representative to attend again, if there is a need. The Cabinet Members for Public Protection and Healthy Living, Councillor Wendy Schmitt, attends every Police Community Safety Tasking Group whenever possible.

Where a pre SARA is being considered, the Parish Council Chair will be contacted and consulted.

Some issues may be able to be resolved prior to the meetings, or in many cases, background work, research and action plans may already be in place.

What Feedback Will I Receive? – Feedback will be provided via the PCSTGp minutes. The public part of the minutes will be available on the BDC Website.

Minutes will be recorded that reflect the outcomes and actions, including named individuals responsible for the progression of work.

Prepared by: H Goodwin – Community Safety & Development Manager ext. 2756

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Reporting Individuals Causing ASB to Police Community Safety Tasking Groups. For Parish Councils / Town Councils / District Members

DATE	ALLEGED PERPETRATOR	ADDRESS OF PERPETRATOR	REPORTED PROBLEMS	ANY ACTION TAKEN / REPORTED TO

Date:.....

Completed

By:.....

.....

**Representing (please indicate Parish /
Ward)**.....

**Reporting ASB in Locality Areas to Police
Community Safety Tasking Groups.**

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For Parish Councils / Town Councils / District Members

DATE	LOCATION	REPORTED / IDENTIFIED PROBLEMS	ANY ACTION TAKEN / REPORT TO

Date:.....

Completed

By:.....

.....

Representing (please indicate Parish / Ward).....

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AREA: DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: PLANNING

SUBJECT: Planning Appeals	CONTACT OFFICER: Alison Webb
TEL/EMAIL No.: 01376 551414 Ext. 2614 alison.webb@braintree.gov.uk	BACKGROUND PAPERS: Nil
INFORMATION: To provide details of recently lodged planning appeals and appeal decisions.	

INFORMATION: APPEALS LODGED

Appellant: Mr H C Bishop
Site: The Angel Inn, 33 Notley Road, Braintree
Development: Erection of proposed flats
Application No: 05/00834/OUT
Start Date: 5th October 2005

Appellant: Rivers Homes Ltd
Site: Land rear of 39 Julien Court Road, Braintree
Development: Erection of 4no dwellings, garages and private drive
Application No: 05/01188/FUL
Start Date: 17th October 2005

Appellant: Mr S Voke
Site: Tudor Cottage, 27 The Street, Rayne
Development: Erection of detached house
Application No: 05/01073/OUT
Start Date: 20th October 2005

Appellant: Denise Beasley
Site: 12 Greenfield, Witham
Development: Erection of first floor extension to create one additional flat
Application No: 05/00551/FUL
Start Date: 20th October 2005

Appellant: Mr R Azevedo
Site: Land adj. 35 Chaucer Crescent, Braintree
Development: Erection of dwelling
Application No: 05/00576/OUT
Start Date: 31st October 2005

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Appellant: Mr M Barton
Site: 14 Park Lane, Earls Colne
Development: Two storey side and rear extension
Application No: 05/01195/FUL
Start Date: 8th November 2005

INFORMATION: APPEAL DECISIONS

Appellant: Virginia Austin
Site: Land adj. to Square and Compasses Inn, Fuller Street, Fairstead
Development: Erection of side extension – revision to application no.
Application No: 04/00937/FUL
Application No: 05/00190/FUL
Decision & Date: ALLOWED - 19th October 2005

Appellant: Mr & Mrs R Growel
Site: Land adj. 8 Kent Gardens, Braintree
Development: Erection of detached house and garages
Application No: 05/00655/FUL
Decision & Date: DISMISSED – 4th November 2005