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Members' Focus may soon only be available on the internet or by e-mail. If this would cause you a problem, please contact me on 01376 552525 or by e mail at linmo@braintree.gov.uk

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Focus

September 2005

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MEMBERS' FOCUS

SUBJECT: A131 Great Notley Bypass Dualling	CONTACT OFFICER: David Forkin, Essex County Council Highways and Transportation Section
TEL/EMAIL No.: 01245 437180, david.forkin@essexcc.gov.uk	BACKGROUND PAPERS:
<p data-bbox="236 539 475 568">INFORMATION:</p> <p data-bbox="432 611 1401 719">Exhibitions are planned to show the scheme for the dualling of the single sections of A131 Great Notley Bypass between Notley Green Roundabout, Cuckoo Wood Roundabout and Queenborough Roundabout.</p> <p data-bbox="432 757 1394 972">It has always been the intended to complete this scheme since the early 1990's when the land required was set aside as part of the Great Notley residential development. We have made a bid for additional Community Infrastructure Funding to complete this improvement scheme and we hope to hear if our bid has been successful in November 2005 which would enable construction to begin in early summer 2006.</p> <p data-bbox="432 1014 1401 1229">Two venues have been booked for the exhibitions: Great Notley Garden Village Discovery Centre on Friday 30 September from 2 pm until 8 pm and on Saturday 1 October from 9 am until 1 pm; Great Notley Garden Village Community Hall on Thursday 6 October from 2 pm until 8 pm and Friday 7 October from 9 am until 4 pm. Project personnel will be available to present information and answer any questions.</p> <p data-bbox="432 1272 1382 1379">The display boards will also be available for viewing at Causeway House from Monday 10 October until Friday 14 October during normal office hours.</p> <p data-bbox="432 1422 970 1632">David Forkin Senior Engineer - Major Schemes Highways and Transportation E-mail: david.forkin@essexcc.gov.uk Phone: 01245 437180 Fax: 01245 437586</p>	

MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: Community Safety & Development

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: Meeting Community Needs

SUBJECT: Byelaws for Pleasure Grounds, Public Walks & Open Spaces.	CONTACT OFFICER: Helena Goodwin
TEL/EMAIL No.: x2756 Helena.Goodwin@braintree.gov.uk	
<p><i>INFORMATION: Braintree District Council</i></p> <p>A small team of Officers from BDC has been set-up to review and update the Byelaws for all parks and open spaces owned, leased, adopted or controlled by BDC. This will include all additional parks, open spaces and recreation grounds that are due to come under BDC, such as the Great Notley Country Park and Spansey Court Kick-About area.</p> <p>The Byelaws for Pleasure Grounds, Public Walks & Open Spaces are being updated in accordance with the current guidance from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM). The draft has been cross-referenced with the good rule of Government Byelaws and local community safety information.</p> <p>The Byelaws will be generic for all areas. The Police are currently researching evidence pertaining to alcohol misuse within problematic areas. This information will be used where possible to apply for Drinking Places Orders (DPO's). This will be achieved parallel with the Byelaws where possible. It must be appreciated that there will be very few DPO's applied for as the evidence required is substantial.</p> <p>Consultation</p> <p>The Byelaws document will be available for consultation from 8th September to the 21st September. Each geographical location of the parks and open spaces will be aligned with the Parish and Town Council's under which they fall. The Chairs of these Parish and Town Councils, the Leader for Braintree District Council, the Port Folio Holder for Public Protection and Healthy Living, the three Chairs of the Area Committees and Management Board will be part of the consultee group.</p> <p>Partnership colleagues will also be consulted. These will include the Divisional Chief Superintendent, the three Area Inspectors and the Inspector for Community Safety.</p> <p>The document will then go through the Committee process of Cabinet and Full Council for approval.</p> <p>Timescale</p> <p>The timescale that is being adhered to is very tight. If everything goes according to plan, the Byelaws will be implemented from January 2006. This is very much dependant on the ODPM being able to assess our application.</p> <p>Enforcement</p> <p>To ensure that the Byelaws are implemented and upheld, commitment is required from BDC, the Police, Parish and Town Councils. A template for recording issues and problems will be provided for recording complaints and data from the Parish and Town Councils. It is proposed that the information will be presented at the Area Police</p>	

MEMBERS' FOCUS

Community Safety Tasking Groups and BDC ASB Corporate Group.

Good Rule and Government Byelaws

The Good Rule and Government Byelaws cover other areas of the as Town Centres. The issues covered are as follows: -

- Skate Boarding
- Playing on Highways
- Dangerous Games on the Highways
- Touting
- Urinating
- Riding on road margins and grass verges
- Fairground attractions becoming an obstruction
- Interference with Road Warning and Life Saving Equipment
- Hanging from bridges

Due to the inappropriateness of most of the specific Byelaws above, and the tools available under ASB Legislation, the issues are being assessed but at this stage existing measures are deemed more appropriate for dealing with issues at the current time. This will be taken to the Police Community Safety Tasking Groups to keep abreast of activities within the Towns.

For further information, please contact Sharon Lowe, Solicitor to the Council (ext 2629) Nick Day, Parks & Open Spaces Manager (332382), or Helena Goodwin.

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

MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: ALL

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: Helping People Feel Safe And Well/A Better Place to Live, Work and Play.

SUBJECT: £40,279 grant award from the Food Standards Agency to introduce Safe Food Better Business.	CONTACT OFFICER: Joanne Wilkinson
TEL/EMAIL No.: 01376 552737 jo.wilkinson@braintree.gov.uk	BACKGROUND PAPERS: Bid Application (available from Joanne Wilkinson)
<p>INFORMATION: The Health Protection Team have been successful in their bid for £40,279 from the Food Standards Agency to fund a training and coaching initiative amongst the worst 400 catering premises within Braintree District.</p> <p>In January 2006 European Legislation comes into force which requires all food premises to have a documented food safety system. To address this, the Food Standards Agency have produced "Safe Food Better Business" an information and diary pack to assist businesses in complying with this requirement.</p> <p>The successful bid is to provide a series of sector specific seminars followed by a 3 hour coaching session at the food premises to implement Safe Food Better Business. Targeting the businesses with the lowest confidence in management scores at their last inspection it is hoped that the majority of catering businesses will be complying with the new Regulations by summer 2006.</p>	

MEMBERS' FOCUS

News

Council welcomes benefit inspection

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District Councillors have welcomed the proposed visit by inspectors from the Benefit Fraud Inspectorate as an opportunity to show how the Council is back on track to the previous 30 day performance level.

The Council's average performance throughout the year has been 47 days and is comparable with most councils in Essex.

Cabinet member Michael Lager comments: "On average, Braintree takes less time to deal with a new benefit claim than the majority of Essex councils. However, we want our performance to be even better and we are on-track to return to 30 days turnaround for new claims and be back among the best in Essex. Time is always needed to check the facts about a claimant's circumstances before the money can be granted and I am confident that BFI will understand the situation with regard to the computer system."

Delays predicted for spring this year have prompted the visit, having been caused by the changeover to a new computer system, replacing one which had served almost 20 years. These delays were publicised widely at the time (News release 4067 in September plus advertisement in the Braintree & Witham Times) and notified to the Department of Work and Pensions. Because of the prior publicity, complaints remained at the same level of one or two a month and despite letters to new claimants encouraging them to get in touch, no specific cases of financial hardship were reported.

ENDS

Notes:

The MORI survey in 2005 revealed that eight out of ten benefits claimants were satisfied with the service.

Braintree DC's benefit fraud investigators have saved local taxpayers around £100,000 each year since 2000, by ensuring that benefits claimants receive their correct entitlement. The Council's Benefits Advisory Service has helped local people to claim entitlement to over £1million of additional benefit each year, most of which is spent within the local economy.

For more press information, contact: Chris Trim on 01376 557752

Issued by: Braintree DC PR 6th September 2005

MEMBERS' FOCUS

News

Community warden signed up for another year

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At 11.15am on Monday 12th September the community partnership agreement for the Templars Estate will be signed at the **Community Office in Shaw Road, Witham**. The partnership between Braintree District Council and the Templars Community Association helps to keep the estate litter free and a more pleasant place to live.

The Council provides equipment, a prompt response to requests for removal of fly tips and graffiti plus the funds to employ a community warden for 12 hours per week. While for local resident and community warden Steve Howard, the partnership agreement means he will continue patrolling the estate, picking up litter and alerting the Council's clean team to fly tips and graffiti. As a resident and local postman, Steve knows the area and the people very well. Whilst out delivering the mail he is able to identify the areas needing attention and when he has finished his post round, he then goes back to clear the litter.

Cabinet Member Michael Gage said

"The Templars Community Association are working hard to make their neighbourhood a more pleasant place to live and community warden, Steve, is doing a great job. The partnership shows how local people, who are involved in their communities, really make a difference and we are keen to help them. Community partnerships like this help to create a district in which everyone takes responsibility for making their community a cleaner, greener place to live."

ENDS

Photo Opportunity -

The partnership agreement will be signed by Valerie Ahern, Chairperson of the Templars Community Association and Councillor Michael Gage, Cabinet Member for environment. Community Warden Steve Howard will also attend.

11.15am Monday 12 September – Community Office, Shaw Road, Witham

For more press information, contact:

Janet Peatling, Neighbourhood Initiatives Co-ordinator, 01376 551414 ext 3265

Issued by: Braintree DC PR 8 September 2005

MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: Environmental Services & Community Safety & Development

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: Meeting Community Needs

SUBJECT: Parish Rangers	CONTACT OFFICERS: Mick Galley or Helena Goodwin
TEL/EMAIL No.: Mick.galley@braintree.gov.uk Ext. 3369 Helena.Goodwin@braintree.gov.uk Ext. 2756	
<p><i>INFORMATION:</i> Braintree District Council <u>Parish Rangers</u> </p> <p>This initiative transpired from the Best Value Review of Street Scene and the Corporate Anti-social Behaviour Group. Hence, Environmental Services (Street Scene) and the Community Safety and Development Team have been working very closely to ensure that this project is a success. This has incorporated cross cutting project working within Braintree District Council and also with partnership colleagues such as Essex Police, the Braintree District Neighbourhood Watch Steering Group and Community Safety Tasking Groups.</p> <p>On the 22nd and 23rd August 2005, interviews took place for the Parish Ranger positions. The caliber of all the applicants was extremely high and eight Rangers have been successfully recruited. They come from various backgrounds and walks of life. The age range is between 26 and 60 years of age and each has been personally involved in varying degrees of partnership working, working with youngsters and dealing with Anti-social Behaviour. Each has demonstrated enthusiasm, commitment, and dedication and above all are very interested within the Braintree District and the environment.</p> <p>The Parish Rangers started with Braintree District Council on the 1st September and on the 6th September, they undertook a half day team building and awareness exercise. The event was opened by Councillor Wendy Scattergood, Planning and Rural Affairs and supported by Councillor Wendy Schmitt, Public Protection and Healthy Living. This event included introductions with each other, networking with associate partner colleagues, including BDC Officers, Braintree District Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator and Police Community Support Officers.</p> <p>The Parish Rangers will be working eleven hours per week. The three Parish Clusters have been split into eight for the Parish Rangers to patrol. This has been necessary as with eight Rangers there needs to be eight specific areas for the eight Rangers. Each Ranger will also provide backup support for a second Parish Ranger Cluster area, this will provide increased knowledge of a second area, provide cover, support and continuity for annual leave etc.</p> <p><i>The detail of the eight Parish Ranger Clusters is at the end of this document.</i></p> <p>To providing background data and contextual information from the outset, statistical data and evidence from Braintree District Council and Essex Police has been collated and mapped across the Parishes. In addition to this, data will be requested from all Parish Councils. This will provide a benchmark for the types of problems that are perceived, exist and being experienced locally. A visual picture is then being developed and resources targeted to these areas. This will also include partnership resources from the Community Safety Partnership where necessary and/or deemed appropriate.</p> <p>The Parish Rangers will drive to their allocated Parish Ranger Cluster, and will be patrolling on foot or bicycle. Their role is very much of a community focus to address environmental and Anti-social Behaviour issues whilst engaging with the communities to encourage community cohesion.</p>	

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The Rangers uniform will be very similar to the Parking Attendants and will also have the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme logo.

The next stages: -

- The Parish Rangers will undergo the Police Community Safety Accreditation Scheme during September. The training covers –
 - Roles and Responsibilities (including Code of Conduct)
 - Basic Legal Knowledge
 - Communication skills (conflict management, assertiveness, use of communications equipment)
 - Reports (recording and reporting procedures and use of notebooks)
 - Health and Safety (personal safety, risk management, basic first aid)
 - Data Protection Act 1998 and Information Sharing Training.

- Meeting with the Parishes at a specific event is being organised for **12th October, Committee Rooms 1 and 2, Braintree District Council, Causeway House, Braintree.**

- They will undergo shadowing with BDC Estate Rangers, BDC Community Safety & Development Team, BDC Clean Team, Police Community Support Officers and Police Officers (Rural Police Office).

For further information, please contact Mick Galley, Horticultural and Street Cleansing Manager (ext 3369) or Helena Goodwin.

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

MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA:

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: Improving performance and delivering better value for money

SUBJECT: Performance Management – Housing	CONTACT OFFICER: Mike Gosling
TEL/EMAIL No.: 01376 552525 ext 2115 Mikgo@braintree.co.uk	BACKGROUND PAPERS:

INFORMATION:

Purpose of the report

To inform Members of the results from the 2005 tenants' satisfaction survey.

The survey explores tenant satisfaction with their home in general and the overall service provided by the Council. It investigates their rating of various aspects of the Housing service's performance, such as carrying out repairs, opportunities to participate and whether their rent represents value for money.

Furthermore, it asks tenants to cite which parts of the service they consider most important and which, are in most need of improvement. Finally, it compares satisfaction levels with those taken from the 2003 survey.

The survey aimed to provide an indication of tenants' levels of satisfaction ahead of the full STATUS¹ survey next year.

Key Points

The majority of tenants are satisfied with their home and their neighbourhood (88% and 85%, respectively). Older households were more likely to be satisfied than those with dependent children and adults under 60.

Eight out of ten respondents (84%) were satisfied with the overall service provided by the Council. Tenants living in bungalows and sheltered accommodation had the highest satisfaction rates.

Satisfaction rates with the repairs and maintenance service have improved from 2003, as have opportunities for participation. However, 14% said that the way their Council dealt with repairs and maintenance was generally unsatisfactory.

The majority of respondents (85%) rate repairs and maintenance as the most important service followed by overall quality of your home (66%).

¹ STATUS stands for the Standardised Tenant Satisfaction Survey, which was developed by the National Housing Federation and has been endorsed by both the Housing Corporation and Office of the Deputy Prime Minister as a method for carrying out approved Tenants Satisfaction Surveys.

MEMBERS' FOCUS

The majority of respondents (85%) rate repairs and maintenance as the most important service followed by overall quality of your home (66%).

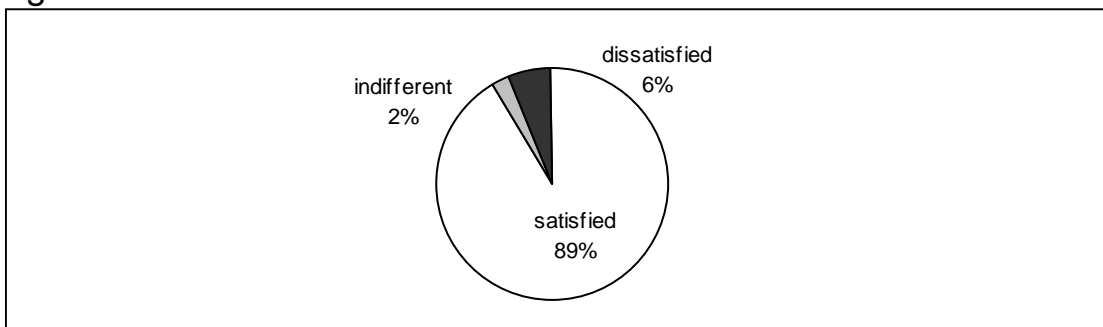
Coincidentally, repairs and maintenance is perceived as the service in most need of improvement (17%) followed by taking tenants views into account (15%).

Generally speaking, older households and those living in bungalows were more likely to express positive views about their home and the Council than younger households or those living in flats.

Overall Satisfaction with home and neighbourhood

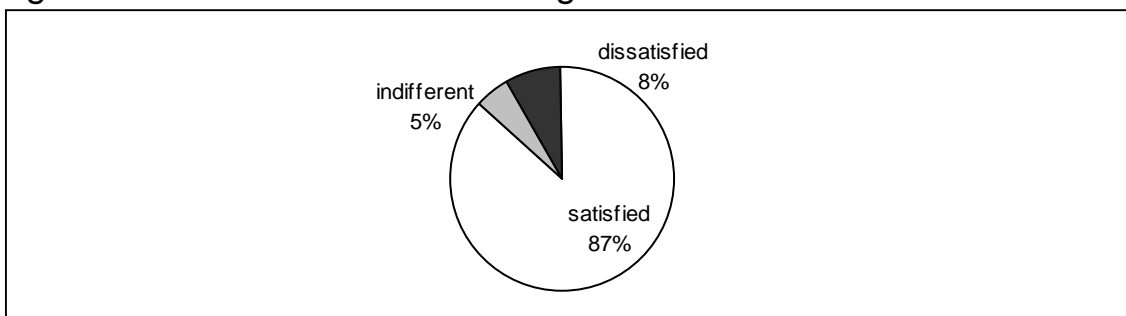
The vast majority of respondents (89%) are very positive about their home (Figure 1). Only a small proportion (6%) is dissatisfied.

Figure 1. Satisfaction with home



Older households were more likely to be satisfied than younger households, particularly adults under 60 and families with dependent children. Some 91% of those aged 60 or over were satisfied compared with 83% of those with dependant children. Respondents living in sheltered accommodation were the most positive about their homes.

Figure 2 Satisfaction with their neighbourhood



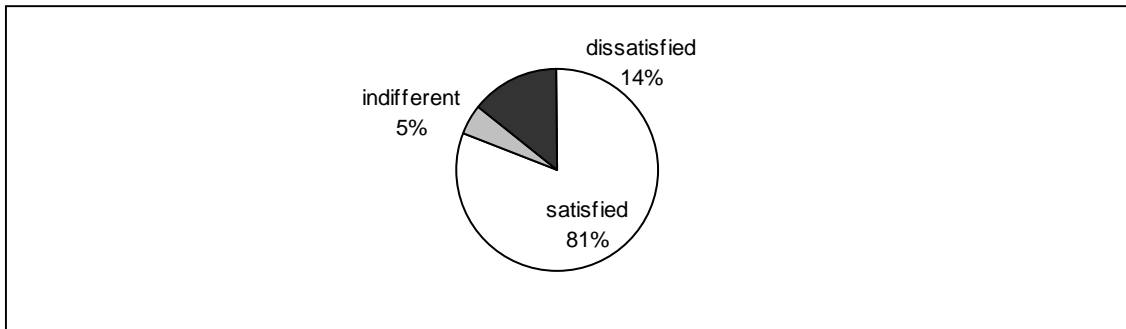
A large majority of respondents (87%) are satisfied with their neighbourhood as a place to live (Figure 2). Whilst just 8% are dissatisfied. There was virtually no difference between the three main areas.

Tenants' perceptions of the repairs and maintenance service

There is a notable improvement (+7%) in tenants' perception of the repairs and maintenance service from 2003 survey with eight out of ten (81%) respondents satisfied (Figure 3). A significant minority of tenants (14%) indicated their dissatisfaction.

MEMBERS' FOCUS

Figure 3. Perceptions of the repairs and maintenance service



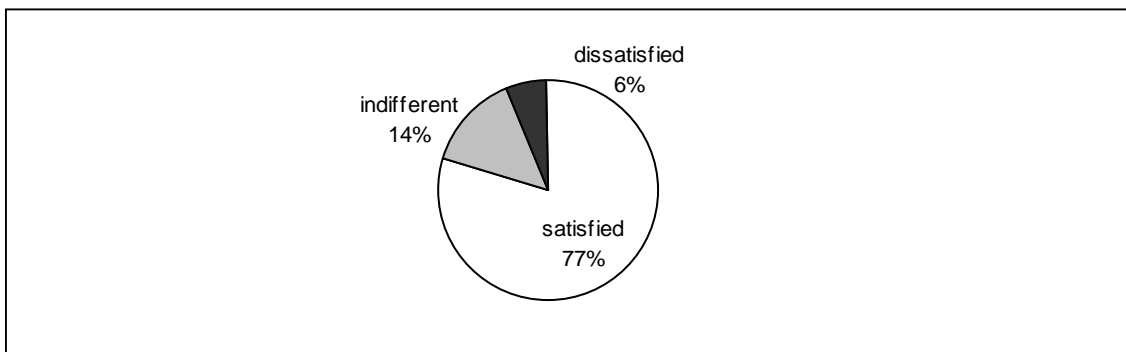
Again, older households were more likely to be satisfied than younger households, particularly those families with dependent children. Respondents living in bungalows and sheltered accommodation were more likely to be satisfied than those living in flats and houses. Satisfaction rates amongst tenants for a repair primarily revolves around reactive repairs and to some extent the level that this is resourced. Unfortunately this conflicts with an efficient overall repairs service, which seeks to minimise the investment in reactive repairs and maximise investment into planned repairs.

The decent homes deficit is an indication of the overall condition of the stock and therefore it is remarkable that our satisfaction rates for repairs are as high as they are bearing in mind the level of our deficit (65%).

Value for Money

Despite two years of above inflationary rent increases, due to Government rent restructuring policy², nearly eight out of ten (77%) respondents thought their rent was good value for money an relative improvement of + 3% from 2003.

Figure 4. Value for Money



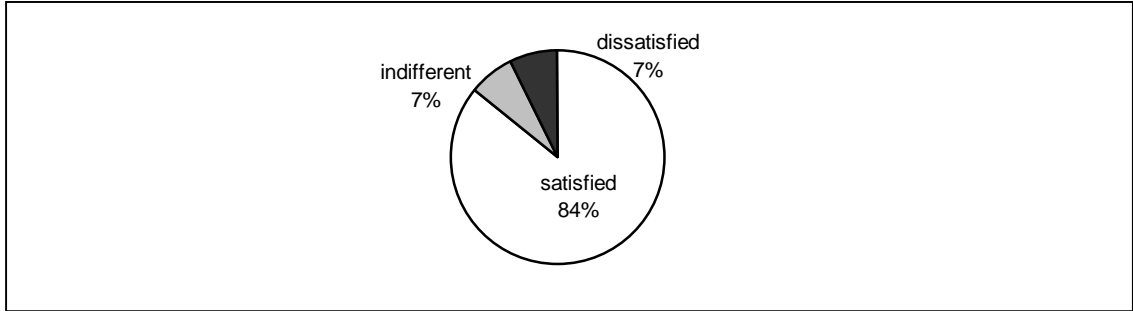
Value for money was rated highest by households containing single adults aged 60 or over at 92%.

Overall rating of the service's performance

The tenants are generally more satisfied with the Council's overall performance than they were in 2003. This is reflected in a relative improvement of + 4% in the overall levels of satisfaction (Figure 4). It appears the completion of the Options Appraisal process, which coincided with the survey, has had no detrimental effect on tenants' satisfaction levels.

Figure 4. Overall service performance

MEMBERS' FOCUS

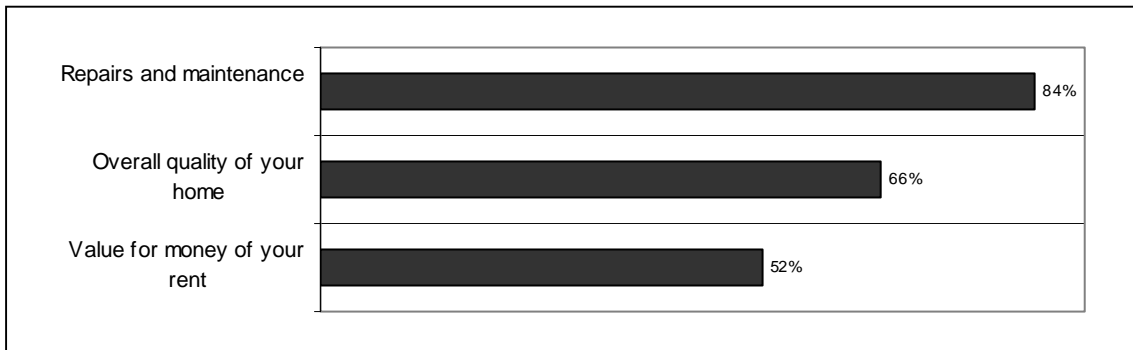


The 2-parent family group recorded the lowest levels of satisfaction with 67%. There was virtually no difference between the three areas with Braintree and Witham slightly higher than Halstead. Respondents living in bungalows and sheltered accommodation were more likely to be satisfied (95%) than those living in houses and flats.

Important Services

Repairs and maintenance is considered to be the service most important to respondents. After repairs and maintenance, there is a relatively clear order of rating for other services with overall quality of your home and value for money of your rent being the next two most popular.

Figure 5. Most Important Services

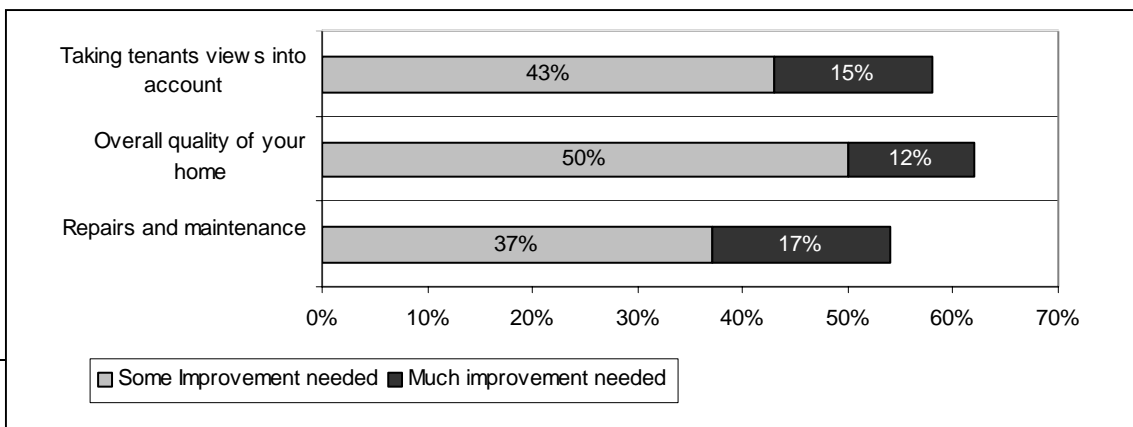


There is a variation between the three areas which is that residents from Halstead rated value for money higher than overall quality of your home in Braintree & Witham.

Improvements Needed

Services identified by most respondents as requiring improvement are repairs and maintenance, overall quality of your home and taking tenants' views into account.

Figure 6. Services in need of improvement



MEMBERS' FOCUS

As repairs and maintenance and overall quality of your home were the two services considered most important by respondents, these are two priority areas the service needs to target for future improvements.

A complete report of the survey has been deposited in the Members room.

M Gosling
Performance Manager - Housing

MEMBERS' FOCUS

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 A Hilling
Site: Land adjacent to 102 Maltings Lane, Witham
Development: Erection of one three bedroom house
Application No: 04/02138/OUT
Start Date: 25th August 2005

Appellant: Mr D Bridges
Site: Blue Boar House, 24 St James Street, Castle Hedingham
Development: Residential development of four dwellings
Application No: 05/00023/FUL
Start Date: 7th September 2005

Appellant: Persimmon Homes (Essex) Limited
Site: The Butchers Bar and Grill, Braintree Road, Witham
Development: Construction of 28 no. 2 bedroom apartments with associated parking and landscaped area
Application No: 05/00704/FUL
Start Date: 8th September 2005

Appellant: Broomfield Developers Ltd
Site: Tillwicks Cottages, Halstead Road, Earls Colne
Development: Proposed extension and alterations to convert 2 no. existing semi-detached dwellings into 7 no. flats, together with parking/turning area, detached car port building and new vehicular access
Application No: 05/00348/FUL
Start Date: 8th September 2005

MEMBERS' FOCUS

INFORMATION: APPEAL DECISIONS

Appellant: Mr P Coward
Site: Chase House, Bell Lane, Panfield
Development: Variation of condition 1 as attached to planning permission ref. no. 01/01361/FUL to enable existing boundary fence to be permanently retained
Application No: 04/02113/FUL
Decision & Date: ALLOWED - 25th August 2005

Appellant: Mr P Turner
Site: 37 Broadway, Silver End
Development: Proposed removal of unstable garden wall to improve rear access to garden
Application No: 04/02137/CON
Decision & Date: DISMISSED - 25th August 2005

Appellant: Mr and Mrs M Gardener
Site: Arden House, 39 Feering Hill, Feering
Development: Erection of garage
Application No: 04/02037/FUL
Decision & Date: DISMISSED – 1st September 2005

MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: All

CORPORATE THEME HEADING:

SUBJECT: Children's Summer Holiday Activities	CONTACT OFFICER: Kryshia Fuller
TEL/EMAIL No.: 01376 551414 kryshia.fuller@braintree.gov.uk	BACKGROUND PAPERS: None
<p>INFORMATION:</p> <p>The Leisure Development Team held a number of activities for children during the Summer Holidays 2005 and the purpose of this report is to update Members on the outcome of the following activities; Activity Day Camps, Athletic Camps, Cricket Camps and Community Sport Camps.</p> <p>Children's Activity Day Camps for young people aged 5 – 11 were held in partnership with Parishes across the District. All parish councils were invited to host an Activity Camp in their Parish and a full list of parishes that took part can be obtained on request.</p> <p>735 children attended the Activity Day Camps throughout the summer, taking part in team games, karaoke, face painting and general art & craft activities.</p> <p>For the first time 2 Athletic Day Camps were held for girls and boys aged 10-14 years. The young people had the opportunity to try out a variety of activities including sprinting, high jump, long jump, discuss and javelin. 30 young people participated over the 2 days.</p> <p>Cricket Day Camps were held at Coggeshall, Braintree, Gestingthorpe and Halstead Cricket Clubs. These popular camps are open to boys and girls aged 9-12 years. Two more camps at Witham and Kelvedon Cricket Clubs were planned but had to be cancelled due to lack of numbers. The 4 camps that did go ahead attracted 106 young people.</p> <p>In total 871 children took part in activities organised by the Leisure Development Team which achieved a total income of £5,473.</p> <p>However, the expenditure for costs such as staffing, equipment, transport, training etc amounted to £8,049 which indicates we achieved a loss of £2,576.</p> <p>The Braintree Community Sports Project continued to run their summer activity programme for young people during the summer holidays, the programme was targeted in rural locations throughout the Braintree District.</p> <p>This year's activity programme was held in Wickham St Paul, Toppesfield, Kelvedon, Gt Maplestead, Gt Bardfield, Finchingfield and Feering. Throughout these venues, the project engaged 30 young people, boys and girls, aged between 12-15 years.</p> <p>Structured football coaching was on offer to the young people along with a different variety of sports, which included tennis, cricket, rounders and volleyball.</p>	

MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: Community Safety & Development

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: Meeting Community Needs

SUBJECT: Witham Community Safety Roadshow	CONTACT OFFICER: Jayne Wakeling
TEL/EMAIL No.: Ext 2330 jayne.wakeling@braintree.gov.uk	BACKGROUND PAPERS:
INFORMATION: <p>The first Community Safety Roadshow took place in Witham on Monday 5th September in the Grove Centre, off Newland Street in the town centre.</p> <p>The Roadshow was extremely well received by members of the public with over 200 people visiting throughout the day to peruse over the many displays and information on view. The advice and guidance on Purse theft and Bike theft proved extremely popular and was among the most frequent requests from the public.</p> <p>Members of the public were able to raise any concerns with an officer from either Community Safety, Environmental Services, or Housing, with one representative being on hand at allotted times throughout the day. In addition, Police Community Support Officers were on hand for a limited time during the day, along with representatives from Essex Young Peoples Drug & Alcohol Service and Essex County Council Road Safety Team.</p> <p>Topical items of concern included:</p> <p>Parking & Criminal Damage – Harebell Drive – A Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) spoke at length with a resident and visited the gentleman at his home address. The area is being patrolled by the PCSO to identify those responsible.</p> <p>Excessive Sewage Smell – Greenfields – This has been reported through to Environmental Services, officers are currently dealing with a number of other complaints from residents and are liaising with the Sewage Works to address the problem.</p> <p>Motor vehicle nuisance – mini motos, mopeds and scramble bikes</p> <p>The areas reported as experiencing motor vehicle nuisance were:</p> <p>Witham - Cyprus Road, Rickstones Road, Riverwalk, Howbridge Road & Humber Road Estate</p> <p>Rivenhall – Redwood Close</p> <p>The above roads and locations of motor nuisance reports have been raised at the Witham Police Community Tasking Group to enable Police Officers to patrol known motor nuisance areas. The ASB Divisional Working Group is currently working on a range of ideas and initiatives to address this district wide problem of motor vehicle nuisance, an action plan has been developed</p>	

MEMBERS' FOCUS

which includes:

- educating the community, parents and youths about the legislation surrounding these vehicles and the consequences riders face.
- encouraging the community to report incidents of anti-social behaviour involving these types of vehicles
- enforcement, targeting those responsible and seizing the vehicles to prohibit their use."

With emphasis this year on educating members of the public on Community Safety & Anti Social Behaviour issues and raising awareness of intervention and enforcement.

A broad range of exhibition boards and leaflets covered the following topics:

Noise Abatement Notice
Notices Served Seeking Possession
Housing Possessions
ABCs
ASBOs
Bicycle thefts
Purse thefts
Motor vehicle nuisance (including mopeds & mini motos)
Motor vehicle seizure
Road Safety
Witham Police Community Safety Tasking - Topical areas
Flytipping (prosecutions/fines)
Dog fouling (No. of Fixed Penalty Notices)
Abandoned vehicles (prosecutions/fines)
Reporting Domestic Violence/Hate Crime

Other information/projects:

National Association Crime & Rehabilitation of Offenders (NACRO) Sports in the Community
Millie Dowler - Promoting personal safety in children and young adults.
Reality Roadshow
Crucial Crew
Benefit Fraud
Community Soft Ball
Essex Young People Drug and Alcohol Service -
Butt Boxes/Fixed Penalty Notices - to discourage the dropping of cigarette ends and litter
Neighbourhood Watch
Witham Parenting & Adolescent Programme

Outcome & Feedback Publicity on the event.

Essex FM Black Thunders attended during the day and provided an overview of the aims of the day over the air by way of a live broadcast.

Both the Essex Chronicle & Braintree & Witham Times also attended during the day to talk to the officers on hand and members of the public stopping to view the variety of information on display. Photographs were taken and we envisage the event will be portrayed through the next local editions of each newspaper.

MEMBERS' FOCUS

Further publicity will be sought to promote the winners of the colouring competition and teen quiz, entries of which are being encouraged through local schools across the Witham area. The teen quiz aims to raise awareness in young people of anti social behaviour, penalties for littering and motor vehicle nuisance with emphasis on the law for the riding of motor vehicles. Those young people visiting the Roadshow throughout the day were extremely encouraging; taking great interest in the work in addressing anti social behaviour some spending as long as 45 minutes talking with an officer. There was particular interest in the process for seizure of motor vehicles under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002. It is reassuring to know that the decision to include this area as a main theme of the Roadshow was extremely relevant to the current issues surrounding this matter.

Both the Braintree and Halstead Community Safety Roadshows will take place in October to compliment Reality Roadshow to enable greater emphasis on tackling youth nuisance during the Halloween & Guy Fawkes/Fireworks night period. Exact dates to be advised in the next edition of Members Focus.

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² Rent restructuring was introduced in 2002 and is intended to bring rents charged by local authorities and registered social landlords (RSLs) onto a common system based upon relative property values and local earnings by 2012.